

Linwood Community Council
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Feb. 23, 2021
DRAFT

Opening

The regular meeting of the Linwood Community Council was called to order at 7:01 P.M. on Feb. 23, 2021 via a ZOOM online conference connection by Pres. TJ Russo.

Present

Six (6) Council members and fourteen (14) guests were present. Refer to the meeting sign-in sheet, attached.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous membership meeting, Jan. 26, 2021, were previously transmitted by Sec. N. Johns. Pres. TJ Russo asked that they be read. A motion was made by Trustee M. Wagner, and seconded by VP E. Stoehr, to accept minutes with two changes to be incorporated. They passed unanimously by voice vote.

President's Report

- There was no President's report.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer T. Salamon was not present, but had transmitted his report in advance. A motion was made by Pres. TJ Russo and seconded by Trustee M. Wagner, to accept the report as previously transmitted.

City Services Speakers

CPD District 2:

Present were the following officers:

- Captain Danita Pettis, District 2; (523) 979-4444
- Officer Al Brown: Community liaison for Madisonville and Linwood (979-4429)
- Officer Rodney Pompey

The officers were pleased to report no crime statistics for this month.

CFD:

No report this month.

CRC:

No report this month

Guest Speaker #1:

Mr. Gavi Begtrup, Mayoral candidate. Mr. Begtrup's background included owning small businesses, being an aide to former AZ Sen. Gabby Gifford, and being a physicist.

Trustee E. Hartlaub asked how he could best serve Cincinnati since he is not a native.

His response included the history of corruption in Cincinnati and comparisons to other mid-sized American cities being revitalized and having common problems. Also growing small businesses around good transportation, and growing the population of Cincinnati through planned development similar to Columbus.

Trustee E. Hartlaub then asked a follow-up question about his view on development in the City, stating that there were many city developers in the present meeting.

"Development has to be unique to neighborhoods," and that it has to start with citizen/resident involvement.

Trustee P. Goodman asked what was his definition of affordable housing.

He stated that he has not considered the question, but that he could be reached for additional conversation via email. He then spoke at length for housing needs for homeless people. He then wrapped things up with acquiescing that developers still needed to make money, and that he'd work with them, too.

Pres. T.J. Russo asked why he wants to run for Mayor vs. being a Council Member.

He restated a history of corruption in the city, and a wish to change things immediately without having to gradually work his way up. He then thanked the committee for their time, and signed off.

Committee Reports:

- **Safety:**

Trustee E. Hartlaub noted that she has contacted Off. Al Brown about Citizens on Patrol. Off. Lou Arnold, the Citizens on Patrol coordinator, is currently on medical leave. Awaiting reply.

- **Beautification:**

Trustee P. Goodman reported that he reached out to the State of Ohio Office of Community Development and Hamilton County Community Development Project. Both only fund projects in rural areas. Will continue looking for grant opportunities. He also did some additional neighborhood clean up, for which he was thanked.

- **Communications:**

Brief discussion about how current management of social media, ie: Facebook, Nextdoor, and the "Linwood email" (President's) and how it might go forward. Trustee T. Salamon has passwords for all of these. Sec. N. Johns mentioned the Dropbox account where there are

archived records, such as the bylaws, and meeting minutes; per Trustee M. Wagner, we have a free, limited storage account. Passwords and who accesses needs updating. We decided to move this issue to **Trustee new business**.

- **Garden:** (*Dormant since 2019; \$1,980.70 available; formerly on Beechmont Circle*)
- **NSP/AIG:**

See New Business

- **Events:**

There will be no scheduling of events until the State lifts COVID restrictions

- **Zoning:**

Sec. N. Johns gave a recap of her proposals for baseline, stopgap, zoning review at this time. **See attached memo.**

- 1) Review ZHE variance notices for new construction, decide whether to attend a meeting; if Council has had prior knowledge, and gives approval, we can state their opinion.
- 2) If attending gather information to report to Council which may want to take a position, if not done prior to meeting.
- 3) If not attending, start a file to track the project, at the very least on CAGIS EZ-Trac
- 4) Council will weigh in with a position based on Committee reporting.
- 5) Continue to form a solid, tolerable zoning variance exception list.

Other:

MLCC-Linwood Advisory Committee:

Sec. N. Johns read the report from the prior months minutes, but had no further additions from the Adv. Committee except to say that some members from Mt. Lookout were otherwise engaged with a lawsuit brought by L&D Real Estate Holdings, LLC; Linwood Real Estate Holdings, LLC; and Center for Change on Delta, LLC [excerpted from the MtLCC website as public record], against the City of Cincinnati for not approving a zoning variance.

Guest Speakers #2: (See sign in sheet for complete list of participants re: “Bloor Development”

Paul Schirmer opened by saying that he was disappointed in the Council’s decision to not provide a letter of support for the current plans for the “Bloor Development”. He and Andrew Juengling were asked how the letter is used/interpreted by the City. As suggested, it shows support so that the developers can move forward with confidence. Paul said they are moving on with a zoning change request.

