



**MT. LOOKOUT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**August 17, 2009 - 6:30 pm**

**Location: 3223 Linwood Avenue (CTK Parish Center)**

**BOARD ATTENDANCE**

<b>MLCC Board Members (08-09)</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Attending (Y/N)</b>
John Brannock	President	YES
Jennifer Fairbanks	Vice President	YES
Matt Johnson	Treasurer	YES
Jeff Waltz	Secretary	YES
Sean Foss	Marketing/PR	YES
Dave Beckett	Development	NO
Eric Flamme	Membership	YES
Andy Park	Director at Large	YES
Mike Hurst	Director at Large	NO
Brian Kierce	Director at Large	NO
Betsy Sundermann	Director at Large	YES

**MOTION ITEM (S):**

<b>Motion Description</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Passage</b>
Approve the minutes from the June 15, 2009 and July 20, 2009 meetings.	7	0	YES
All monies received from the City of Cincinnati be expended according to the guidelines from the City and funds received from all other sources will be directly reinvested in the community.	5	2 *	YES

\* - The two NO votes were due to those individuals not understanding the need for the motion since it was their understanding that the MLCC already operates in this manner.

**Officer and Committee Reports:**

**1. President – John Brannock**

- There was no update on the rebid process for landscaping services. MLCC is still waiting on the clarification of the lighting assessment before requesting new bids.
- Matt Johnson explained that the expiration (August 11, 2009) of City of Cincinnati liability insurance coverage for community councils, as previously reported, was not correct. The city's community councils, including MLCC, are still covered under the city's liability policy. The only revision is a change in insurance carriers.

- It was reported that plans for a MLCC/Hyde Park “Candidates’ Night” are still being reviewed. Jenn Fairbanks will follow up with the Hyde Park Neighborhood Council. The citywide candidate forum at Xavier University’s Cintas Center is scheduled for September 30.
- Sean Foss will work with a videographer who is highlighting various areas of Cincinnati, including Mt. Lookout.
- Speakers from organizations supporting the MRDD and Cincinnati Museum Center levies are interested in speaking at the October MLCC meeting.
- Eric Flamme and Sean Foss will investigate MLCC’s participation in the October 3, 2009 5-K Reggae Run starting at Ault Park Pavilion. MLCC would promote the event in exchange for a membership booth at the event.

## **2. Vice President – Jennifer Fairbanks**

- An update was given regarding the November 1, 2009 Mt. Lookout Fall Festival. There will not be a charge for food at the event, but instead have donation buckets available for individuals wishing to contribute to the MLCC. Betsy Sundermann will contact the Cincinnati Zoo to investigate the viability of a zoo event during the festival. Andy Park is working to obtain a “beer only” liquor permit, while the city’s special event application is also being finalized.

## **3. Treasurer – Matt Johnson**

- Matt Johnson gave the financial update, reporting that MLCC’s current balance is \$1,274.22.
- The “Asset Forfeiture Grant” application has been filed. MLCC is awaiting a response from the city on the grant application.

## **4. Fundraising – John Brannock (on behalf of Brian Kierce)**

- Plans are proceeding regarding the Mt. Lookout Farmers Market. Mt. Lookout Animal Hospital will not allow the use of their parking lot. Chase Bank may allow the use of their lot, pending the determination of the time of the market. The feasibility of this project is still being investigated.

## **5. Marketing / PR – Sean Foss**

- Sean Foss is currently working on the layout (single page tri-fold) for the paper edition of *The Observer*, trying to stay within the \$1,200 per issue budget allocation. The tentative mailing date is mid-October and should include articles on the Fall Festival and the luminaria fundraising event. Other articles and news items are needed for this, and future, editions.

## **6. Membership – Eric Flamme**

- There has been only one new MLCC member since the last membership report.

- Eric Flamme will organize a MLCC membership and information booth at the August 27 Ault Park Advisory Council's "Big Band Bigger Beer" event at Ault Park Pavilion.
- He will also investigate the cost of a portable sign unit to be used at MLCC events, together with investigating the cost of additional inserts (e.g., Cincinnati Observatory Center) for the MLCC information signs placed in the Square the week preceding the MLCC public meeting.

### **Public Meeting - 7:30 pm**

#### **Police Department Update**

- Officer Dwayne Dawson, District Two neighborhood liaison, reported continued low crime in the area. As an aside, he stated that police are making arrests, but criminals are not being held in jail and are back on the street in a short time. He reiterated that the police department's non-emergency telephone number is 765-1212.

