



College Hill Business Association

Monthly Membership Meeting

5 November 2024 — Bacalls Cafe
Prepared by: Jeremy Boerger, Secretary

Call to Order: 8:03am

Reports & Community News-

Secretary's Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously

<https://www.collegehillbusiness.com/reports/>

Treasurer's Report: Approved unanimously

<https://www.collegehillbusiness.com/reports/>

Awaiting grant distributions

Community News: see below

CH Forum:

Meeting this month, but no meeting in December

* Successful barhop - looking forward to hosting one this spring

Gardeners:

Passing out luminary kits for Light Up College Hills

CHCURC:

Catch-A-Fire's grand opening on this Saturday; ribbon cutting at noon

Two new businesses opening

* Taste of Bougie - charcuterie and catering

* Household Books - targeting Light-up College Hill

Marty's Hops & Vines finishing their patio

Silkroad Textiles getting new mural; has started



Alleyway beautification started

Wayfinding project started - help point customers to free parking behind businesses

Round Robin-

Bacall's Cafe	Ron Busch	Still here
Boerger Consulting, LLC	Jeremy Boerger	Like and share my LinkedIn content
Chozen 4 U Boutique	Corless Berry	Participating in more fashion shows; business is good
College Hill Pilates and Physical Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindy Nagel • Joe Anneken 	Welcome Joe - new physical therapist * Golf swing evaluation * Headache and neck strain
eXp Realty	Marty Russell	Prices still high in neighborhood; inventory is increasing (that will help)
Hartman & Ehrmantraut CPA's	Karen Hartman	New requirements for federal "Beneficial Ownership Information Form" by end of year
Payroc	Aaron Muro	Company acquired; all relationships to remain intact
Marty's Hops & Vines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Weldishofer • Marty Weldishofer 	Great front- and back-of-house managers working well Hosting a local children's book author at Light Up College Hill Celebrating 15 years on 7Dec
PNC Bank	Chales Derling	CHCURC now owns the building New offering - financial education for employees
Samantha Reid, Comey & Shepherd Realtors	Samantha Reid	Spotless Spaces - looking for new office space Realtors - update on CH market
Schwartz Jewelers	Marty Schwartz	Open House details (see below)
Kemba Credit Union	Coretta Williams	



Navigator Career Solutions, LLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Nicks • Corey Nicks 	New attendee - looking to get better established in the community
Manga Manga	C. Jacqueline Wood	<p>Updates to the Cincinnati Anime Festival</p> <p>New venture - CEO of "Friends of the Hollywood Theater" >> looking to revitalize the HT back into a theater</p>
Minority Business Assistance Center	Deboah Davis	Looking to expand services and support in College Hill
College Hill Fundamental Academy	Carmen Daniels	<p>Looking for help with a fence in the back of the school</p> <p>Coat distribution and Thanksgiving School</p> <p>CPS looking to restructure system; could impact them</p>

On-going Business-

Guest speaker (if any): none

Membership & Benefits Committee: none

Upcoming Events:

Schwartz Jewelers open house - 24-26Nov (87th year)

Wrap Up, odds and ends:

Update on Metro Bus Rapid Transit lines (Samantha):

- * More to discuss at College Hill Rec Center: 4Dec 4:30-7:30pm
- * Biggest questions:
 - * Two routes to be added, one through College Hill district
 - * Want to make onboarding & offloading easier, faster, and more efficient
 - * Target Summer 2028
 - * Notes attached

Light Up College Hill: 5Dec

- * Details attached
- * CHCURC also looking for raffle prizes



College Hill Business Association

5836 Hamilton Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45224
513-681-5648

Small Business Saturday - 30Nov

- * Details attached

- * Terry Owens asking for raffle prizes to be donated; drop off with her by 20Nov

Thematic Decorations for the Business District

- * Install by 16Nov; Remove by 2Feb

- * Aiken High Schools offering to work

- * Details below

- * Discussion results

- * How much to budget

- * How to apply

- * How to engage Aiken High School

- * Motions:

- * \$1500 to earmark for "Christmas Decoration Fund" - passes unanimously

Adjournment: 9:01am

Attendance: 18

Current members: 15

Guests: 3

Next meeting: 7 January 2025, 8am, Bacalls Cafe

Metro Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Stakeholder Advisory Meeting

November 4th, 2024

www.MetroBRTProject.com

(launched September 2024)

