



Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

7:00 pm

Google Meet

Agenda

Subject to change

1. Welcome

2. Guests

- Cincinnati Police Department, Officer Christine Barry
- Hyde Park Library, Blossom Smith
- Cincinnati Recreation Center, Joe Berta
- Hyde Park School, TBD
- Greater Cincinnati Water Works, Promise Pay
- Other Guests

3. Approval of Consent Agenda (Minutes, Officer Reports, Committee Reports)

4. Officers Reports

Reports have been posted to the HPNC website. Only items with questions or requiring discussion or votes will be discussed tonight.

- President's Report – Scott Hassell

5. Committee Reports

Reports have been posted to the HPNC website. Only items with questions or requiring discussion or votes will be discussed tonight.

- Environment – Alan Edwards
 - Volunteer tree/bulb planting opportunity on 11/13
- Other committees or representative updates

6. Old Business

- Committee structure and chairs – Scott Hassell
 - Communications: New chair is Tommy McEvoy
 - Proposed changes to committees with vacant chairs:
 - Community Outreach & Development
 - Finance
- Hyde Park Square DORA – Tommy McEvoy
- Neighborhood Activation Fund – Scott Hassell, Alan Edwards, and others

7. New Business

- Light up Hyde Park campaign – Annie Rusche
- City of Cincinnati's Community Engagement – Scott Hassell

- All citizens encouraged to participate in the 11/17 or 11/22 sessions. Both are 7-8:30pm. One is in person, other on Zoom.
- Discussion of term limits for HPNC trustees – Bob Smyth



- **Greater Cincinnati Water Works** has a new, flexible payment plan to help customers with past due bills avoid having their water and sewer service disconnected. More information is at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/news/gcww-partners-with-promise-network-inc-to-offer-pay-plans/>
- **Duke Energy Ohio** published a Winter Bills Fact Sheet. It provides info on why energy prices are rising, how to improve your home's energy efficiency, Duke programs to help with paying bills, and local, state, and federal assistance programs. See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LSSgrAK-aWR8mRsT1z95KqneL-YQ6QPm/view?usp=sharing>
- WVXU's Cincinnati Edition recently covered a **lawsuit about tax abatements** in the City of Cincinnati: *Lawsuit claims city's tax break program for homeowners is discriminatory*: <https://n.pr/3G8yjyc>
- **Neighborhood Support Program (NSP)**
 - Thank you to Treasurer Norm Lewis for (1) preparing our 2021 NSP Expense Report, and (2) preparing our 2022 NSP proposal.
 - As Invest in Neighborhood's takes over administration of this program for the City, they have worked with the City to update the instructions and forms. This clarifies some ambiguities and gives the community council's some limited additional flexibility compared to past year.
- **HPNC Committee Updates**
 - I continue to look at our committee structure and chairs
 - Welcome to Tommy McEvoy as the new chair of Communications
 - On Tuesday, I will share some proposed changes to several committees, including
 - Community Outreach & Development
 - Finance
- **City election results**

Since the Mayor-elect and so many new members of City Council are new, it is important for community councils to engage with them. If you have existing relationships with any of these individuals, please let me know and we can think about effective ways to reach out to them to explain the important role of community councils, the importance of the community engagement, NSP, etc.
- **City of Cincinnati's Community Engagement Program**
 - Following passage of Community Engagement ordinance, the City Manager has begun work.
 - As we all know, citizen engagement is not required of developers. **I encourage all citizens to engage in the City's process to define what the City's community engagement efforts should look like.** Specifically, I encourage you to participate in:
 - *Meetings: Attend either the 11/17 (in-person meeting) or 11/22 (Zoom meeting) with the City.* Both are 7-8:30pm.
 - Survey. Answer their survey.
 - The survey and meeting info is available at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/planning-projects-and-studies/active-ongoing/community-conversations/>

