



## Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President, B. Smyth, at 7:03 p.m.

*In Attendance:* J. Buening, D. Hapner, S. Hassell, J. Lovelace, A. Lewis, N. Lewis, S. Mullin, T. Roe, A. Shikany, B. Smyth, G. Wollenweber, and Val Woodham

*Advance Notice of Absence:* D. Discepoli

*Absent:* E. Geiger Draugelis

#### 1. **Guests:**

**Cincinnati Police Department, District 2—Officer Tarvin** delivered the Hyde Park Neighborhood Report for the period ending February 9, 2019. He noted that as a result of the heavy rains we have had, parts of Eastern Avenue/Riverside Drive are underwater, and parts of Columbia Parkway are closed due to landslides. As a result of the road closures, Linwood traffic has drastically increased. He mentioned the felonious assault of an individual by two suspects on Victoria Avenue, apparently a turf war of sorts among snow shovelers. At the community meeting at the Oakley Recreation Center in January, resident expressed concern about police enforcing parking and traffic regulations in Hyde Park East, especially in the vicinity of the Coffee Emporium. Several parking meters that had been removed in that area are expected to be reinstalled. Officer Tarvin can be reached at 979-4480.

**Cincinnati Fire Department, Engine 46—Captain Moellinger** distributed the January 2019 Monthly Company Summary for Company 46 and the February CFD Report for Community Council Meetings. He talked about tips for home heating fire safety and provided warnings about use of portable space heaters. He encouraged residents to sign up for Smart 911, the emergency communications tool that provides 911 operators and first responders with critical information about callers. Captain Moellinger also encouraged residents to visit the station for free smoke detector; the Department will even install them in area homes.

**Cincinnati Recreation Commission**—On-line Summer day camp registration starts 3/2/19. This year an additional 50 spaces have been added to accommodate the high number of applicants. In the past several years, the Oakley camp filled up very fast, so register early!

**Hyde Park Library—Branch Manager Blossom Smith** reported that there is a new Director of the Hamilton County Library (Paula Brehm-Heeger) as well as a new Senior Leadership Team in place. She inquired about the status for Plan Hyde Park and expressed interest in reviewing the final Plan once it is approved. Contact the Hyde Park Library at (513) 369-4456.

**Cincinnati Office of Environment and Sustainability—Liz Congleton (Sustainability Outreach Coordinator)** talked about the Green Cincinnati Plan's roadmap to reduce the City's carbon footprint. She hopes to garner interest from Hyde Park residents to find out what would work best to foster sustainability in our neighborhood. She will work with interested residents and host a sustainability event/forum to help residents determine some of the best ways our community can promote sustainability. Liz can be reached 352-6996.

**Tucker—Senior at Clark Montessori** introduced himself and talked about the senior project he was undertaking at the school. The project is intended to engage and educate younger students and instill stewardship. The proposed project involves removing honeysuckle (invasive species) from the screening adjacent to the school. The removal of the honeysuckle would help increase biodiversity in the greenspace. D. Hapner agreed to work with Tucker and ensure that the removal of honeysuckle would not have any negative impact on the adjacent properties (erosion).

A Hyde Park Resident inquired about the school zone signage on Madison Road near Withrow. She said that it was not as notable and obvious as in the vicinity of other area schools and felt that student and pedestrian safety were being compromised as a result. She suggested more signage and possibly illuminated signage be put in place to better alert drivers to the school zone.

## 2. Officers' Reports

### A. Recording Secretary's Report – S. Mullin

Minutes from the January 8, 2019 board meeting were sent by email. The minutes incorrectly noted the year 2109 (**should have been 2019**) in the motion regarding the endorsement of the Farmer's Market, and under Old Business there was an incorrect notation of the meeting adjourning at 9:02 (**correct time was 8:08**). With those minor revisions and without objection the minutes were approved as submitted.

### B. Treasurer's Report – A. Lewis

The January 7- February 10, 2019 Financial Report was sent by email. Without objection the Report was adopted as submitted.