#### **Fire Department Update**

- Because of budget constraints, the fire department may be experiencing "brown outs," whereby a fire company may be "closed" for a day. This should not adversely affect Mt. Lookout, except that operators of fire apparatus may not be familiar with the fire equipment if they have not been trained on it.

#### **Guest Speakers**

- Jeff Berding, City of Cincinnati councilman, discussed current city budget issues, including projected layoffs. Presently, 138 policemen (17 out of 123 District Two personnel) are scheduled to be laid off and 4 fire companies closed. He and three other councilmen have engaged an audit firm to review the proposed budget in efforts to present an alternative budget not requiring police and fire layoffs at the projected levels.
- Brad Wenstrup, president of the Thank America First Foundation, gave a brief history of the formation and operation of the Foundation. The goal of the Foundation is to promote positive things about America and to encourage individuals to take pride in America. Plans are in progress for a Veteran's Day event. He also thanked the MLCC for the anticipated proceeds from the community golf outing.
- Kim Fender, Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, mentioned that the downtown library building is a memorial library, dedicated to Hamilton County residents who were killed in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. She discussed the current crisis in library funding, noting that the Cincinnati library has lost 28% of its funding since 2000. A 1-mill tax levy will

be on the ballot in November and, if passed, would provide \$20 million in funding to allow the library to continue current operations.

- Valerie Daley, Cincinnati Department of City Planning and Buildings, explained the city's "comprehensive plan" and encouraged citizens in all communities to become involved and attend any of the four scheduled meetings (Madisonville Recreation Center - October 22, 2009 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.). This plan will become the future vision for the City of Cincinnati.

### **Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) Update**

- Greg Pierson announced that the summer camps (over 100) were successful. He also invited those interested to try out for the Cincinnati Mighty Marching Yellow Jackets, a marching band open to all ages and levels of expertise. Practices are every Saturday at 12 noon at the Oakley Recreation Center. The construction of the walking trail around the Center and fields should start soon and became a reality due to the generosity of the Oakley Community Council.

### **MLCC President Update – John Brannock**

- John Brannock reported on the success of the Mt. Lookout Community golf outing held on May 30 at California golf course. Over \$1,500 had been raised to share with three charitable organizations.
- The 2009 Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 and all present were invited to attend and volunteer. More details will be forthcoming.
- The citywide candidate forum, organized by Invest in Neighborhoods, is to be held at 7:00 pm. on September 30, 2009 at the Cintas Center at Xavier University. The forum is for all candidates running for Mayor and City Council positions, with a focus on neighborhood issues and concerns. This may take the place of any MLCC sponsored candidate event.

### **MLCC Vice President – Jennifer Fairbanks**

- The November 1, 2009 Fall Festival was announced, together with the planned activities and events.

### **MLCC Treasurer – Matt Johnson**

- For 2009, revenue of \$2,659.26 has been received, while expenses are \$3,867.75. The current MLCC account balance is \$1,274.22. Principal sources of MLCC funds are membership dues, luminaria sales and funds received from the City of Cincinnati. The major expense is landscaping for the Square area.

### **MLCC Miscellaneous topics**

- Eric Flamme reported there were 38 current paid members. Anyone interested in joining MLCC (\$20) should see him after the meeting or go to the MLCC website ([www.mtlookout.org](http://www.mtlookout.org)).
- The new “Welcome to Mt. Lookout” program, which will target new residents to the community, was explained by John Brannock (on behalf of Dave Beckett, )
- John Brannock (on behalf of Brian Kierce) also discussed the possibility of a Mt. Lookout Farmers Market to be held on Saturday afternoons.
- It was announced that the October meeting speaker will be Christopher Rose from Rookwood Pottery Company.
- Plans are being finalized for the next paper edition of *The Observer* to be mailed in October.

### **Speakers**

- Lay Brother Steven Gerald discussed the concept of a “Life Peace Zone” and is encouraging community councils throughout the city to support the establishment of these zones
- A representative of the Cincinnati Tea Party spoke about the organization and also proposed health care legislation. He invited everyone to any of the upcoming Tea Parties to be held throughout the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next public meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Cincinnati Observatory Center (3489 Observatory Place).

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeffrey P. Waltz**  
**Secretary, MLCC**