- **UDOD changes are likely to be approved by City Council’s Economic Growth & Zoning Committee on 11/9**
 - These changes have been discussed in many public meetings since May.
 - The City made some adjustments based on feedback from Mt Lookout Community Council (MLCC).
 - MLCC or Invest in Neighborhood’s may send some information to community councils prior to this committee meeting. Stay tuned.
 - More information available at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/planning-projects-and-studies/active-ongoing/proposed-text-amendments-to-the-cincinnati-zoning-code/>
- Council Member Liz Keating’s **proposal to remove the density limitations for some zoning types** remains on hold at the Cincinnati Planning Commission. Some are concerned that it could be put back on their agenda on short notice. More information is available at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/planning-projects-and-studies/active-ongoing/proposed-removal-of-density-restrictions/>



Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Meeting via Google Meet called to order by President, S. Hassell at 7:02 p.m.

In Attendance: J. Buening, B. Frappier Schirmang, D. Hapner, S. Hassell, N. Lewis, S. Mullin, T. Roe, A. Rusche, B. Smyth, B. Whitney, G. Wollenweber, and V. Woodham

Advance Notice of Absence: A. Edwards

1. Guests:

Cincinnati Police Department, District 2 Officer Christine Barry gave the monthly Crime Report: violent crime is down 60% from a year ago, while auto thefts are up 31%. Total property crime is down 13% from last year. Officer Barry reminded residents to be sure to keep garage doors closed and lock windows to prevent burglaries. Captain Danita Pettis can be reached at: 979-4444 Danita.pettis@cincinnati-oh.gov. Police non-emergency line 765-1212. Christine.Barry@cincinnati-oh.gov. Officer Barry can be reached at 979-4480.

Hyde Park School—Principal Jill Sunderman reported that the outdoor Pumpkin Chuck is set for 11/6 for 10-2 and will include games, food, raffle items, split the pot, a bake sale, and 2 pumpkin chuckers, BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin), \$5 per chuck. The school's read-a-thon is ongoing. Learn about upcoming events and how to support the school at: www.hydeparkschoolpto.org

Hyde Park Square DORA—Paul Rudolph (Business Association Rep) and Austin Heidt (Owner of Dear Restaurant) provided an update on DORA proposal progress. The City can approve the establishment of 4 DORA's, and the Banks is the first to be so designated. Paul and Austin want to preserve Hyde Park's place to pursue a Dora designation and are concerned that other neighborhoods may move ahead more quickly to fill the 3 remaining spots. The area subject to the DORA would include the Square area on Erie (between Michigan and Edwards) and extend down Michigan and Edwards in the Business District. It is unclear if the DORA will include the Park or not. Safety is a primary concern. The proposed hours are Sunday-Thursday 6-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 6-10 p.m. The businesses in and around the Square are in favor of the DORA. Austin Heidt shared that the DORA would encourage the comingling of art, wine, fashion and give the Square an opportunity to celebrate the City's rich beer heritage.

Comments and questions from Trustees and residents included:

- Whether the Park area would be included. Not sure yet.

- If the area could start small and then expand depending on the success and safety of the DORA. Yes, but the plan is to cover the full Square area from the inception.
- Whether there would be traffic restrictions/police in place during the DORA hours; One resident suggested restricting traffic to one lane during the DORA hours. The plan is for traffic to continue without any restrictions.
- How many businesses plan to participate in the sale of alcohol/cups. 12 (estimate).
- How the area encompassed by the DORA would be marked. Permanent signage/lines.

Many Trustees and residents expressed support of establishing a DORA in HP Square citing the success of events like Wine Walk Wednesdays and the Hyde Park Blast which have gone on for years without incident. The DORA would also enhance property values and be helpful in fostering long-term community engagement and neighborhood vibrancy. Some expressed concern about moving forward without greater community engagement sessions to gauge the Community's support of the proposal.

