

CRESCENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2010

President Tim Allen called the meeting to order at the Peterson-Dumesnil House at 7:36 p.m., with a quorum present. C.J. Parrish moved acceptance of the minutes from the February meeting, and the measure passed, though historian Barb McGee suggested that the secretary could make the minutes of each meeting more perfect by the simple expedient of signing them. The secretary agreed to do that.

Treasurer Brian Butler submitted his monthly treasurer's report and a spending plan. There was discussion about how realistic the spending plan might be, particularly in light of costs that have gone up with regard to the 4th of July. Tim explained that the plan is based on "what we know now," and can change if circumstances change. "There could be" some changes, Jerry Fielden reiterated. "The city is going to want more money." Still, Kathy Schmitt moved and Pat Schmidt seconded that the plan be approved.

There was, as the president likes to note with precision, "no audible opposition." Both treasurer's report and spending plan are attached to the minutes.

The same is true of the crime report, which Officer Marc Hall delivered next. "While we've been talking," Tim suggested, "a certain number of crimes have taken place." And it could have been true. The neighborhood had suffered a number of kicked-in doors since Officer Hall last reported. In one case, the person whose door was kicked in was home, and he had a shotgun.

"Whoa, I've got the wrong house," the miscreant said, in a master stroke of understatement. He was able to flee.

The crime report is attached.

Ninth District Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh sent word that neither she nor her assistant could attend the meeting. One of them usually does. It's not necessarily the case that her absence could have been better timed, but the fact is that Patrick Duerr was at the meeting, and he is a candidate to oust Tina from her council seat. He came to introduce himself, tell us he is a small business executive, has lived very near to Crescent Hill all of his life, and wants to hear all of our concerns. "You'll see more of me at these meetings," he said.

Unfinished Business

Tim called for unfinished business, but there was none, so he moved on to

New Business

Kathleen Batsel has been leading a group of people who have been hard at work restoring Kennedy Park for more than a year. The group even has its own account in council financial arrangements. But the group had never been formally declared a council Special Committee. Brian suggested the time has come. "Because we have an arrangement with them, it's prudent that we formalize it," he said.

Sally Marcum, the Kennedy district's new representative moved thusly:

"I make a motion that a special committee be formed for Kennedy Court Park to liaison

between the CHCC Board and the Kennedy Court Park Project. A separate bank account will be set up to hold donations and make payments for their project.”

Opposition, if there was any, was not audible.

Barb Sinai reported that she'd had an email from the Wilder Park neighborhood expressing concern over a proposal by a contractor to tear down four residences in order to build a Dollar General Store. Barb said the neighborhood already has lost a lot of its heritage, and it needs housing for University of Louisville students and Churchill Downs employees. Also, she said, a lot of commercial development in the area has failed. Wilder Park has support from Butchertown and Clifton, she said, and would like the Crescent Hill council to write a letter to the planning commission opposing zoning waivers and variances the developer needs to proceed with the project.

Gary Conklin, Jerry Fielden, and Pat Brinson spoke against writing the letter, mostly on grounds that Crescent Hillians don't know enough about the situation to make an informed decision on support. Barb and Cynthia Thomas begged to differ, though, suggesting we know enough, and noting that by the time information could be gathered and reported back, it would be too late for the letter to do any good. Cynthia suggested that Crescent Hill may someday need similar help from Wilder Park. Barb moved that she be authorized to write a letter opposing the zoning changes. It passed, 15 to 4.

Meanwhile, Kathy Schmitt and Cynthia Thomas urged meeting participants to get more involved in various projects for the Fourth of July. “Come on, step up a little,” Kathy said. “We need more people. We've got to get this council involved. It's really important that you give back to your community and put in a few hours, or your beloved 4th of July is going to go away.” There were various sign-up sheets for volunteers.

And there was discussion of calling off the May meeting for lack of interest because of Derby fever, but it was decided that the meeting and Derby dates are so juxtaposed this year that it shouldn't be an issue. So there will be a May meeting – May 6 – but it won't be at the Peterson-Dumesnil House as it usually is, because the Peterson-Dumesnil House Board has a paying customer that night. It may be at the Crescent Hill library. But that is to be announced.

Also, it was announced that Minerva Virola, a police officer, will take over the Fun Run for this 4th of July.

District Representative Reports

Tim turned the meeting over to Vice President Paul Kinsley, who called for reports from the district reps. Sue Ritman waved a copy of Reservoir Park's new directory, which lists names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of most of the people on Reservoir Park's seven streets. Volunteers went door-to-door gathering the information, offering a copy of the directory in exchange. Most in the neighborhood went for the deal. Then Sue solicited donations from businesses along Frankfort Avenue to pay for printing costs. The names of the donors were listed prominently in the directory. Donations covered all but \$30 of the cost. Pat Brinson moved that the council make up the \$30, and the motion passed.

“The neighbors were pleased and happy to get these,” Pat Schmidt said.

Committee Reports

Barb Sinai, chair of the comprehensive planning committee, reported on a meeting held at Joyce Cossavella's house on Weisser Avenue, about a developer's proposal to put 15 condos and some commercial space along Weisser behind Boone's service station. There was a good turnout, she said, and some neighbors were opposed to the development. Developer Fred Andres was "very pleasant with everyone who was there," she said. But she noted that he could afford to be, because there is basically nothing any of them can do to stop his project. The zoning has been in place for many years.

Membership committee chair Jerry Fielden reported membership at about 420, and called for a membership drive to bring it up to 600 or so. He continues in search of a replacement on that committee, so he can get on with his work on the 4th of July.

Pat Brinson, who heads up the art fair portion of the 4th event, said 40 of last year's 90 artists already have signed up to return. She called for help finding websites on which to advertise the event. She said she and others on the committee have been talking with counterparts who work on the Cherokee Triangle Art Fair, getting ideas. Jerry Fielden said the Triangle fair made \$60,000 in one weekend last year, he said. "I don't think we can get that big," he said. "But we can get into the \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 range." He said the council's 4th of July event represents an opportunity "to grow something that can really produce."

Kathy Schmitt said Cabrina Bosco has retired from operating the cake wheel on the 4th, and she is in the market for a replacement.

Sally Marcum reported for the Kennedy Park Committee that all of the restored park's furnishings except for the swings have been ordered. The Crescent Hill Garden Club is finalizing a planting plan, and there will be a work meeting at the park in the second week of April.

Institutional Liaisons

Dave Bush, representative of the United Crescent Hill Ministries, announced that UCHM's 10th annual fund-raising home tour will be the second Saturday in June. A couple of home owners, on Crescent Avenue and Payne Street, have signed up, and more will he said.

He also noted that Tina Ward-Pugh and the Louisville Gas & Electric Co. still were matching donations to UCHM, so that a \$25 donation from an individual would result in \$100 for UCHM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Joe Ward, secretary