

## **Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council Wednesday, December 11th, 2013**

A joyous Holiday Spirit filled the room known as Upper South on December 11<sup>th</sup> as the members of the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council gathered for the annual Holiday Potluck. Festivities began at 6 and there was plenty of fabulous food to satisfy the hungriest Who in Whoville.

Chairman E.J. Iannelli called the meeting to order shortly after 7. After the customary introductions of all attending, it was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes from the November meeting were approved even though nobody had read them. I can assure you, they were really good!

The first action item of the evening was to determine if there was to be a January meeting. Traditionally, January is skipped. A short discussion followed by a vote decided that the tradition will continue and there will be no meeting in January.

Next was a discussion concerning the area of Maple and Ash between Euclid and Alice. This matter was brought to the Council last month by Bert Swanson and Jim McNeill, who live in the immediate area. It was decided to move the discussion to this month's meeting. Bert and Jim are very concerned about the pedestrian safety issues in this corridor. Essentially, there is no pedestrian safety. The sidewalk ends heading north on Maple and railing further up pushes any pedestrian virtually into the street. Additionally, there is a vacant piece of property owned by the city that is dusty, weedy, and unattended to.

After a presentation by Jim and Bert, a motion was made for the Council to write a letter to the city asking that the issues the neighbors in the area have be addressed. The motion was approved. E.J. said he will write the letter and present it at the meeting in Janu.....um.....at the next meeting.

Jay Cousins gave a report on the Community Assembly. He reported that the Public Safety Committee of the Community Assembly had recommended approval of the latest ordinance regarding the Police Ombudsman. This ordinance is still weak with regard to investigative powers for the Ombudsman but it is probably the best we are going to get for now.

Jay said that there was a bit of a kerfuffle during the meeting because many people had showed up expecting to testify concerning the Omsbuddy. Because of the rules of order used by the C.A., no testimony was allowed and the final vote was kind of forced. Ultimately, the C.A. voted that the city should approve the ordinance. The Assembly has since had some discussions about how meetings are conducted and the possibility of amending the rules.

In the end, Jay made a motion that the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council should require the C.A. representative to present to the neighborhood council any issue presented at Community Assembly that impacts more than a couple of neighborhoods. This had been the case in the past but not so much now. The motion was seconded and after a bit more talking, was passed.

Next, E.J. brought up some opportunities for volunteers that are badly needed. We are developing our Social Media presence on line and anyone who can offer help will be much appreciated. Related to that, we are first in line for a Web Intern. When one becomes available, we get em.

Volunteers are also needed for the upcoming Farmer's Market season. Talk to E.J. about both of them thar thangs.

Megan Kennedy gave an update on Neighborhood Planning. Her meetings continue to be well attended but more participation is always welcome. They have set their priorities which are: 1) Pedestrian Safety, B) Neighborhood Beautification, III) Business Diversity and Occupancy, Fore) Neighborhood Events. They are currently working on a mission statement and the next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>, which you have missed...unless you didn't.

Laura Schlangen from Corbin Senior Center reported that stuff is breaking right and left. The phones were down for several days, the modem had failed thrice, the dumbwaiter was really stupid and not operating, and malfunctions lights somehow repaired themselves. 100 people had attended the Thanksgiving luncheon. Dorbin's Christmas Party was great fun and well attended. Corbin is selling Entertainment books, SaveAround books, and tea and bean mixes to raise funds.

E.J. gave a report on the Farmer's Market. The market had sales around \$21,000.00. They have received \$650.00 in Sponsor Donations.

Building Stronger Neighborhoods has been canceled due to lack of interest.

Finally, E.J. talked about a possible consolidation of a Montessori school with Havermale. This could involve about 400 students.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 and all went out into the night like a bowl full of jelly. I have no idea what that means either.

Stanta Burke  
E-G Secretary & Ground Hog (Marmot) Believer