J. Buening moved, *"That the HPNC approve moving ahead with the application process for the DORA for Hyde Park Square."* Second by Todd Roe. 6 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

The plan is that the HPNC will provide a letter of support sharing the passage of the motion. Before there is a set plan proposed for approval, there will be something more tangible for the community to review and weigh in on. Paul and Austin will work with Giovanni (City Development contact on DORA).

2. Officers' Reports

- A. **President's Report**—S. Hassell reminded Trustees that there are several vacancies for Committee Chair positions (Community Outreach and Development and Finance) and requested a volunteer to serve as a liaison for the Board to the Hyde Park Art Show.
- B. **Recording Secretary's Report** – S. Mullin
Minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting were circulated via email. Without objection the minutes were approved as submitted.
- C. **Treasurer's Report** –N. Lewis submitted the 2021 NSP report to the City. The 2022 contract year is gearing up under Invest in Neighborhoods. The Sept. 14-October 10, 2021 Financial Report was circulated by email. 2 new memberships were received during the period and distributions to 55 North and Wasson Way were made. Without objection, the Financial Report was adopted as submitted.

3. Committee Reports

- A. **Nominating** S. Mullin reported that the candidates who attended the September 25th Meet and Greet were really a special group. They all expressed an eagerness to get involved on the Board and shared their particular areas of interest in committees. The Committee was very impressed. Following the Meet and Greet, the Committee voted and recommends Tommy McEvoy and Alex Schutte as nominees to fill the Board vacancies left by Danielle Discepoli and Rich Postler. S. Mullin moved, *"That the HPNC Nominating Committee nominates Tommy McEvoy and Alex Schutte to fill the vacancies on the Board and serve the out the remaining terms of Danielle Discepoli and Rich Postler."* Second by V. Woodham. 11 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

- B. Traffic and Safety** T. Roe provided an update on the proposed improvements to the Observatory and Edwards intersection. The Traffic and Safety Committee Report contains a thorough description of all details and possible solutions being considered. DOTE has welcomed HPNC input on the proposed changes. The sooner the HPNC gets in the DOTE queue the better to ensure we get the changes in place, as DOTE has many other projects on its agenda.

Infrastructure: The new curb radius at the NE corner will help slow traffic and improve visibility of pedestrians has already been completed. The signal devices will be determined once the striping plans are finalized. Left arrow signals are expected in all 4 directions. Signage also will depend on final plans. The current proposal is for the creation of a dedicated left-hand turn lanes in all 4 traffic directions at the intersection. Several parking spaces on Observatory will be lost in front of Cincy Shirts.

Striping: 2 of the 4 crosswalks will be repainted to accommodate the new curb radius change at the NE corner. Left-hand turn lanes will also be painted.

Phasing: (sequencing /timing of traffic and pedestrian signals) is likely the most important piece of the puzzle to make the intersection as safe for pedestrians/drivers and as efficient as possible. The Board discussed many options: allowing pedestrians to cross before or after traffic, a possible flashing yellow traffic arrow to signal left turn with caution yielding to pedestrians, no right on red turn ever, left on green arrow only, and more. D. Hapner moved, *"That the HPNC go forward with the implementation of the proposed plan for, striping, and phasing as detailed in the Traffic and Safety Committee Report."* Second by T. Roe. All in favor. Motion carried.

- C. Membership and Communications Committee** A. Rusche reported that the North High launch party for the High'd Park Ale is scheduled for Friday October 15 from 6-10 p.m. North High will be selling High'd Park Ale merchandise: buy a mug and a t-shirt and get the mug filled with the launch Ale free! North High has committed a portion of all sales of the North High's Ale to the HPNC, a minimum of \$1,200.
- D. Halloween on the Square** is scheduled for Saturday October 30th. A. Rusche has created a special flyer for the event. B. Whitney has coordinated with Knox Church for crafts and snacks will be offered in Knox's courtyard on Michigan from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Businesses around the Square will have candy for trick-or-treaters during their business hours. V. Woodham will distribute flyers for the event to the schools. S. Mullin will purchase candy and Halloween buckets and distribute both along with flyers to businesses willing to participate.

