



Notes of January 9, 2008 meeting

Meeting hosted by Mike Bootes at The Over-the-Rhine Boatworks.

Paid members in attendance: Steven Hampton, Mike Bootes, Denny Dellinger, George Hibben, Jason Herbolt, Leeah Zornes, John Donaldson, Duane Donohoo.

Future members in attendance: Omar Childress, Linda Ziegler, Jennifer Martin, Bryon Martin, Brad Thomas, Kris Sommer, B. Otto Weaver, Kevin Feldman, Ed Hubert, Jim Wellinghoff, Fred Berger, Gail Berger, Doug Newberry, Julie Fay, John Back, Heath Horn, Tim Larson, Michael Robinson, Martha Gitt

Agenda items:

1 & 2 The meeting started with socializing and introductions. Mike Bootes did a terrific job of hosting the meeting and provided plenty of beer. Duane Donohoo led the meeting.

3. No one had comments on the previous months meeting notes.
4. Duane gave the treasurer's report and said we have about \$5,000 in the bank.
5. Steve Hampton gave a membership report and reminded everyone that it is time to renew for 2008 and the annual dues are \$25. You can pay on the website using pay pal and a credit card.
6. Mike Bootes gave a report on Rothenberg School and said several people and groups have been meeting. The school has been closed for 2 + years. The original plan was to renovate the building as a new school however in September the school board announce they intended to tear the building down and build a new school on the site. Several meetings of concerned neighbors and other interested parties have taken place. Part of the reason for wanting to tear down the school was based on numbers provided by Turner Construction, which Michael and others believe are not really accurate. He and others believe the school can be effectively renovated for about the same cost as building a new suburban style school, about 13- 14 million dollars.

Fred Berger noted that Westwood has so far apparently been more successful at getting CPS to consider renovation rather than demolition, in large part because they have presented a unified community voice. Michael noted that the Pendleton, OTR and Downtown community councils have all written letters supporting renovation of the school rather than demolition.

Michael said there will be meeting Tuesday, January 15, at 5:00pm at Peaslee School on 14<sup>th</sup> St. He encourages anyone interested to attend the meeting and voice support for preservation of the building and for renovating it as a school.

7. Michael Boots discussed the possibility of the Brewery District sponsoring a soap box derby car in the June 21st race. He proposed calling it the Rothenberg/ Moerlein Rocket. We would need to find a local resident, age 8 to 13 to be the driver. The soap box derby cars are generally on display in the Opening Day and St. Patrick's Day parades. He suggested that the Brewery District consider donating \$500.
8. Steve Hampton reported that the historical marker is being made now and we have the license from the City. It is not likely that the marker will be ready to install by Bockfest, so there will be an unveiling ceremony scheduled at a later date.
9. Steve also reported on the Prohibition Resistance Tour. Friday March 7, is the date of the parade, departing from Arnolds around 6pm. The tours will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9.

- There will be several tour times and each tour is expected to take about 3 hours. The Hauck house and several other brewery buildings will be part of the tour. The Museum Center is also having an exhibit on Cincinnati Brewing History and admission to the Museum Center will be included as part of the tour. It is expected that people could attend the tour and attend the museum on a different date, but this is yet to be confirmed. Tickets will be available on line. A planning meeting is scheduled for Jan 10 and anyone interested in participating was invited to attend. 25 to 30 volunteers will be needed to help out on Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Steve Hampton to volunteer and get additional information.
10. Brad Thomas announced that there is another trip scheduled to Portland on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> to see the streetcar system. Check out [www.cincystreetcar.com](http://www.cincystreetcar.com) for more information. Brad said the proposal is still in the finance committee and is expected to be discussed at some finance committee soon, but a date has not been set yet. He encourages everyone to write letters of support to council members, and noted that letters and phone calls are more effective than email. The Mayor is expected to express support of the streetcar in his February 4<sup>th</sup> State of the City Address. Julie Fay commented that she had recently gone on the trip to Portland and said it was a very worthwhile trip and that the development along the streetcar line is incredible.
  11. Steve Hampton reported that the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Cincinnati Preservation Society, the Architectural Foundation and the Over the Rhine Foundation are sponsoring a design charrette on infill housing in Over the Rhine. See [www.charretteinstitute.org/charrette.html](http://www.charretteinstitute.org/charrette.html) for more information and to register. The event will be at the Art Academy January 19, 2008 from 10am til 6pm. There will be 4 teams focusing on multiple sites. There is limited space available, so RSVP ASAP to [info@cincinnati-preservation.org](mailto:info@cincinnati-preservation.org) or (513) 721-4506. Information: <http://otr-foundation.org/>
  12. Steve also reported that the Free Store Food Bank had made application to demolish historic buildings on Walnut St. to make room for a loading dock and that they intend to demolish additional contributing historic buildings on Corwin and Walnut St.. The meeting is scheduled for January 28. A recent email from Margo Warminski said this has been taken off the agenda for that meeting. Further notice will be provided. It is important that anyone interested in objecting must attend the first hearing, in order to continue objections. If you are unable to attend the meeting and letter of objection is also acceptable. We need to address serious zoning issues involved here, as non profit groups are allowed to ignore the historic regulations, that apply to all other businesses and individuals. If a for profit business outgrows their space and needs to expand, they must comply with all applicable regulations in order to do so, or find another location that is suitable for their needs. The Free Store Foodbank has grown to serve 22 counties
  13. Denny Dellinger reported that there is a meeting regarding Clean and Safe Grant application coming up on January 15<sup>th</sup> to review the grant application process. Deadline for grant applications is February 8 and anyone interested in spearheading efforts to get a grant needs to step forward. A couple of years ago the Brewery District got a grant for several thousand dollars to rent a bobcat, dumpsters and other tools to clean up several areas.
  14. Brad Thomas announced that Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> is the next City Neighborhood Summit at the Cintas Center. Check out [www.investinneighborhoods.org](http://www.investinneighborhoods.org) to register and get a free lunch. There is also a dinner and speaker the Friday evening before.
  15. Chris Sommers of Urban Sites announced that Monday January 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm , Urban Sites will be opening for view a new building project at 125 East 9<sup>th</sup> St. This was formerly the Republic Party Headquarters and Urban Sites recently uncovered a grand ballroom that had been forgotten and used as office space with a dropped ceiling. Snacks and Moerlein Beer will be provided. They are hoping to attract some sort of live arts venue to the space.
  16. Omar Childress announced that w600 Central Parkway, the old Warner Bros. Building is being redeveloped as a studio, internet café and computer lab. They will be having an open house Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am til 7pm.
  17. Fred Berger commented that scaffolding is up on the Kauffman Building. Julie Fay noted that they expect to have the exterior renovation done by June and that the developer has 5 years to find a user for the building.
  18. Doug Bootes commented that From the Soul Restaurant is now operating in the old Stenger's Café location and suggested people check it out. They are not running a bar, and have very good food.

The meeting adjourned around 7:00pm

The next meeting will be held at 5:30pm, Wednesday, February 13, 2008. Location and host to be determined. A volunteer to host the next meeting will be appreciated.

Please visit the website [www.otrbrewerydistrict.org](http://www.otrbrewerydistrict.org) for additional and updated information.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Denny Dellinger, January 13, 2008.