**Linwood Community Council**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021 General Membership Meeting

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Linwood Community Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on January 26, 2021 via a ZOOM online conference connection, by President, TJ Russo.

**Present**

Seven (7) Council members and three (3) guests were present. Refer to meeting sign-in sheet, attached.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of previous membership meeting, November 24, 2020, were previously transmitted by Nina Johns. A motion was made by Tom Salamon, and seconded by Cookie Salamon, to accept minutes as transmitted; passed unanimously by voice vote.

**President’s Report**

* There was no President’s report.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Tom Salamon reported no changes from the December 2020 YE Financial report previously transmitted. A motion was made by Nina Johns, and seconded by Marlene Wagner to accept the report as transmitted.

**City Services Speakers**

*CPD District 2*:

Present were the following officers, their rank and position with CPD District 2:

* Officer Al Brown: On going community liaison for Madisonville and Linwood (979-4429)
* Captain Danita Pettis, new to District 2; 22 year veteran of the force (523) 979-4444,

 (513) 509-4014, danita.pettis@cincinnati-oh.gov

* Lt. Christopher Seta, (513)979-4422, christopher.seta@cincinnati-oh.gov
* Anonymous call-in phone number: 591-6000

Tom Salamon asked about the status of the Citizens on Patrol [he is the member for Linwood]. He has keys both District 2, and District 4 automobiles. Officer Brown will follow-up with Tom.

Patrick Goodman asked how we “can assist them or get out of the way”. Capt. Pettis invited us to always reach out because even if it’s not their area of expertise, maybe they can refer, or reach out to, other City Depts. Reminded of the anonymous tip number, above.

*CFD:*

 No report this month.

 *CRC:*

 No report this month

**Guest Speakers:**

No guests this month

**Committee Reports:**

President TJ Russo called for composing new Committees to begin this year, since last formation in 2018. They are as follows:

**Safety:** Tom Salamon & Elizabeth Stoehr

**Beautification:** Patrick Goodman, Elizabeth H., Elizabeth S. & Marlene Wagner

**Communications:** Patrick, Elizabeth H. & Tom

**Garden:** *(Dormant since 2019; $1,980.70 available; formerly on Beechmont Circle)* Nina Johns, TJ Russo, Elizabeth H., & Cookie Salamon.

**Website:** Combined with “Communications”

**NSP/AIG:** ***(New!)*** Marlene, Tom, Patrick, & Nina

**Events:** Marlene & TJ

**Zoning: *(****Suspended since 2016)*: TJ, Nina & Elizabeth S.

**Other:**

 **MLCC-Linwood Advisory Committee:**

 **1)** *Nina reported via email, on the December 13th meeting, excerpted as follows:*

* They’d had no developer response thus far.
* After brief discussion of individual issues, again, (environmental, traffic, etc), decision taken to restate our overarching objections to the *whole* "cluster housing" projectin a letter to key City Depts; including, a renewed displeasure with:

 The [constant] zoning variances to Hillside Overlay District

 The quality of life for adjacent residents (noise, lighting, density),

 The traffic on Linwood and future ODOT.

 No intention to try to fit the [developer’s]1st model since they have not responded so far.

That was my takeaway on how we structure our next engagement with the developers.

* Here are my tasks, requested and/or volunteered but, as always not representing the LCC but rather as Linwood resident:

 Recap Russell St. construction…zoning variance issues…..sharing public documents…particularly my own letter for 2nd hearing in Dec 2015.

 Work on traffic issues…..including Heekin Ave [in progress].

 Work with Andrew Speno to reach out to Linwood residents to join the Committee, in my capacity as resident, not LCC member [THIS is pending completion of the letter].

 **2)** Elizabeth Stoehr reported that the developer for Mt. Lookout Sq. site behind the UDF, is suing the City for approving an appeal by Mt. Lookout CC against the original approved zoning variance for the development. Mt.LCC Zoning Committee is engaged to oppose it.

**Old Business**:

* NSP 2020 Projects**:**

 Tom reported that all AIG (IIN) funds: $802.00 were spent by engaging Grasshopper for beautification clean up efforts. Also that all 2020 NSP funds with the exception of a small amount were returned by deadline. RESOLVED Linwood/C.Parkway/Beechmont where vines have taken over.

* IIN Top Five (5) Projects list was approved in June. Submitted?
* Nina will work with City to see what contact info they have on file and how it relates to website and NSP app. IE: President’s email address status.
* Nina reported on streetcalming efforts on Heekin Ave. P.G. **Sittenfeld’s motion was passed on Sept. 30, 2020.** Nina 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 actual solution.
* Linwood banners: Patrick reported the recovery of more fallen banners. An overview discussion with Tom, Marlene yielded a plan for a) working with the manufacturer/installer, Garland Signs for replacement/repair. B) Also some touch up painting to existing signage, and c) suggestions for placement at Armleder Park, Heekin/Shattuc, Linwood Ave/\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_.
* Mail box item from October. Urban Housing Overlay meeting notice.
* Tom Salamon requested that we find storage for the archived LCC records currently in his home.

**New Business:**

* **Approval letter request. Paul Schirmer for Bloor St./Beechmont Circle development**

*A vote was taken: 1 in favor, 6 against, 1 abstention; approval letter decline*d. *TJ will inform the developer.*

Some reasons provided:

 1) No discernible benefits for Linwood residents and disproportionate number of expensive rental properties compared to those owned in the community (members of which probably cannot afford them).

 2) Not enough lead time to consider what could be there, and to further inform the community, after a lapse of communication by developers from May 2019 to Sept. 2020.

 3) Much concern over traffic issues, because of other developments on Linwood Avenue, and ODOT’s eventual Eastern Corridor changes. Those need to be addressed first before new development.

 4) Historic properties exist in Linwood, and its growth plan (2002) was intended to preserve them. Tied into effect on property values of viable older homes, and increased taxation.

* **NSP 2021 Application:**

 1) $7,980.00 grant available. Proposed projects were submitted by Patrick Goodman and Tom Salamon in separate documents/emails which will remain on file for our use.

 2) Actual allocations mentioned:

 a. Website upgrade Wix/Squarespace $120.00+

 Domain Name 40.00+

 Newsletter (print) 200.00

 Sub-total: 360.00

Margin 40.00+

 **TOTAL $400.00**

b. Signage 800.00

 c. Insurance 900.00

 d. Events 1,000.00

(Here we had a quick review of a couple of key differences from the AIG (IIN) funds: 1) **NSP** cannot be used to purchase food, and cannot be reallocated once approved. 2) **AIG** can purchase food and 2) funds up to $1,000 can be reallocated before YE spending deadline).

 3) **A Trustee meeting was called for Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021** to complete the NSP planning, and other agenda items.

* **New Zoning issue:**

Elizabeth Stoehr’s business at 4785 Eastern Ave. requests a fencing height variance from 6ft. to 8ft, for security reasons, although it crosses a pathway which can be used by people passing through from South of Eastern Ave. (It was noted that this route was used during the 1937 flood, a point of historic interest, but no one recalls such use since then).

A vote was taken: 6 in favor, 1 abstention. The 2ft. variance is approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by Nina Johns

Secretary