

CORRYVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 10th, 2008, meeting called to order at 6:20 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The May minutes were approved with two corrections submitted by the Uptown Consortium's Lajuana Miller:

- Unfortunately, due to budget adjustments, we will definitely not be able to fund details on Short Vine in the near future and possibly not this year at all.
- We are still in the fundraising stage of our surveillance camera project and have not yet decided on the number of cameras to be purchased for each community.

Presentation of Anchor Properties' Revised University Plaza Site:

Mike Ricke explained that in response to the communities' previous objections to their proposal, they have taken a fresh look at the site with the assistance of Kinzelman Kline Gossman, the local urban design consultants responsible for the 2005 University Village Urban Renewal Plan. KKG's Craig Gossman presented the new conceptual site plan, and briefly highlighted the major changes:

- A pedestrian vs. vehicular reconnection of Vine to Short Vine,
- The placement of the Kroger building to the interior of the site.
- A parking deck along the southern border.

It was noted at the prior 5pm CORT (Corryville Revitalization Court) meeting that these comments were made:

- The desire for a more inviting gateway at Euclid and Taft, and for better 'screening' of the loading dock and dumpster area visible from that intersection.
- Concern that the retail building at Corry and Short Vine blocks the view of Short Vine from the south.
- Concern about the height of the retaining wall at the corner of Corry and Jefferson.
- A desire for a more pronounced gateway at the Vine/Jefferson/Taft/Calhoun intersection. Concerns were raised about the southern gateway, as viewed from Vine Street: that corner is essentially a parking lot, and what would be on the west side of the parking garage to hide it? The developer discussed that there would be a façade on the side of the garage facing Kroger, and it was questioned if this could be mirrored on the opposite side.
- A suggestion was made to expand the gateway area at the intersection of Taft and the new pedestrian street, as the location of the gateway does not connect the neighborhood with the balance of the Uptown developments along Taft/Calhoun. It was questioned if shops, café's, or other entities could be built up along Taft that connect the new gateway to the Vine/Jefferson/Taft/Calhoun intersection to enhance the gateway?

In order to allow the developers to proceed, Dan Plofchan moved, "in recognition that Anchor Properties has made considerable progress responding to the communities' previous concerns about a street closure and a more pedestrian friendly urban footprint, Council approve the basic conceptual plan, with the stipulation that Anchor Properties review the design, and give consideration to the issues brought up at the CORT and CCC meetings." He also moved, "Council convene a special meeting on Tuesday July 22nd, when members will vote on approval of the final plan."

In discussion that followed:

- Phil Rotte felt strongly that the plan should be modified to accommodate the proposed streetcar line split at Vine/Jefferson/Taft/Calhoun, allowing the route to continue north on both Jefferson, and Short Vine.
- Clyde Nowlin noted he attended the recent 'Streetcar Forum', and thought the idea of a 'streetcar only' connection through the site was great idea.
- Nathan Ruggles, noting the revised proposal was a move in the right direction, voiced strong objection that the site is not yet the multi-level urban footprint envisioned. He also wanted any approved footprint to guarantee provision for the streetcar to continue north on Short Vine.

It was agreed the revised site renderings, and any subsequent revisions, will be posted on www.Corryville.org; Council members were asked to keep abreast, and advise Council of any suggestions.

The first motion was put to a vote and passed with one objection, the second motion passed (w/o objection?).

Police & Safety Report:

CPD Neighborhood Officer Wiley Ross distributed crime stats and reported:

- Three Short Vine police details are being funded by the Uptown Consortium, the UVA, and regular overtime. Kay Weak's questioned the Uptown Consortium's detail, repeating the previous correction to the minutes. There appeared to be some confusion/lack of communication among all parties.

- A Staggerlee's patron, carrying a business money bag with \$18,000, was robbed at gunpoint after he exited the store. There are several suspects, but the other store patrons are not cooperating.
- A UC student was robbed and shot outside his residence at 2720 Euclid, on June 5th, 11:30 pm.
- The CPD has asked the Community Police Partnering Center to address possible remedies for the continuing safety problems in the area around the Rec Center playground.

Songhay Thomas and Kay Weaks said they met with CPOP Officer Charles Houston and Recreation Commission Regional Director Stella Barnes on May 20th. The suggestions discussed included: fencing, regulation signage, monitored surveillance cameras, and music speakers. Songhay, who lives nearby, said she asked that music speakers be considered as a last line of defense, and used only if by consensus they proved agreeable to all those living adjacent.

- Council revisited the long standing discussion about the disputed \$60,000 "Tot Lot proceeds", which the community has continually asked be used for Recreation Center fencing.
- Tom Rotte and Sarah Pennington, nearby landlord and tenant at 2800 Euclid, asked for help with their *long standing* loitering problems, and reported another incidence of shots fired. They also reported vagrants were using the fire escape to enter and hang out in the boarded up house at 2802 Euclid.
- Kay Weaks reported that she explained the details of their predicament at the both a CPOP/Rec Center and a COURT meeting, and had understood their situation would be addressed with priority.

UC Officer Dave Henson reported crime stats are down. He said they are looking for the person responsible for a robbery in the Medical Arts building on Friday June 6th, at 5:45am.

