Northside Community Council April 19, 2021

Board Members present:

Jon King, Jason Schneider, Bree Moss, Abby Friend, Branden Rudd, Dan Montgomery, Mati Senarchia, Brian O’Keeffe, Mark Saaman, Erica Horton, Becky Finnigan, Sue Wilke

Henry Brown was absent.

Vice-President Bree Moss called the meeting to order and advised President Becky Finnigan would be joining later.

Police Updates: Officer Melissa Cummins

Crime stats improved versus last year: one robbery on Vandalia but overall burglaries and thefts were down. Expect more police visibility in the neighborhood. Police are continuing to monitor the Boyd Street situation which it is improving. Police are also working on drug complaints. Officer Cummins asked residents to contact her with issues and concerns at 569-8595.

Committee and Affiliate Reports:

 Planning and Zoning-Jason Schneider- Community comments were requested on the building of a new house at 1440 Bercliff where they plan to extend the driveway and for the sale of 1429 Whitler street to NEST

Safety and Livability-Jon King- Jon reported they had great turnout with over 70 people for the Cleanup. Litter was picked up and some landscaping done. Jon thanked Cindy Sherding and Mark Taphorn for their work in making the effort successful. He also thanked Happen for their loaned tents.

Pedestrian Safety now called Vision Zero Northside -Mati Senarchia-Mati reported applications have been made with DOTE for stop signs at Virginia Avenue and Bruce.

Education-Sue Wilke-Sue reported that Parker Woods students would be adopting streets in the area around the school and doing trash cleanup on Earth Day. She also said the NCC Education Committee would be thanking teachers and staff with a small token of appreciation especially in this pandemic year on May 4th, Teacher Appreciation Day. The committee would also be making outstanding student awards to three graduating students from our neighborhood schools.

Affliates

NEST-Sarah Thomas-Sarah thanked those who attended their annual meeting event. Their community survey is still open and there is a link on NEST website, northsidenest.org. She also thanked the community for supporting their PAD Home Improvements Project with repairs being provided for seniors in partnership with People Working Cooperatively( PWC).

CAIN- Executive Director Melissa Meyer thanked people for supporting for CAIN over the past year when need for food and hygiene products doubled. She reminded that the annual Free Store Food Bank hunger walk will be virtual. There is a link to sign up to contribute to CAIN’s ongoing needs as part of the walk’s fundraising at cainministry.org.

Farmers Market -Emily Diefendorf- the Market is open behind North Church; Ohio local food guides will be available. The Northside Market was voted number three in City Bea’s Best of Cincinnati. New vendors will be coming in May. The market has hired Becky Richey as assistant replacing Maggie who has moved on.

Apple Street-Kristen Barker-location situation looking bleak. Gaslight which owns the building next to Hoffner Park doesn’t have a clear plan for development. ASM has hired consultant Quanita Roberson to lead process to think creatively about future options.

NBA-Hannah Gedeon VP for NBA—communicated with Parade committee to see what they might be doing. NBA is looking to do something around Halloween to keep spirit around Carnival going. NBA expects to be seeking support for grants for some projects they are working on.

Mayor Candidate Cecil Thomas: Candidate for Mayor-Senator Thomas outlined his extensive community service as a police officer, head of the Human Relations Council, on City Council and

currently as a State Senator. He said his platform for mayor is clean, safe communities. He believes he understands what communities want and will be a mayor who is an ambassador for the neighborhoods. He stated the Mayor needs to set the vision for the city and will make sure neighborhoods are asked how the American Rescue Funds should be used.

Mill Creek Alliance- Carlos Jordan-Keller- intern with Millcreek Alliance provided an update

 on the work of the Alliance including samplings at Salway footbridge site and will soon start sampling this along Spring Lawn creek runs along back yards. He outlined how testing of the samples occur and what is being checked for in determining good water quality. He also noted the Alliance has done work party cleanup events, collected trash, removed invasive plants, and planted native seeds. He said the Alliance is looking for volunteers to help collect samples

and referred those interested to the Alliance page for programs and activities

CAIN-Claire Darley— Claire provided more information about the Hunger Walk and suggested using CAINministry.org as the site to make donations for the Hunger Walk to benefit CAIN.

Peaslee Rubric-Bree introduced the concept of the Peaslee Rubric and opened the floor for discussion. Mike Dourson asked if it had been vetted by the Board. Bree indicated there had been the presentation and discussion by the Board. Mike next asked if the Planning and Zoning Committee agreed to the idea.

Jason Schneider Chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee responded that Peaslee presented to the Planning and Zoning Committee last year, but no action was taken. He indicated he had some questions about the Rubric himself not all of which had been answered. He stated he would like Planning and Zoning Committee to do further study and come back to the Council in June with the results. This would include pros and cons, more community engagement, how other neighborhoods were using it and input from the NBA and NEST.

At this point Becky Finnigan joined the meeting and took over handling the discussion.

A number of residents spoke both in favor of moving ahead with adopting the Rubric

and referring the Rubric back to the Planning and Zoning Committee for further

Study. Hannah Gedeon mentioned the NBA was not aware it was happening and should have been involved. Becky Richey asked about the content of the motion where upon Becky shared and read the motion.

Becky Finnigan called the question ending discussion and reread the motion.

Bree Moss made the motion and Reba Hennessey seconded the motion as presented.

Jason Schneider then made a motion to table the question and send the discussion of the Rubric back to the Planning and Zoning Committee as he had suggested earlier. Mike Dourson seconded the motion. Becky stated the first motion needed to be voted on and moved to the vote. The results were Yes 33, No 23 and 2 abstentions. MOTION PASSED.

American Rescue Funds-Becky Finnigan talked about the American Rescue Funds and the importance of neighborhood engagement. She read a proposed motion which was edited by NCC members. The final motion is as follows:

MOTION: We move to notify City Council of the importance of active, direct, thorough, and timely community engagement through an equitable process to support neighborhood priorities for the allocation of the American Rescue Plan Funds

The motion was seconded by Jackie Gruer.

The vote was Yes 44, No zero and zero abstentions. MOTION PASSED.

Announcements

Announcement about the library closure for about 3-6 weeks. Wet weather caused problems

with the ceiling falling in and discovery of lead. Clifton Library can be used as an alternative.

Library is also looking for space for an outdoor summer program.

As part of the Neighborhood Business District Improvement plan NBA will apply for a grant for new parking lot signs and benches. NBA would like a letter of support.

Motion was made by Sarah Thomas and seconded by Mati Senarchia that the NCC write a letter of support for NBA to seek NBDIP grant for benches and parking lot signage in business district.

The MOTION PASSED on a voice vote of approval.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01