MACA Minutes December 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Obermeyer at 7 pm. Also in attendance were directors Judi Cettel, Nic Covey, Jenny Ferneding, Russ Ferneding, and Dan Weinstein and officers Tom Abare and Sue Zimmerman.

**Speaker:** Neil Bortz of Towne Properties was the guest speaker who spoke about the vision for Mt. Adams. There was a lot of audience participation on what should be in the Hill’s future. Neil gave some background on what has happened and the costs to improve current buildings. For instance, Longworth’s original owner hooked up the new addition to the former one family house’s utilities. That required a $350,000 expense to get the building to code. The business guild is working on a plan that is not quite fully developed. The discussion included: age group to appeal to (30’s and up), types of restaurants… a variety, white tablecloth, bistro, bars with entertainment, shuttle bus from playhouse / art museum, businesses like arty boutiques, doggy daycare/services(since there are so many dog owners on the hill),unique shops, no chains, chef owned restaurants, increase advertising, etc. We do have charm, safety, and parking compared to OTR and Downtown. Another point was made that the changes must be made before the Playhouse and Art Museum renovations are done.

**Police Report:** Officer Michelle Bockenstette, our new neighborhood liaison officer gave the report. Last month there was one theft from auto and one attempted burglary and residential cameras caught the guy and he was arrested. If you have a surveillance camera, please register it with the police. Go to Cincinnati-oh.gov/police and click on the Online Camera registration link. She also reminded people to beware of porch pirates, keep cars empty of visible items, and report anything suspicious. She talked about the increased homeless activity at 3rd and Monastery with the cold weather. The police are trying to get everyone to have shelter. The light pole missing at the end of Martin is in the works. The audience agreed that the taxi stand signs should be take down on St. Gregory. A problem with the UC shuttle doing a stop at St. Gregory and Pavilion is that students waiting for a pick up trash the area and businesses are tired of cleaning up trash and vomit.

**CRC Report:** Vanessa Henderson reported. She thanked everyone who supported the CRC programs. The Canned Good drive was successful; the boxes were delivered to the Walnut Hills food pantry on Gilbert. They are now collecting for a Toy Drive from November 12th to December 6th. All community centers have bins for toys – the goal is 500 toys. Busch Center will have lunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 11am to 1 pm. Families are encouraged to sign up. A Youth Basketball Clinic is Sat. Dec. 21 from 11am to 1pm. For Pickle Ball information call Sara at 352-1631. Aquatic Division needs Lifeguards. Aquatics offers Aqua Cise on Mon. and Weds 9am to 10 am and 6-7pm. To get more information on jobs and programs, contact Ellen or April at 357-7665. Holiday Hours: On Dec. 23, 26, 27, & 30 centers will close at 6:30, and on Dec.24 and Dec 31.

**Minutes:** Minutes for November were approved.

**President’s Report:**  Frank thanked Neil Bortz for coming to the meeting. He also thanked those who organized Beaujolais Nouveau and congratulated Jim Steiner our newest person on the exemplar plaque. Next meeting a rep from the Art Museum will give an update on renovations.

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Tom Abare reported that Mt. Adams Walks donated their proceeds to MACA- a $2,200 check. Current balance is $33,000.

**Planning and Development:**  Steve Vogel reported that there will be a variance meeting on the revised plans for a house on 1256 Elsinore. The new plans are still different from code. We will need people to show up for this meeting on Dec. 11th at 11am (come at 10:45 to get through security and sign in and give email address). The meeting is at 805 Central Ave. Suite 500 downtown. The worry is that drastic cuts into the hill will happen like on Baum St. etc.

**MABA:** Barb Timmins thanked Tina Russo for providing the greenery for the Ida Bridge and Sue Zimmerman for moving the pots on St. Gregory, which were crowded on the sidewalk that already has the baskets, to places that needed sprucing up. She reminded everyone that Luminary Night is Dec. 22 and street captains will drop off order forms for kits or there is the option to buy kits at Bow Tie. Deck the Monk will be on Dec. 7th at 9 am. June 16, 2020 is the Sunset Garden Stroll. A changing of the guard… Mary Margaret Kindel is now President, Judi Cettel is Vice-president, Janet Steiner and Charlotte Hahn will share Secretary and Debbie Weinstein will continue as treasurer.

**Clean, Safe, and Attractive:**  Jenny Ferneding – no report.

**Membership:**  Jim Horrigan – Annual membership $10 is now due. Lifetime memberships are $100.

**NSP:** Julie Dietz reported that our request for funding was approved. She mentioned that the other neighborhoods were impressed with the Grapevine.

**Community Life:** Margaret Mock-no report

**Business Guild:** Maryellen Horrigan **-**no meeting today

**Grapevine:**  Maryellen Horrigan/ Sue Zimmerman – The extra copies will be distributed this week to churches, Bow Tie etc. Now is the time to contact us if you are not receiving the Grapevine because this is the time we can changes the master mailing list.

**Walking Tours:**  Jim Steiner thanked MACA for the recognition on the exemplar plaque. He was shocked that he had no idea; he thought he had a good finger on gossip on the Hill. He will be stepping away from Mt. Adams Walks, but Margaret Mock will take on the administrative end of the tours while the tour guides are Pete Djuric, Chuck Curren, and Dave McCabe. He also thanked all the businesses that give free publicity for the walks.

**MAYC:** Maureen Webb – MAYC Holiday Happy Hour Weds. Dec 11 at Hightail 5:30-8:00 followed by Trivia Night. Free to members and guests cash bar. Julie Dietz is the new Vice Commander (Social Committee).

**Art Club:**  Gary Eith – There will be an open exhibition of Abstract Art starting on Friday 5-9 pm and Sat./Sun. noon to 4pm.

**Pilgrim Chapel:**  Bruce Ford passed out flyers that detailed the holiday events at Pilgrim. Dec. 8 is the Friendly Beasts service is Dec.8 at 10:30. Christmas Eve service is the 24th at 7pm.

**HCI:** Maryellen Horrigan – Chorale Concert at 2:30…Christmas Eve Midnight Mass is at 10:30.

**New Business:**  None

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20**

Submitted by Sue Zimmerman