The Fire Dept's David Roberta reported that the 'Safe Summer Nights' program has been put on hold due to budget restraints.

Treasurers & Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) Report:

Dan Plofchan reported a balance of \$4,361. He said the two 2008 NSP proposals have been fully funded: \$600 for the Cleanup, \$3,500 for 'Teen Employment', leaving an available balance of \$2,900. He asked for additional proposals, and said Council did not spend much of its \$7,000 allotment last year, and the UVA had not applied for their equivalent \$9,000 NBD funds the last two years.

- A brief discussion followed about the NSP process/regulations, past projects, and Council's continued desire for proactive volunteers to optimize the use of available funds. The deadline for 2008 projects is _____.
- Clyde Nowlin noted, despite disappointment that he had been unsuccessful in delaying the recent University/Burnet gateway restoration until it could be funded by an NSP program, he was most appreciative for the determined and worthwhile initiative spearheaded by Peter and Amy Dryer and crew.
- It was noted the Rec Center youth and teens have still not been paid for their Cleanup flier distribution and work, and an amended NSP proposal still needs to be submitted.

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

Don Andres reported the UVA is in the process of updating 27 surveillance cameras to be placed along Short Vine, and behind Turner Hall.

- Nathan Ruggles asked the cost of the cameras, and was told \$265,000.
- Dan Plofchan mentioned that it is permissible for the UVA's NBD funds to be used for community projects, and asked if the UVA could provide Council with an itemized budget to see if any of their expenditures qualified.

Corryville Community Dev Corp (CCDC) Report:

Mike Ealy introduced Stetson's new Property Manager Adam Martin, who was welcomed. Mike invited the community to the First Annual Summer Festival on Friday, June 27th, 6-8 pm.

- Songhay Thomas noted the CCDC was a co-sponsoring the event, and diplomatically referring to the diversity of cultures in Corryville, expressed several concerns about the invitation. She questioned if they were actually prepared to admit the entire community, and how they intended to regulate serving complimentary beer and wine.
- Mike and Vickie Flynn said the entire community is invited, and the refreshments would be 'available', but were not being 'served'.
- As the liability of the community is involved, it was suggested these concerns be taken under advisement.

Corryville Recreation Center (CRC) Report:

CRC's new Director Bryan Servizzi, was introduced and welcomed. He reported summer day camp has begun. He noted playground safety issues are a priority, and asked to be informed about the "Tot Lot" funds situation.

Old Business:

Corryville Scholarship Funds Committee

Kay Weaks reported that in the first year for revised criteria, from funding post-secondary tuition, to funding summer, extra-curricular, educational activities for youth to age 18, it appears the program has found a beneficial niche. The Committee agreed the Jacobs Family Partnership Fund will support two applicants in full:

* *Courtnee Madaris-Grier:*

The Art Academy of Cincinnati's 'Camp Art Academy', weeks 5 and 6, for \$245 & \$240 = \$485.

* *John-Mark Thomas:*

The Ohio District Royal Rangers 'Advanced Junior Leadership Training', for \$105, and Xavier University's 'Sean Miller Boys Basketball Camp', for \$220 = \$325.

Also, the JFP Fund will support three applicants at 75 percent:

* *Cody Plofchan, Joey Plofchan, Hannah Aukerman:*

The Corryville Suzuki Project's individual lessons, for \$176 x .75 = \$132.

The JFP Fund balance will be \$7,460. The 'community donated' Fund balance is \$100. Jeff's additional \$10,000 pledge is being delayed until the funds are needed.

University and Burnet Gateway Restoration

Peter Dryer reported a sustainable restoration is nearly complete, he acknowledged the assistance of UC's landscape designer Len Thomas, and a crew of volunteers. Plant material is in, trees are gatored, solar lights are illuminating the welcome sign, and he has arranged for Mayfield Clinic to maintain the site. He said the welcome sign still needs to be repainted.

- Clyde Nowlin mentioned there are actually three welcome signs, another one at Taft and Burnet, and one that used to be at MLK and Jefferson in front of the power plant. He said the signs were the result of an NSP project years ago.

Peter reported the total cost of the project was \$1,550, to date he has received about \$500, and there are other pledges.

-Clyde said Council is in the process of drafting a letter to be sent to the community requesting donations for this and other community projects.

New Business:

Liquor Permit

Having just received a request for a 30 day liquor permit for 'Calabash' at Highland and University, incorrectly mailed to the Rec Center, Clyde asked if there were any objections. There were none, and Council approved the 30 day permit.

CCC website Administrator

Kay Weaks asked if there were any volunteers to develop/administer the CCC's space on www.Corryville.org.

- Taza's Rose Sweeney introduced Nicholas Garber, who explained his company was available for a fee.

Kay thanked them and asked for his contact information, but explained she would like Council's permission to first pursue finding a service-learning or other UC student volunteer, and this was agreed.

She also noted having updated Council's personnel and address contact with the City's Velda Chapman, and Invest in Neighborhood's Rick Dieringer. She suspected any continued problems were the result of incorrect information on a 'Home Ownership' website, not funded for several years, but which appears first in a Google search for Corryville. She said she would contact them to correct the information.

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

Please see 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.