**MACA Minutes February 2, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President Jim McCarty at 7:00 pm in HCI Community Room.

**Police Report:** Officer Tim Eppstein reported it has been quiet on the Hill. One theft of golf clubs which were found by Park board employees and police are in the process of getting the clubs and they will be returned to the owner. He also handed out an updated contact sheet. Officer Jennifer Mitsch, who has been on the force 18 years-10 of which were in homicide- presented the CCROW program (Cincinnati Citizens Respect Our Witnesses). Mitsch reported that the biggest struggle in homicide is to get witnesses to testify in court. Many witnesses fear retaliation, or are proponents of the no snitch policy. In many situations the police know who committed the crime, but need witnesses. CCROW was founded after Kelsey Crow was killed at a YMCA function last spring. Witnesses won’t come to court, so volunteers are needed to sit with witnesses and make the wait to testify in court a more comfortable setting. CCROW needs business owners to offer volunteer hours for employees or financial support, restaurants for offer breakfast or lunch during the trial, volunteers to help witnesses with transportation, property owners with vacant property could offer temporary or emergency housing, or volunteers foster support by being there during the trial. There will be training sessions April 18 and 25 at 5:30 to 9:30. For more information contact Officer Mitsch at Jennifer.mitsch@cincinnati-oh.gov Questions from the group: Helicopter hovering over Mt. Adams was due to a hit and run accident. Another resident had a 3:30 am stranger pounding at his door with impaired speech and answered the door and told him to leave. Officer Eppstein suggested never open the door rather to yell for the guy to go away or call the police.

**Approval of the Minutes:**  Moved by Bill Moran seconded by Tom Abare. Voted on and passed.

**President’s Report:** Jim McCarty introduced Councilwoman Yvette Simpson. Jim talked about our current zoning issue. Kurt Meier who leads our Planning and Development Committee said the committee will meet on this issue with the developers in a harmonious spirit of compromise. The issue is winding through the process. We owe Yvette Simpson for her concern. Kurt has recruited Bill Moran to join the P&D committee. Kurt added that not much can be said yet due to the confidentiality of the process. Corky Steiner asked if the main issue is how to determine height. Kurt replied that the topic is not there yet.

Councilwoman Simpson introduced her Community liaison, Angie Carter. She said she hopes the community can come to a compromise. If we need an advocate, she said to contact her. Chuck Curran brought up the problem of the Walnut Hills Post Office. There is only one person working there, so the office is supposed to be closed between 11 and 12. However, it has been closed at 1pm, and there was a time he went for stamps and they were out of them. With all the new development going up in East Walnut Hills shouldn’t there be more postal service there? Our next closest post offices are Hyde Park or Norwood.

Director of Public Services: Maraskeshia Smith and Interim Superintendent Operations of Neighborhood Jude Johnson Jenny Ferneding introduced the visitors as part of our Clean, Safe, and Attractive mission. Ms. Smith describe what the department covers (traffic and roads, winter clean up, power lines on steel poles, street lights and traffic). Mr. Johnson’s department covers sanitation, dead animals, graffiti, tall grass and weeds. A major problem is litter. Crews clean up an area, and the problem comes right back. You can call 519-6000, but a faster and more efficient way to inform of a problem is an app. Fix it Cincy. Download it and specifically describe the problem; you can also take picture. Smith said they get some reports that are too vague like a pothole on Beechmont Ave. The crew goes out fixes a pothole on Beechmont, but it wasn’t the one that was reported. The app is more efficient because there are not a lot of people in the call center due to cuts. If you send a service request, and it is not taken care of in a week call Maraskshia Smith 352-5454. Jude Johnson talked about Litter and the blight in neighborhoods. Regular Trash collection is Mon.-Thurs. Friday is for large projects and large items. It also covers illegal dumps and maintains green spaces. Litter is a major concern across the city. The Friday Blitz program has been successful where one area is concentrated on covering street, green spaces, and a dumpster is supplied for residents to dump large items. There will be a brainstorming session for neighborhoods to get together and perhaps come up with new ideas. A question about the Adopt a Block Program... Yes it is still in place. It was also pointed out that some of the block adoption signs are out of date. The people no longer live in Mt. Adams. Another question was about ticketing… The problem at this stage there is no enforcement. Another comment was made about when people move out they dump big items. (Answer: call 591-600 or use the app) Another issue mentioned was dog poop…Health Dept. issue. It was pointed out that MACA spends $2,000 a year on Mutt Mitts. Question on the plastic barricades on the curve down by the gazebo have been there all winter. They are on the list to be repaired. What do we do about an abandon homeless camp? Call or use app and they will follow the procedure established with the police. Who takes care of the entrance to the Purple People Bridge on the Cincinnati side? It will be looked into. It was also pointed out that Mt. Adams with Keep Cincinnati Clean has two neighborhood clean ups. Ms. Smith explained that the department looks for the best practices of other cities to make the department more efficient. That is where the 4 day pick up came from. Not only is Friday for litter pick up but also for training. The goal is to be lean and efficient.