### 3. Committee Reports

- A. Nominating Committee S. Mullin reported that with T. Nelson's resignation, the Committee is looking for potential new Board members. She encouraged residents who are interested to submit an application for consideration.
- B. Hyde Park Square Business Association J. Buening reported that at today's meeting members were reminded to pay their dues. There was discussion about necessary improvements to the streetscape on the Square and that the HPSBA would be working with the City to ensure that improvements and repairs were undertaken.
- C. Traffic/Safety T. Roe reported that all the in-street pedestrian yield paddles are up and in place as of this morning. The lanes/stripping along Observatory between Madison and Edwards is being revisited. Next steps may include a postcard survey to all residents along that stretch of Observatory, communication via email to residents, and a resident in the audience suggested a posting to garner feedback on Next Door Hyde Park.
- D. Plan Hyde Park J. Buening reported that she will confirm the date of Hyde Park's founding/incorporation to accurately reflect the same in the Plan.

### 4. Old Business

- A. **Hyde Park East** – At the 1/10/19 meeting at the Oakley Recreation Center there was much discussion about how to increase parking options in East Hyde Park. One option is to construct a parking lot in the 20 ft. wide strip of land adjacent to the tennis courts next to the Ravenswood. The area is zoned Park and for a parking lot to be built, it would have to be re-zoned. The HPNC prior voted position was that if a parking lot was to be constructed, there should be some benefit to the residents in doing so.

N. Lewis moved, ***“That the HPNC would be able to advocate for the construction of a parking lot on the 20-foot strip of land between the Ravenswood and the tennis courts as long as there is a significant public good that results.”*** No second, motion dies.

G. Wollenweber moved, ***“That N. Lewis be enabled to advocate on behalf of the HPNC for more public parking spaces in East Hyde Park.”*** Second by S. Hassell. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **B. Hyde Park Farmers' Market**

Lori Wellinghoff spoke on behalf of the Hyde Park Square Business Association (“HPSBA”). Other HPSBA members present (Stan Kittle—Newstedt Loring Andrews; Bob and Eddie Walters Brothers (Awakenings); Jenalyn Schneider (XY and Knickers). Ms. Wellinghoff talked about her

support of and love for the Hyde Park Farmers' Market (the "Market") over the years. She was instrumental in bringing it to the Square 9 years ago (from the US Bank parking lot). She said that while the Market brings a lot of good things to the Square, it is hindering the success of the businesses on the Square.

HPSBA requests that HPNC rescind its endorsement of the Market or amend the endorsement to require both HPSBA and HPNC's joint endorsement of the Market. With the HPNC blanket endorsement of the Market, the compromises that HPSBA wants to work out with the Market are impossible. Some of the conditions that HPSBA is seeking include the Market closing an hour early (1 p.m.), moving to Clark for the winter earlier than it has in past years, providing a map of vendors to HPSBA, allowing businesses on the Square to apply to participate in the weekly market, restricting the Market's vendors to businesses that do not directly compete with businesses on the Square.

Ms. Wellinghoff said that the Market restricts parking for an extended period of time on a crucial retail shopping day and that during the Market's operating hours most of the businesses on the Square see decreased sales and few shoppers. She added that the businesses' concerns should be heeded, as tax-paying and employment providing enterprises. She also mentioned that the Market's vendors should not be in direct competition (selling similar goods) with the Square's tax-paying brick and mortar merchants. Ms. Wellinghoff opined that the City would side with the HPSBA in requiring its support for the Market to secure permitting, continue operating, and closing the Square on Sundays.

J. Buening stated that she regretted not speaking up at the January meeting when the motion was made to endorse the market's 2019 operations (as she had attended the HPSBA meeting that same morning and was aware of the issues surrounding the Market and HPSBA). She had not been aware that the matter would be raised at the meeting. She said that she thinks that all constituencies should be heard and that the interested parties should cooperate and work out a compromise.

Liz Stites, Owner of the Market, thanked the HPNC for its endorsement of the Market in 2018 and at the January meeting for 2019. She mentioned that the Market team has recently added a Business Advisor to the market's Board, Jen Ragland owner of Alligator Purse (a retailer on the Square). Ms. Reed (a Market Advisory Board Member) read a letter from Ms. Ragland in support of the Market and its ongoing operation in the Square.

