

MT. LOOKOUT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2013 - 6:30 pm

Location: Christ The King Church Parish Center (3223 Linwood Avenue)

BOARD ATTENDANCE

MLCC Board Members (2013)	Role	Attending (Y/N)
John Brannock	President	Y
Eric Flamme	Vice President	Y
Matt Johnson	Treasurer	Y
Mark Costello	Secretary/Membership	Y
Tracie Hoffman	Director at Large	N
Cara Lacerenza	Director at Large	Y
Chris Lacerenza	Director at Large	Y
Isabelle Lafosse-Marin	Director at Large	N
Kim Rice	Director at Large	Y
Maryann Ries	Director at Large	Y
Brian Spitler	Director at Large	Y

MOTION ITEM (S):

Motion Description	Yea	Nay	Passage
Approve minutes from November 18, 2013 meeting.	9	0	Y
MLCC Board nomination & vote for Chris Lacerenza as Board President.	9	0	Y

Public Meeting

Fire Department Update

³⁵/₁₇ No report

Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) Update

³⁵/₁₇ No report.

Police Department Update

³⁵/₁₇ Officer Dawson offered reminders:

- When visiting the local parks do not leave valuables in sight. All valuables should be secured in the trunk of the car. Cars have been broken into while park visitors leave to jog or walk in the park.
- Fraud alert: if giving toys during the holiday season make sure the charity is legitimate. One legitimate charity worthy of support is Toys for Tots.
- When leaving home consider doing the following:
 - Leave lights on timers to turn on at random times. Also, consider leaving the TV and/or radio on.
 - If away and it snows plan to have the snow shoveled.
 - Arrange to have mail and newspapers picked up.
 - Gifts should be hidden from view through the windows from outside.
 - Make sure all doors and windows are locked.
 - Install lights outside that have motion detectors.

- When out shopping:
 - Be alert of your surroundings. Park where your vehicle is well lit.
 - Keep your keys in your hand because the keys could be used to help defend yourself.
 - If at the grocery watch your purse if left in the cart.
- During the holidays scams are going door-to-door.

MLCC President Update – John Brannock

- ³⁵₁₇ John announced to the MLCC that he has decided to step down as Board President but will remain on the Board of Directors as the liaison to the city.
- ³⁵₁₇ John introduced Chris Lacerenza, current Board of Director who is nominated to be the Board President for 2014.
- Chris Lacerenza’s background:
 - Grew-up in Dayton, Ohio and moved to Cincinnati 2 years ago.
 - MLCC Board Director for (1) year.
 - Vote was taken by the MLCC and results were unanimous in favor of the appointment of Chris Lacerenza.
- ³⁵₁₇ Delta Ave Re-stripping Project:
- The city Department of Transportation & Engineering, plan for resurfacing and possible improvements of Delta Avenue is available on the web site:
 - www.cincinnati-oh.gov/bikes/news/delta-avenue-restripping-project/
 - The opportunity to participate in the public survey is over but the results of the survey can be found on the city’s web site.
 - A discussion took place with individuals in attendance commenting:

MLCC Treasurer Update – Matt Johnson

- ³⁵₁₇ Financial report: . Email info@mtlookout.org for specific questions
- ³⁵₁₇ Luminaria Report:
- Good year for Luminaria sales.
 - Orders total 500 kits and look forward to increasing sales next year.
 - The following businesses participated to donate for the kits on the square: Keepsake Photography, Rohde’s Funeral Home, Lookout Joe’s.
 - Kim Rice of Keepsake Photography set-up the Luminaria kits, prepared treats and asked Santa to visit the Luminaria event on the square.
 - Lookout Joe’s donated hot chocolate for the Luminaria event on the square.

Guest Speakers

- ³⁵₁₇ No public speakers.

Miscellaneous

- ³⁵₁₇ Maryann Ries report on the Cincinnati Police, District 2 Annual Meeting. Information about this meeting will be provided at the end of this document. The critical issue is drug related crime. Ways that residents can help the police are described in Maryann’s notes.
- ³⁵₁₇ Maryann Ries report on the email she received regarding the city’s street car proposal. The public is invited to attend this city meeting.
- ³⁵₁₇ Eric Flamme spoke about the 2014 Golf Scramble which will be held on May 17, 2014.
- ³⁵₁₇ Holiday activities:
- Piano was played by the Brannock boys.
 - Raffle tickets were distributed to all individuals in attendance and many prizes were given away to the public.
 - Former MLCC Board President, spoke about John Brannock’s accomplishments. The past President spoke of John’s tenure as one of significant accomplishment that John achieved through time and effort on behalf of the community.

The **MLCC Public Meeting** was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next **MLCC Public Meeting** will be held at 7:30 pm on **February 17, 2014**, at **location T.B.D.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mark T. Costello
Secretary, MLCC

Annual Meeting at Cincinnati Police, District 2. Report from Maryann Ries:

It was a great meeting and I believe all neighborhoods were represented. There is a website that is updated frequently that gives the information that officer Dawson brings to our public meetings crimereports.com there is another report called STARS. There is an app for smart phones for both of these and several neighborhoods are publishing the link on their websites.

The biggest issue that is facing all cities, including Cincinnati is heroin and other drug related crimes. This is a primary driver of stolen personal property and burglary. This rise in drug usage/dealing, coupled with budget cuts, are making the jobs of the officers of district 2 more and more of a challenge. In 2011 there were 140 officers in district 2, there are now 99. In VICE in the past few years there were 60 officers city wide and there are now a total of 8. The officers gave us ideas as to how we as citizens can help to make our areas the places that criminals do not want to be:

- 1) Call and report crimes - the more calls that are reported for district 2 the more resources will be allocated to our area. If you see something suspicious call it in. They emphasized that even if the police do not come to take a report, that is not an indication that it is not reported...for example if someone steals something from your car or garage, and you call it in, there may not be enough resources for the police to come. However, that report is recorded and when allocation of resources takes place, these reports count. The officer to report any suspicion of any drug related crime is jeffrey.scholl@cincinnati-oh.gov [513-979-4416](tel:513-979-4416).
- 2) Lights deter crime. The more and the brighter the better.
- 3) Know your neighbors and talk to people. The department is starting a program called "two doors down" which will be like a traveling block party for the purpose of neighbors and police getting to know one another. They will come to the various neighborhoods, grill some food and get acquainted. This is expected to begin in the spring.
- 4) They invited citizens to ride with an officer on a shift to see what they do.
- 5) The new chief of police has charged the force with the goal of getting disorder under control as well as continuing improvement on reducing violent crime. This includes things like open containers, visibility of homeless and litter. Each officer is expected to come to roll call with two new citizens that they have introduced themselves to every meeting. The intent is to get officers out of their cars and walking around.
- 6) They encouraged the neighborhoods to exchange information. Oakley community council is going to host an exchange for district 2 communities in February and would like participation from all communities.

The reduction of resources and shift of resources to district 3 are making us more vulnerable in district 2 and the criminals know this. They urged us as a community to work together to ensure we continue to have the areas that the criminals don't want to be in. Some successful community programs that were discussed were:

- Citizens on Patrol
- Good Guys Loitering
- Block Watch
- National Night Out
- Party in the Park
- Next door - a face book page for neighborhoods

They officers felt that the more community driven the events were, the more effective they are. My feeling after listening to the exchange is that our community events in ML serve this very well and hit various groups (Luminaria, Fall Festival, Golf outing etc.).

Let me know if there are any other questions.
Thanks,

Maryann Reis
MLCC Board, Director at Large