

## **CORRYVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**May 13th, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** The April minutes were approved as written.

Mayor Mark Mallory and Doug Newberry, Director of the Cincinnati Soap Box Derby, were introduced and welcomed. They encouraged Council to coordinate a Corryville sponsored entry in "The Mayor's Cup" race to be held June 21st. A \$5,000 prize from the Asset Forfeiture Fund will be awarded to the winning community council. For information see: [www.cincinnatisoapboxderby.com](http://www.cincinnatisoapboxderby.com).

### ***Police & Safety Report:***

Sgt Julie Johnson distributed crime stats, and reported:

- CPD is investigating a homicide which occurred at the corner of Eden and Corry the evening of Apr 19th.
- CPD will conduct a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) study of the neighborhood.
- The Short Vine detail funded by the Uptown Consortium will resume shortly.

Several residents reported a recurrent problem with drug dealing at the corner of Gerard and Fosdick. A resident reported observing drug dealing at the corner of Eden and Corry. A resident questioned the noise ordinance, reporting several recent loud vehicular noise problems on Short Vine: car stereos, and motorcycles which are running stop signs. He was told officers within 100 ft could issue a warning.

In response to the residents' comments, and the apparent lack of volunteers for 'Citizen's on Patrol' as presented at the April meeting, a resident questioned whether initiation of a 'Block Watch' program might be a more realistic beginning for the neighborhood. She suggested interested volunteers be diligent about reporting problems to non-emergency police dispatch at 765-1212, litter patrol at 591-6000, and even consider activities like assistance to the elderly living in the block.

UC Officer Dave Henson reported the Cinco de Mayo celebration went smoothly, 'thefts of opportunity' are up (such as valuable items left in plain sight in cars), the Sigma Sigma carnival with fireworks will be held May 17th, exam week begins June 9th, and commencement will be held June 13th and 14th.

Ladder Company 19 Lt Tim Currin and team were introduced and welcomed. He reported EMS, service, and fire stats, and announced they would soon be hosting 'Safe Summer Nights' fire prevention programs on several neighborhood streets.

### ***Treasurers & Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) Report:***

Kay Weeks reported there has been a mis-communication about the NSP proposals. She and the Rec Center staff understood the youth and teens were to be paid directly for their flier distribution and work for the Cleanup, but the proposal submitted was not worded that way. Invest In Neighborhood's Rick Dieringer said an amended proposal could be submitted, and would require Council's approval. She moved Council approve an amended proposal, the motion was approved without objection.

### ***Vine St Community Urban ReDev Corp (VCURC) & University Village Business Assoc (UVA) Report:***

Scott Enns reported:

- Burgess Doan, co-developer of 3000 Vine LLC, has been elected UVA trustee to replace Bruce Goetzman.
- As of May 14th Short Vine will be a City Designated Vending District. UVA/VCURC and City staff are developing guidelines for the district to implement the enforcement mechanism. They will also be reviewing the start-up date for the UVA Façade Improvement program on the west side of the 2600 block of Vine.
- The UVA is exploring opportunities to produce a cost effective way to increase parking capacity.
- The UVA is buying 24-32 surveillance cameras, the Uptown Consortium is buying an additional 5 units.
- An identity program funded by CNBDU/NBDIP (Cincinnati Neighborhood Business Districts United/Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program) will include: street pole banners, identification/directions to public parking, printed material about amenities similar to Northside, development of the [www.corryville.org](http://www.corryville.org) website in conjunction with the CCC, and design concept/development for the MLK/Vine gateway.

- They are exploring the use of electronic billboards to advertise the district in order to create a stream of revenue for UVA/VCURC operations.
- Bogart's has contracted with PEDCO Architects/Engineers to develop a final cost estimate for expansion, which includes an addition north into the vacant lot at 2627 Vine. The plaza design will allow use of the upper level of the Holy Grail at 21 E Charlton.
- They continue to explore the opportunity to develop a 2-level, 33,273 sf, 1400 seat, 10-12 screen, first run movie theater.
- The 3000 block site clearance/demolition should occur within 30-60 days. Financing for the parking structure continues to be an issue.
- Space is available in the 2606 Vine building.
- The 'World-Changers' re-hab project has been postponed until summer 2009 due to high gas prices.
- Re: the sale of their property portfolio, VCURC has counter, with some contingencies, to the Uptown Consortium who is purchasing the property at the request of the UC. Scott gave Council a map of VCURC held property.
- They are working with 3 potential tenants. One of them is new to Cincinnati and will contribute significantly to the collegiate atmosphere/lifestyle of a business district adjacent to a major university with 37,000 students. A resident questioned the designation and status of the zone change for the 3000 block of Vine. Scott said he thought the City had approved the project, and the zoning as Planned Development (PD), but that would need to be checked. A resident questioned whether the PD designation applied only to that block, and was told 'yes'. A resident asked what location was being considered for the theater, and was told 'on the east side of the 2600 block of Vine'.

***Corryville Community Dev Corp (CCDC) Report:***

Clyde Nowlin reported:

- Development will begin soon on 18 condos bounded by Eden, Rochelle, Gerard, and Donahue.
- The management will be changing at Stetson.
- The house on MLK at Gerard is to be demolished, and landscaping of the MLK, Gerard, Eden area is planned.