Trustee E. Hartlaub asked Paul about his knowledge of the ODOT timeline for the Eastern Corridor.

He produced maps similar to those we have seen, and restated that the funding is not available at this time. Also a few more comments about an overpass to Otto Armleder Park and some adjustment to the traffic merging at Wooster, Beechmont Circle, Beechmont Levy.

When asked if this answered her question, Trustee E. Hartlaub restated Paul's words about there not being any funds for the ODOT timeline.

Trustee P. Goodman offered his reasons for voting against the project including the historic nature of Linwood and its existing structures. He stated the fact that Bloor is situated in a floodplain. That it is located at the confluence of many communities with traffic issues. He drew attention to the minimum 10% population increase this would create, and that this population would be entirely rental. He asked in light of home ownership being linked to community investment, whether a certain satisfactory number of houses for sale could be built there to attract owners/shareholders to the community.

Barry Rosenberg offered the viewpoint that their business model is replacing older, 20+ year old apartment buildings in the City. LCC members reiterated the historic value of Linwood. Both parties mentioned the current zoning status "LM" limited manufacturing, with Rosenberg, et al. seeing their project as more valuable. Rosenberg stated that an LM company had in fact approached them for purchase of the property. Trustee P. Goodman pointed out that LM is part of Linwood's past, could be a viable source of jobs in the community, and if a deal could be made that would offer a certain percentage of jobs to Linwood residents. Rosenberg stated he was not at liberty to discuss the details of the LM company at present.

Trustee M. Wagner seconded Trustee P. Goodman's thoughts, and mentioned her own street, which is a feeder onto Wooster. She underlined Wooster is very congested now, before any ODOT changes. She also is concerned about similar construction in Columbia Square near Allyn's restaurant, which had very bad sewage problems.

Sec. N. Johns asked Andrew Juengling about the regional overview and how the City views multiple development projects in adjacent neighborhoods, each development very close to the others and affecting residents in all communities. She cited the Linwood Ave connection of three communities. She gave a specific example of exiting Beechmont Levy and seeing, less than 30 secs-1min away, another dense development (26+ houses) off of Linwood Ave. onto Sheffield. He replied that the City does not handle these things in a "siloed" way. The Planning Dept. interacts with others (Building, Zoning, Traffic) and refers to "Plan Cincinnati 2012"

VP E. Stoehr will put together more comments about sustainable development and effects on air and water quality as outlined in "Plan Cincinnati".

See **Old Business** for follow-up.

Old Business:

- IIN Top Five (5) Projects list was approved in June. Submitted?
- Sec. N. Johns will work with City to see what contact info they have on file and how it relates to the website and NSP app. IE: President's email address status. **PART OF TRUSTEE "NEW BUSINESS" 2/23/21.**
- Nina reported on streetcalming efforts on Heekin Ave. P.G. **Sittenfeld's motion was passed on Sept. 30, 2020.** Sec. N. Johns has asked Heekin residents to give update to her

before each LCC meeting, since they took this most recent initiative, and the Council did not intercede for oversight of the actual solution.

- Linwood banners: **UPDATE** Trustee P. Goodman spoke to ___ at Garland Signs, and got an inventory of signs remaining/being repaired. Also was told that Tres. T. Salamon has extra paint for signage. Tres. T. Salamon will look. Remaining discussion: suggestions for placement at Armleder Park, Heekin/Shattuc, Linwood Ave/Eastern.
- Mail box item from October. Urban Housing Overlay meeting notice.
- Tres. T. Salamon requested that we find storage for the archived LCC records currently in his home. **RESOLVED** (NSP project)

New Business:

- **NEW & TIME SENSITIVE** Follow up letter to Paul Schirmer. **Guest Speaker #2**
- **NSP 2021 Fund application completion**

The following was presented to the assembled membership and passed by a vote of eight (8) “yays” and (0) nays: (compilation courtesy of Trustee M. Wagner).

Storage	\$ 1,005.00	Compass Storage Unit		
Communication	\$ 300.00	Website Upgrades (Squarespace)		
	\$ 800.00	Communication & Newsletter website FB boost website Maint paper newsletter		
	\$ 140.00	PO Box		
Insurance	\$ 900.00	Insurance Liability & DO		
Signage	\$ 1,000.00	Signage	3	325 New banner Paint
Events	\$ 1,000.00	Events		

electronic
recycling
paper shredding
door prizes

Beautification

\$	
700.00	New Planters
\$	
742.00	plant
\$	
1,200.00	landscaping co
\$	
200.00	Clean up Supplies

\$

7,987.00

\$

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A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM by Trustee M. Wagner and seconded by Sec. N. Johns.

Submitted by Nina Johns
Secretary