

North Avondale Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

October 13, 2009

Call to Order

President Frank Newbauer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at The North Avondale Recreation Center. Board members Michelle Baxter, John Jones, Nikki Kittrell, Pauline Daly, Ursula Hassel, Charlene Morse, were present.

Motions Made

Minutes Approval

- Motion made by John Jones to approve the September 8th General Meeting Minutes 2nd by Patricia Hassel.
- Unanimously passed.

Community Center

- There is an Instructional basketball league on Monday nights
- On Nov 7th at the Corryville Recreation Center, there will be a senior's fashion show for \$12 per person.
- In Madisonville in December there will be a red carpet event with a catered meal.
- Lasiks Plus has a \$400 gift certificate.
- The Center has a volley ball league.

Police

- Graffiti on 3634, 3636, and 3638 Reading the graffiti was taken down. It usually takes 5 weeks to get to a particular area cleaned before the Graffiti Department can move on to the next area.
- This Saturday at a Cpop meeting, the district officers will get awards for their enforcement of the chronic nuisance ordinance in the Rominini group.
- There are a number of abandoned buildings, including one by Hirsch Center. Hopefully something can be done with these buildings. This could be a potential project for the neighborhood this year.
- What work is currently being done at 3652 Reading? Police continue to monitor calls to service. A couple of calls were in question and wonder whether they are going back on the job or not; or whether somebody is in the front doing some work or in the back doing something. A change of status letter came out in July so why isn't

there a fine? The police say they are still evaluating for August and learning how to apply the chronic nuisance ordinance.

- Tom Beridon said that they have had trouble determining ownership of 3634, 3636, and 3638 Reading. Currently Duetche Bank owns 3638 and 3636 and Equimax owns 3634. There are no orders or vacant building licenses on these properties. As regards to 3638, it is being managed by Value Management Services with some guy in Texas. What is going on here is there properties are Sold as a swap as a security purchase. These properties are being held as tax right offs or security holdings and they are not being renovated. Unfortunately, there is no way to sell the property since the state has no right to it.
- What is up with the VOA property? It has been emptied out and is being fixed up but the owners have not yet found suitable tenants. They will not sell the properties however. They are currently working through the VA to get approval for physically disabled veterans.
- Last year a roof collapsed on an abandoned property on Glen Cross. The current owner was granted a one year extension back in July to get the roof fixed. The roof is still not repaired so now the property is back on the chopping block to be demolished.

City Prosecutor Assigned to District 4

- There is now a Community Based Housing Forum form on the NANA website and it can be linked to a database. The forum is not public. It is a communication between you and community prosecution with the exception of the freedom of information act.

Issues on the November 3 Ballot

- Pat Schoettker spoke briefly on issue 7. Our Public Library is the best and busiest in the country. It is an asset to the community and a cost effective way for to get access to educational tools and as an entertainment source. The use has increased by 20% while funding has dropped \$15 million. None of the library's fund come from the city. Funding is a percentage of the state general revenue funds. State revenue is down from 2.2% to 1.97% hence the percent of revenue the library receives is less. This has resulted in a reduction in staff and hours of operation. The library has managed to save \$1 million by not spending on capital maintenance or building new branches. The library is in survival mode and is surviving by using the last of the savings which was a onetime gift that will not be available next year. Will have to close 15 to 20 branches if this issue fails. This is the only metropolitan library that does not get local tax support. This is the only viable source of funding right now. We are efficient because we have one library system, other places use multiple systems. The libraries fines are worth \$2 million but can't make up for the \$15 million loss.
- Teri Nau spoke briefly about Issue 4. This issue provides for a Safety Net for Hamilton County Drug and Alcohol Fund which provides about 300 jail beds which will reduce crime. Sheriff's deputies and staff funding will be cut to make this possible if this

issue isn't passed. Try to get 50% of current amount. The treatment and options available to Judges will go down if this levy doesn't pass. A cost analysis has been done on the cost of treatment versus the cost of jail. The real savings are in length of stay. Stay in treatment for 100 days instead of 300 days in jail.

- **Martin Miller spoke briefly on Issue 5.** He has been on the MRDD board member for over 40 years now. Today life expectancy is 55 to 60 years for people with Down's Syndrome, in the 80s it was around 25 yrs, and 40 years ago it was 12 years. Miller's son worked on developing motor skills with the MRDD services. This service impacts people through senior citizen age not just toddlers and young children. It provides intervention services from birth to three years. Some students can go to school with regular kids because of what this service provides. It also helps people with Down's Syndrome live independently in their own homes. Levy accounts for 73% of funding. The small increase accounts for what they need to keep going.
- **Elizabeth Pierce spoke briefly on Issue 6.** The Cincinnati Museum Center is up for renewal. The maintenance of the building costs \$0.37 a month for \$100,000. It is a great place to have fun and is educational. A Xavier college student said he used to go there as a kid and he now has friends from other parts of the country that went to the Museum Center and got to experience a piece of Cincinnati. He interned there so it's good for getting a job. This levy is not going to fund the massive repair in the future. These repairs are essential.
- **Margy Waller spoke briefly on issue 9.** She was with Cincinnatians for Progress and advised to vote No on 9. Voting yes on issue 9 would make it very difficult to have rail in our city. This issue involves an amendment change that would require a vote before the City could spend any money on any passenger rail. This issue is deceptive because it makes you think it is only about a streetcar. We would lose resources and revenues coming into the city that goes to railways if the issue passes. It is divisive because it pits neighborhoods against each other. It would require a special election possibly and this would cost money. Amendments to the city charter are permanent unless we change it again later. Voting 'no' will make it easier to have rail go from Cleveland to Chicago. Have train come into Union Terminal.

Old Business

- none

New Business

- none

Adjournment

- Michelle Baxter made motion to adjourn the meeting and Jack Sherman 2nd it.
- Meeting adjourned around 7:52 p.m.