***Uptown Crossings Community Urban Re-Dev Corp (UCCURC) Report:***

Dan Schimberg reported redevelopment of the Jefferson triangle is still contemplated, but he is unaware of any specific proposal on the table.

A resident expressed some concern that even though the Uptown Consortium's map designates the area the 'Uptown Crossings', it is part of Corryville, and any developments should be regularly reported at the CCC meetings.

***Corryville Recreation Center (CRC) Report:***

Lisa Thomas had no announcements, but reported the Rec Center was pleased with their participation in the Cleanup Day event, and gratified the flier distribution generated a positive response.

***Old Business:***

**CCC 'coordinator report' regarding closure of Euclid between Corry and Taft**

Per the approved motion at the April meeting, a document was prepared with excerpts from Council minutes recording the comments made about closure, and with several letters from members unable to attend the meeting, were to be included in the CCC's response to the City. A vote on the Euclid vacation had been scheduled, but there was a discussion about whether or not it were necessary, as the closure appeared to have already become a dead issue with the City. Members questioned taking the vote just for insurance, and one resident thought Council should take a vote on opposing the closure of any street. Dan Schimberg said he preferred Council not take any street closure votes until such time as one might be proposed. Kay Weak's said she agreed, providing the redevelopment process become truly transparent as promised, and the community is kept abreast of any such considerations with sufficient time for their response to be given due consideration. It was agreed this understanding would also be included in the CCC's response to the City.

### **Vote on establishment of the Corryville Revitalization Court (CORT) as an ad-hoc CCC committee**

Kay Weaks reported she and husband Bruce Dornette attended the April 9th CORT meeting, and they equated the idea of CORT to that of the Corryville Think Tank of several years ago, as forum which allowed the time for proposals to be discussed and developed prior to being presented to Council. She said they were willing to take a leap of faith in the new more transparent redevelopment process promised, but only time would tell. A motion to approve the CORT proposal passed. Kay Weaks and Dan Schimberg indicated interest in being CCC representatives, and as there were no other volunteers, they were assigned. A resident asked when the meetings would be held, and was told 'as necessary'. It was noted the meetings are open to the community, and several residents asked to be notified.

Tony Brown, President and CEO of the Uptown Consortium, was welcomed. He reiterated that CORT was modeled after a successful initiative recently conducted with the Avondale Community Council, and as a temporary workshop it was envisioned to bridge the communication and information gap between developers planning projects in the Corryville area, the residents, and the Corryville Community Council.

### **Corryville Cleanup Day report**

Clyde Nowlin and Kay Weaks reported the Cleanup Day event was successful: the weather cooperated, and 120 volunteers turned out. They thanked the Rec Center staff for their youth and teen co-sponsorship, their Delta Academy and Cincinnati Padres recruits. They also thanked crews from Talbert House's Adapt for Men, Iota Phi Theta fraternity, the numerous resident and stakeholder volunteers, and Scott Enns/VCURC for funding the pizza party. Kay noted Lisa Trzcinski's 'Fri Night Youth and Teen Rec Center Sleep-Over' was a brilliant way to have the kids ready to go at 9 am Sat morning. She also noted that resident Peter Dreyer and crew tackled the unsightly University and Burnet gateway, and he has subsequently proposed its restoration. Peter explained he is proposing sustainable planting, solar powered lighting, and repainting the welcome sign. He and wife Amy have pledged to match up to \$200 in community contributions. Anyone interested in volunteering to help is asked to contact [peterdreyer@gmail.com](mailto:peterdreyer@gmail.com). It was suggested Peter contact UC's Len Thomas, for landscaping suggestions.

### ***New Business:***

#### **Discussion about options to deal with abandoned/neglected buildings**

City Building Inspector Dave Lockhorn explained the process is complicated, expensive, and the City is looking for tools to deal more effectively. In 2006 City Council increased the set of fees it passes on to owners, allowing some amounts to be sufficient for private attorneys to be interested in suing. The City used to have a board of housing appeals to deal with code enforcement, now they must go to the Court of Appeals to get a waiver of license. The City is studying the use of Community Block Grants and the City Capital Funds to pay for demolitions. The house at 2805 Highland should come down in 2 to 3 months.

A resident questioned the possibility to use Empowerment Zone Funds for demolition.

#### **Board report about two amendments to the CCC Code of Regulations**

Kay Weaks and Songhay Thomas reported learning the following City ordinance clause is required to be in the Code in order for the CCC to qualify for NSP funds:

"At least once per year any group of at least five Neighborhood Residents may require a special vote at which only Neighborhood Residents may vote to determine whether persons other than Neighborhood Residents shall continue to have voting privileges or be eligible to hold office."

Also, as members of the Corryville Scholarship Funds (CSF) committee they were aware the Boundaries section needed to be amended to correspond to those researched for the CSF residency requirement, and approved at the Jan 2007 CCC meeting. Kay brought these amendments forward, and received approval from the CCC board.

### ***Announcements:***

With great sadness it was announced that Alana Turner, Director of Talbert House's Adapt for Men program, passed away unexpectedly on April 26th due to complications from a routine surgery.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. As recorded by Kay Weaks

Please see [www.Corryville.org](http://www.Corryville.org), the communities' new website, and encourage your Corryville neighbors and associates to sign up for the CCC's electronic mailing list by sending an email with their name and street address to [CorryvilleCC@hotmail.com](mailto:CorryvilleCC@hotmail.com).