Ms. Stites talked about the history of the Market and HPSBA working cooperatively over the course of the past 15 years with great success. She said that while they worked together on the marketing piece of the enterprise, each entity had a clearly delineated roles for the remainder of responsibilities for the Market's success. There was a 5-year contract between the HPSBA and the Market delineating their roles and distinct responsibilities under which

they operated. After the expiration of that contract the two entities still continued to work cooperatively until 3 weeks prior to the Market's 2018 opening when the HPSBA decided not to secure/renew the requisite permits for the Market's operations. As a result, Ms. Stites approached the HPNC for its endorsement to enable the Market to secure the requisite permitting it operate in 2018. 2018 was a very successful year for the Market with the most visitors and vendors to date.

Ms. Stites said that the conditions proposed by the HPSBA are unworkable. Reducing the operating hours by 25% and shortening the market's season on the Square at the peak of the harvest for many crops would be too detrimental to the Market's vendors/farmers. The Market has to secure its vendors for the 2019 season to ensure its success and without a guarantee that the season and hours will remain the same, many vendors will not renew their contracts. She said that the Market will look for another venue if they are not able to secure the permits for the Markets operation on the Square.

Ms. Stites offered that the Market would be happy work directly with HPSBA on co-programming to promote the business on the Square. She said that there is not time to engage in protracted discussions/negotiations with HPSBA about logistics, as contracts with Market vendors are already in the works.

Hyde Park residents and business owners weighed in with their comments:

One resident stated that during the Market season, she and her family walk to the Square every week. She voiced concern about the vendors not showing up if the hours or the season are cut short.

Another resident stated that she values the Market and visits weekly during the season to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. She likes that the Market provides a community gathering place in the business district. She does not want to see the Market re-locate.

Another resident from Hyde Park East said that he visits the Market weekly with his children and that the programming for kids has been a big draw. He does not like the idea of the Market starting earlier, he said that the current hours suit his family's schedule best.

Another resident said that Hyde Park Square is public property and not owned by the HPSBA, and accordingly with proper permitting is available for reservation by the Market.

J. Buening moved, "***We the HPNC, trying to find a balance of interests among certain Hyde Park constituencies related to the operation of the Hyde Park Farmers' Market, amend our motion endorsing the Market, and condition the endorsement upon the Hyde Park Farmers' Market operating between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.***" Second by G. Wollenweber. 7 in favor, 3 opposed, one abstention. Motion carried.

Ms. Stites thanked the HPNC for its continued support and prior endorsement but withdrew the Market's request for any formal endorsement.

### **C. Columbus Avenue**

Catherine Power, Columbus Avenue resident, addressed the Board about the parcels for sale at the terminus of Columbus Avenue. She reported that a developer has clearing the parcels to ready them for construction. She and her fellow Columbus Avenue residents are against any development as the fence at the end of the street protects Columbus Avenue residents' privacy and quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood.

Ms. Power has been in contact with the City asking that it deny the extension of Columbus Avenue and purchase the lots next to the right of way, however the City claims it does not have the funds to do so (despite the funds it expended toward Wasson Way). She and her neighbors are concerned that with the extension of Columbus Avenue and removal of the fence at the terminus of the street, she and her neighbors will not be protected from all the foot and bicycle traffic that will come along with the Wasson Way project.

The developer of the lots at the end of Columbus Avenue must file an application to split the lots. Ms. Power has asked for HPNC's support in appealing to the City to deny the extension of Columbus Avenue. At present, without all the underlying documentation and information, the Board is unable to vote on support of the Columbus Avenue residents' position.

### **5. New Business**

- A. With the recent resignation of Nelson from the Board, we are without a Corresponding Secretary. S. Mulling nominated V. Woodham to serve as Corresponding Secretary. Second by T. Roe. All in favor. V. Woodham accepted the appointment as Corresponding Secretary.

**Adjourn:** Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Sybil Mullin, Recording Secretary