4. New Business

- A. Consent Agenda**--S. Hassell has proposed shifting to a consent agenda format for future meetings and time efficiency. The Board will vote at an upcoming meeting on the matter.

Adjourn: Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Sybil Mullin, Recording Secretary



Membership – Annie Rusche

This month brought 7 new memberships to HPNC. All have received their official HPNC Membership Card. In November, we'll be sending out some specific membership emails and communications to help increase membership before the year ends.

Community Engagement – Annie Rusche

Beer Release Party: On 10/15/21, the North High'd Park Honey Wheat Ale launched at North High Brewery. Cups, shirts, and raffle tickets were sold. North High Brewery has committed to a \$1,200 yearly donation to start depending on sales. The beer will always be on tap so try it next time you stop by and help support HPNC!

Halloween on the Square: On 10/30/21, despite rainy weather, a good number of families participated in trick-or-treating at merchants on Hyde Park Square. The event also featured arts, crafts, and snacks on the lawn at Knox Church. Tina Hubert, who coordinated Knox Church's participation in the event, was pleased with the turn out and is eager to partner with HPNC on future neighborhood events.

Light Up Hyde Park: Last year, we called for Hyde Park residents to submit their homes for the Light Up Hyde Park light contest. The top three winners received \$20 gift cards to Hyde Park businesses. There were about 20 submissions and the campaign was online. Plan is to launch again this year (closer to Thanksgiving), allow for photo submissions, and encourage the community to vote again on their favorite decorations. Marketing will happen through email, social media, and flyers in local businesses. Local businesses can also submit their window decorations for the business category.

Environment – Alan Edwards

- Wasson Way landscape planting plan approved by the City of Cincinnati on 11/5/21
- Volunteer tree/bulb planting event on November 13th 9am – 12pm. Final details coming this coming week, watch Wasson Way's website and social media for details. The planting sites are all prepared for the event so that it should be a smooth planting.
- Madtree and Cincinnati Parks Foundation ReLeaf Tree planting just wrapped up, having planted over 3k trees throughout Cincinnati, many of them in Hyde Park.

Treasurer Report and Neighborhood Support Program – Norm Lewis

HPNC submitted our 2021 NSP final report last month to Cincinnati's NSP coordinator Nyemah Stark. Have not had a response from her as yet. We submitted our 2022 NSP proposal to Invest in Neighborhood (the 2022 organization with oversight for next year). Have not had a response from them either, but the 2022 proposal must be reviewed and accepted before 2022 spending can commence. Please try to hold off on 2022 NSP expenses until our contract is approved.

As far as spending goes, we did not write any checks this past month, and we took in 4 memberships for \$76.44 in income.

HPNC FINANCIAL REPORT

Oct 11, 2021-Nov 7, 2021

RECEIPTS

11/6/21	Membership	76.44
TOTAL		\$76.44

DISBURSEMENTS

TOTAL			\$0.00



Edwards & Observatory: Proposed Improvements to Intersection

Background:

- Please review the October report for full context on situation, including recommendations to DOTE

Current Status:

- Following the October HPNC meeting, we proposed to DOTE the option of a “Leading Pedestrian Interval” (LPI) for the Eastern crosswalk. **DOTE agreed to conduct a formal assessment** of the timing/phasing required to make it happen (w/o the requirement of any changes to the lane striping)
- As a reminder, today, cars traveling southbound on Edwards, turning left onto eastbound Observatory, first see a green arrow, followed by a green circle. During the green circle phase, the crosswalk signal is activated for pedestrians. In the proposed solution, the sequencing of the auto signals would be flipped (green arrow as the LAST phase rather than the first). The crosswalk signal would be the first phase (while auto signal is still on red). This would give the pedestrians 3-5 seconds of head-start w/o the fear of auto traffic. For the southbound auto traffic, they would sit on a red light while the pedestrians get their head-start, then would move to a green circle, and would end w/ a green arrow
- Upon completing their assessment, **DOTE rejected the idea of an LPI** for the Eastern crosswalk. Specifically, the proposed LPI creates a “left-turn trap” for northbound traffic, based on current northbound lane striping (see pic below). DOTE seemed to believe that the proposed LPI would, indeed, be viable as a way of managing the eastern crosswalk AND southbound auto traffic... it is specifically the northbound auto traffic that would be put at risk. The specific response from DOTE is as follows:

The issue at Observatory and Edwards is the northbound direction does not have a left turn arrow phase. If there is a lag southbound left turn phase, then the northbound vehicles could be caught in a left turn trap. A northbound left turn phase is not recommended since the thru and left movements are smaller and the movements also share a lane.

Traffic Engineering recommends the flashing yellow arrow to emphasize that turning vehicles are required to yield to pedestrians and vehicles before turning left.

Next Steps:

- I have reached out to DOTE to understand if the northbound “left-turn trap” issue could be resolved by restriping the northbound lanes and installing a left-turn signal device. Awaiting a response from DOTE
- If that option is rejected, I recommend proceeding w/ the DOTE recommendation of a flashing yellow arrow solution



Future topics:

- 1) **Edwards & Observatory intersection** – bucket/flag solution
- 2) **Crosswalk in front of Carl's Deli** – currently crosswalk is not sufficiently distanced from adjacent on-street parking, creating a visibility challenge
- 3) **Erie and Pinehurst intersection (East HP; in front of Bangkok Bistro)** – specifically in question is westbound traffic on Erie, attempting to make a left-turn onto Pinehurst. That turn is currently restricted during specific high-volume hours, requiring drivers to instead turn left on the previous street and then cut through a residential street



HPNC Committee Report: Zoning

November 2021

Baptist Church Redevelopment (SE Corner of Michigan and Erie)

The Zoning Committee met with Karl Gieseke and Tom Rowe on November 2 regarding the redevelopment concept for the Baptist Church property. Karl Gieseke is Principal Architect at Gieseke Rosenthal Architecture + Design, 2631 Erie, Cincinnati OH 45208. Tom Rowe is a Principal with Terrex Development & Construction, 3200 Madison Road, Suite 2B, Cincinnati, OH 45209 and former HPNC Trustee. Both are working for Falling Leaves LLC, the current owner of the property.

The redevelopment concept is a multi-story, multi-use building with commercial retail on first floor that will front both Erie and Michigan and high-end apartments on upper floors. Interior parking will be on south-east (library) side of first floor and one level below grade with entrance/exit from Michigan. The discussion focused on the HPNC seven item wish list. There were no details or drawings of the redevelopment shared. Tom Rowe, Karl Gieseke and HPNC Zoning Committee agreed to meet again in early December when Tom and Karl expect to have preliminary concept drawings. A public meeting will be scheduled sometime after the first of the year.

Current members of the HPNC Zoning Committee are: Scott Hassell, Couper Gardiner, Mike Mauch, Tom Petre, Norm Lewis, Carl Uebelacker and Gary Wollenweber. Norm and Carl did not attend this meeting.

The list that was sent and discussed with Karl and Tom follows:

- 1. The Hyde Park Neighborhood Council (HPNC) will be pleased to meet and work with you as you develop your plans for the southeast corner of Erie and Michigan. There is a Hyde Park Square Business Association (HPSBA) that may also have an opinion(s).*
- 2. HPNC hopes the new concept will be sensitive to the site, a corner lot in a neighborhood pedestrian oriented business district that abuts two public sidewalks and a public library. Any redevelopment must relate to and enhance the surrounding properties and uses.*
- 3. We prefer a design that has rich architectural details complementing, not contrasting, the neighboring 100+ year old buildings. We encourage a design that considers the draft Hyde Park Master Plan "Developers considering redeveloping the property should know that Hyde Park Square is the heart of one of Cincinnati's most desirable neighborhoods. Incorporated as a village in 1896 and annexed to the City of Cincinnati in 1903, Hyde Park is a welcoming, thriving, and ever-evolving neighborhood with a respect for history. An established community, it is valued for its tree-lined, walkable streets, distinctive housing stock, vibrant business districts, strong schools, parks, and places of worship. Hyde Park offers residents and visitors a place to live, work, learn, shop, and dine with a beautiful public square at its center. In keeping with this history and property's location on the Square, proposals should incorporate and reflect Hyde Park's unique history and architecture."*
- 4. In this CN-P zoning district and UD#4 overlay district, the first floor is intended to be commercial use with high percentage transparency (windows) showing inviting commercial interiors to pedestrians. There are strict restrictions on signage in Zoning Code. New development should be designed to adhere to the requirements of the CN-P zoning and the UD#4 overlay.*
- 5. A soft corner at Erie and Michigan, with significant set-back allowing a small plaza for public gathering, beverage consumption or outside dining, is encouraged. The existing grassy area serves this visual purpose, but its functionality needs improvement. If new development will include a garage, keep in mind the local water table will likely allow only one level underground unless expensive countermeasures are employed. HPNC prefers garage access from Michigan Avenue — and so does Zoning Code.*
- 6. HPNC strongly encourages development that is permitted under the current zoning. We are rather strict to the code and do not take variances lightly.*
- 7. The mature trees in the right-of-way on Michigan, should be protected and preserved.*

HPNC Financial Report - 2021

HPNC budget	Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Revised nov 7, 2021														
BEGINNING OPERATING BALANCE	13207.5	13207.5	13,207.50	13,246.02	13,245.30	21,426.10	21,433.40	20,370.44	20,282.22	20,369.10	17,746.32	15,036.08	15,112.52	13,207.50
RECEIPTS														
NSP - 2021	7,980				7,987.00									7,987.00
Membership	500		38.52	19.26	193.80	96.30	97.04	57.78	86.88	38.22	38.22	76.44		742.46
Halloween Event	300													0.00
Fundraiser	500													0.00
Invest In Neighborhoods	630					911.00								911.00
Miscellaneous Donations	500													0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	10,410	0	38.52	19.26	8,180.80	1,007.30	97.04	57.78	86.88	38.22	38.22	76.44	0.00	9,640.46
DISBURSMENTS														
<i>To Be Submitted to NSP</i>														
<i>Newsletter</i>														
- Mailing	0													0.00
- Printing	0													0.00
<i>HPNC Expenses</i>														
- Intern	600									600				600.00
- Web Domain Fee	504			19.98						484.00				503.98
- Post Office Box	146							146.00						146.00
- D/O Insurance	0													0.00
- Halloween Event	0													0.00
- Annual Meeting	0													0.00
<i>Community Grants</i>														0.00
- covid school supplies	1000										648.46			648.46
- Wasson Way	1000										1,100.00			1,100.00
- Hyde Park East	900									900.00				900.00
- Hyde Park School	1,000					1,000.00								1,000.00
- HydeParkChurch Summe	339									339.00				339.00
- Knox Church covid relief	338									338.00				338.00
- HPCOA	1000										1,000.00			1,000.00
- Ault Park Fireworks	1,160						1,160.00							1,160.00
NSP Subtotal	7,987													
<i>Not Submitted to NSP</i>														0.00
<i>HPNC Expenses</i>														0.00
- Ault Park Advisory Council	50													0.00
- Meet & Greet	100													0.00
-Halloween Event														
-membership	450													0.00
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	200													0.00
TOTAL DISBURSMENTS	8787	0.00	0.00	19.98	0.00	1000.00	1160.00	146.00	0.00	2661.00	2748.46	0.00	0.00	7735.44
ENDING OPERATING BALANCE	14,831	13,207.50	13,246.02	13,245.30	21,426.10	21,433.40	20,370.44	20,282.22	20,369.10	17,746.32	15,036.08	15,112.52	15,112.52	15,112.52