Henry Frondorf Cincinnati Games: Cincinnati neighborhoods will compete in various games like the Olympics. Win as One at Cincygames.com. Neighborhoods compete to find their champion to go on to the big competition. Margaret Mock and Heather Turner are the captains for Mt. Adams. There will be 20 “sports” to compete in. July 9th there will be a parade of the neighborhoods to open the games. Stay tuned for more details,and see the article in the Grapevine’s spring issue.

Due to time some of the Committee reports were skipped unless there was a timeliness issue; some reports were sent in writing to make the minutes:

**MABA:** Sue Zimmerman- Spring Clean Up is Saturday, March 19th. Meet at Bow Tie between 9:00 and 9:30 for coffee and donuts. Sign up for a clean-up area. Pick up bags, gloves, etc. Bring brooms and dust pans. Lunch will be a noon at a place to be announced. This is the Saturday before the Praying of the Steps, so let’s make Mt. Adams shine! Next MABA meeting is Tues. Feb. 9th at 6:30. Bring membership dues.

**Business Guild Meeting:** Maryellen Horrigan … February 13th in the day is the Undie Run and at night Pavilion has Lady in Red. St. Patrick’s Day March 17th. Tavern on the Hill has special activities for March Madness.

**Grapevine:**  Deadline is now for spring issue…Anyone not getting the newsletter fill out address on the sheet provided at the meeting.

**Community Life:** Frank Obermeyer. **Cincinnati Games**…Henry Frondorf presented the Cincinnati Neighborhood Games. Seems like a fantastic opportunity to have fun while representing the community. Be on the lookout for more information from Margaret Mock and Heather Turner. **Cinema in the City**…Arrangements have already been made to reserve the location and the movie equipment. Still pinning down movie titles. Dates will be Thursday 6/23, Thursday 7/28, and Friday 8/19. We could use volunteers to help with fundraising between now and the summer. Could also use a graphic designer to help update the poster (or the current design will be re-used).**Immaculata Gym**…We'll see where this goes, but so far excited about the energy there seems to be for revitalizing this space. Holy Cross-Immaculata has been great about letting us in to have a look. Neil Bortz took the time to share some ideas with us on how to help revive that space. Mt. Adams architect Greg Tilsley has generously offered to assess repair needs and help navigate some of the city bureaucracy around building code, free of charge. Would be great for Immaculata, and great we think for Greg, to clean up the space a little more before he comes in. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering to spend a little time with Roy and Cliff from Immaculata to help…**Pool Enhancements**…Jincey Yemaya form the Cincinnati Recreation Commission has given us the contact information we need to develop a pool furniture estimate. Park Improvement Requests…Andy Shenk recently met with Cincinnati Parks to tour around Eden Park and discuss maintenance and capital improvements. The people from the parks have been great. Next Community Life Meeting Tuesday, February 23rd.

**P&D -** Kurt Meier: 1201 Elsinore...The Planning and Development has heartily embraced the comments of Hon. David Mann, Vice Mayor and Chair of all matters of zoning for the City of Cincinnati, relative to the 1201Elsinore Street apartment complex construction. We have pledged to work with Camden Development in a collaborative and cooperative manner to confidentially negotiate differences and explore methodologies to allow a project to be built and, at the same time, protect the integrity of the Mount Adams community in every facet of our Committee's concerns. I am absolutely delighted to welcome Hon. Stephen Vogel to the P & D team. Steve is an international tax attorney with recent resident service in Hong Kong and Beijing for Fulbright and Jaworski Law Firm, Washington, D.C. He is a highly skilled negotiator and litigator. He has been invaluable to the Chair in recent months as a volunteer to MACA. He resides on Fort View Place and is dedicated to our community and its principles. And if all of the foregoing were not enough, he is a U.K. graduate and an OSU law graduate!

**Meeting Adjourned**