



THE BREWERY DISTRICT

“Most Endangered”

Notes of June 13, 2007 meeting

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

Paid members in attendance: Denny Dellinger, Josh Helton, Mike Bootes, Omar Childress, Gail Berger, Fred Berger, Julie Fay, Steve Cersonsky, Greg Hardman, Shiela Newman, Steve Hampton, Mike Morgan, Ted Fischesser, Bryan Vielhaur

Future members in attendance: Brad Thomas, Ben Gulley, Adrian Carsiotis, Debby Mays, Steve Pavlish, Linda Ziegler, Vermell Perkins, Stephen Dronen*, Bill Adkins*, Helene Backscheider*, Martha Gitt, Brandon Druffel, Brendan Weaver, Walter Reinhaus, *Sgt. Matt Vogelpol,

*indicates first time participants, 29 people attended, 4 for the first time

Agenda items:

1 & 2 The meeting started with socializing and introductions. Mike did a terrific job of hosting and provided a variety of beers. Steve Hampton led the meeting, in Duane Donohoo's absence.

3. No one had comments on the May 9, 2007 meeting minutes, so the minutes were approved.
4. Steve reported that The Mohawk Memorial, located near the intersection of Mohawk and Ravine St. is in need of restoration. The memorial was originally erected as a war memorial with names of local soldiers who were killed in war. Duane Donohoo originally heard about this effort, led by some descendents of people on the memorial and thought it would be a good opportunity for The Brewery District to participate and help raise funds. Mike Morgan suggested we plan for a ceremony on Memorial Day 2008. A committee will be formed to work out details. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is welcome to volunteer.
5. Sgt. Matt Vogelpol reported on safety issues, saying that crime is way down in OTR. Denny Dellinger asked why prostitution still seems so prevalent in many areas of The Brewery District. Sgt. Vogelpol commented that it is not a high crime and when they arrest prostitutes, they are out on the street again before the

cops can finish their paperwork. He suggested we talk to judges and city council people about that situation. He said they are focusing more on johns and also using undercover cops. If they arrest a john soliciting, they can take their vehicles, and that is often an effective deterrent. Walter Reinhaus said he has noticed an increase in prostitution in the last couple of months and commented about a new john's school in Columbus, that he thinks should be implemented here. He said he sometimes call police to report prostitutes 5 times a day, and encouraged everyone else to do the same to keep attention on this matter. Walter also reported that he is often verbally assaulted by drug dealers in Findlay Park, on his way to the market. Sgt. Vogelpol said they are aware that is a problem area and they are focusing more attention there. Mike Morgan commented that he avoids driving on East Clifton because there is so much open air drug dealing going on. Sgt. Vogelpol said the dealers do not live in the neighborhood, but come there to sell drugs. Steve Hampton commented that we all need to call to report issues and get involved in the safety sector meetings and citizens on patrol.

6. Ted Fischesser had nothing to report on membership and encouraged people to join. Bryan Vielhaur volunteered to host the next meeting at Decal Impressions.
7. Julie Fay gave an update on the Main St. Program. There will be a DART Team visit in July, to review and evaluate how the National Trust for Historic Preservations Main St. program could be implemented here. It is intended to focus on business districts and will include the Main St. and Vine St. business districts north to Clifton Ave. She has also submitted for the business district grant request, which is a competitive process reviewed by other business districts in the city.
8. Bryan Vielhaur gave a marketing report and said he is looking for volunteers for new projects and The Prohibition Resistance Tour.
9. Steve Hampton gave a report on the street signs and historical marker. He is about ready to submit to the state for the historical marker and is working with the city on the street signs. He expects the historical marker to cost about \$2500 and that it should hopefully be ready to unveil in the fall and suggested we might have an event in conjunction with The Prohibition Resistance Tour. Steve said we might also have additional signage. Mike Boots noted that people would like to see more detailed information about individual buildings. Steve also reported that he is making additions and improvements to the website.
10. Martha Gitt discussed Citylink and ongoing court issues. September 12, the issue will be back in court, this time at Hamilton County Court of Appeals, with 3 judges presiding. The legal defense fund is currently about \$20,000 in debt for services so far rendered. They are trying to raise additional money for legal fees and also trying to build more press awareness. She said this is a regional issue, not just a West End issue, and that the proposed facility would also be a danger

for the people they are trying to serve. She said it may end up going to the Ohio Supreme Court. The Brewery District contributed \$1500 to the defense fund.

11. Brad Thomas encouraged people to write letters to council members in support of the Streetcar issue.
12. Walter Reinhaus commented that The Drop In Center is trying to relocate their transitional housing facility to 45 E. McMicken. CPS is providing part of the funding since the current site at Elm and 12th Streets would then be used by the School for Creative and Performing Arts. They are also looking for an additional \$800,000 in funding from the city. This is the third attempt to move this facility and 3CDC has blocked the first two and said it can not be located south of Liberty St. So far there has not been a groundswell of opposition from residents. In the past, they have always said that it was important for the transitional housing to be located near the shelter, so this move seems disingenuous to some people. Others have also speculated that the Drop In Center might be moving to the old NuBlend Paint Building on E. McMicken. Walter noted that we need to be diligent and cognizant and keep in touch. The Brewery District has previously voted to oppose this move and will write letters of opposition.
13. Mike Morgan reported on a meeting regarding the North Rhine Project proposed by OTR Community Housing and discussions of mapping what is going on as called for in the OTR Comprehensive Plan. Brendan Weaver noted that there are zoning code issues that seem to conflict with the intent of the OTR Comprehensive Plan that should be evaluated and addressed. Walter also noted the OTR Community Council will oppose moving the transitional housing from it's present location.

The meeting adjourned around 7:00pm.

The next meeting will be hosted by Bryan Vielhaur at Decal Impressions at 5:30pm, Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Please visit the website www.otrbrewerydistrict.org for additional and updated information.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Denny Dellinger June 27, 2007.