Recap

- The November 4th meeting was the second stakeholder meeting
- Project will cost over \$300 million; they are hoping this will be the first phase and that additional corridors will be constructed in the future
- At the previous meeting they allowed time for concerns to be shared
- Project timeline
 - Summer 2024: new interactive website for information and feedback
 - Fall 2024: station design input
 - Winter 2025/2026: BRT design completion
 - 2026: construction begins
 - Fall 2027: Reading Road BRT service begins
 - Summer 2028: Hamilton Avenue BRT service begins
- Engagement timeline
 - 2024
 - Station locations
 - Station designs
 - Station amenities
 - Branding
 - Spring 2025
 - Parking
 - traffic/access
 - Historic resources
 - Station locations
 - Summer 2025
 - ADA/sidewalks
 - Drainage
 - Environmental
 - Contractor workshop
 - Fall 2025
 - Construction timeline
 - design/cost updates
 - Early work coordination
 - Business access during construction
 - 2026
 - Construction activities and lookaheads
- They are going after a federal grant that would cover 80% of funding
- Currently working on identifying community priorities, opportunities and concerns

Recent Community Engagement

- Goals

- Generate awareness, enthusiasm and trust
- Strengthen partner involvement
- Increase media and public exposure
- Gather feedback + votes for the BRT station design and logo/branding
- Also held a Metro employee open house
- Upcoming council meetings and community events
- Station to station area walks
 - They walked the blocks around proposed station locations
 - Spoke to business owners
 - It looked like Family Dollar, Hook Fish & Chicken, and Bacall's were the only CH businesses on the list of those they had spoken to
 - They said to please let them know if there is any other business they should speak to
- Had over 2,500 survey results (survey is still active on the website) on the 3 BRT branding options proposed + 300 comments
 - These go to their STEER committee which is made up of a diverse group of 20 individuals who will review the survey responses and feedback

Station Design

- 3 prototype options; it seems the suspended roof option is the design they plan to move forward with (you can view on their website)
- DNK architects and WSP National office will help with design; both worked on the streetcar design
- Design will be scaled for different locations - 3 piers will likely be full-size
- They are working with 0 vision initiative (clean sight lines throughout) and ADA compliant
- Working on integrating pedestrian traffic, downlighting for visibility at stations
- 3 stations will be located in the middle of the road (access on both sides)
- Over 40 will be one sided/one lane
- Design is 0 load or near 0 level boarding so bikes, strollers, wheelchairs, etc can wheel right on

Next Steps

- Planning study
 - Evaluated different patterns for existing bus usage and used those to help pinpoint and plan in what areas stations should be located
 - Next will be deciding actual location of platforms
- Focusing on impacting traffic flow as minimally as possible
- 3 upcoming public meetings (see cards - please register if attending)
- Additional surveys are ongoing
- Attempting to stay within existing roadways to minimize impact on residents and businesses and also plan to impact parking as minimally as possible to reduce parking loss
- One of the goals of the BRT is to help improve/fix existing traffic signaling to alleviate and avoid congestion
- There will be a BRT vehicle demonstration in February

- There is currently one manufacturer of BRT buses in the US; there is one more that will hopefully be ready by the time this project is started
- Metro has asked this company to borrow buses for the month of February
- If Metro is going to invest in a vehicle, they want to make sure it performs as they have been told it will
- They chose February because it will be cold; they want to see if the bus can get it's full charge in poor weather conditions and also ensure it can make it up the Vine Street grade
- The BRT bus will be electric, but Metro has also asked to see a clean diesel option as well
- The demonstration will allow stakeholder to go onto the bus while it is stopped to see the interior, but any test drives will have no passengers on board
- Metro is using construction management at-risk procurement

Engagement

- Currently about 15-20% designed
- Goal is to be 30% designed in February
- Asking for community input on station locations
- Asking everyone to promote the public meetings
- Says there will be consideration of traffic calming measures as well as traffic and parking studies in their designs
- Safety/security (policing) and maintenance responsibilities/agreements will also be part of their plan
- At December public meetings they will have designs with some to-scale stations
- Side station footprint will be 50'x10' as the standard but can be scaled depending on location
- Next stakeholder meeting is in February
- Answers to most questions were: conversations are happening, studies are going on, schedule to meet with someone from Metro to share concerns, there will be opportunities for input



Holidays on the Hill

Neighborhood Coordinator: Terry Owen silkroadcincy@gmail.com 513-541-3700 work 513-290-0673 cell

1. **Thematic Avenue Decorations - Install by Nov. 16, remove by Feb. 2nd**

Winter Wonderland : decorations up around Nov 18th and come down the first week of Feb.

Window displays – All businesses use common white lights and snowflakes with their own theme

White lights – mini, twinkle in windows

Snowflakes - Window Clings from Window Flakes www.windowflakes.com

Amazon: 12” plastic, with or without glitter

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09DCK3H91/ref=ox_sc_act_image_1?smid=A2BBASXPRESZ60Q&th=1

Amazon: Window Clings 8 sheets, assorted sizes

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BF9GMCDD/ref=ewc_pr_img_3?smid=AV7ZYRD1RWOZZ&psc=1

2. **Small Business Saturday: Business Gift Certificate Raffle! Saturday, 11/30/2024**

Our goal is to entice as many folks back into the business district for future shopping. Each participating business will be given raffle tickets to pass out to shoppers. People can enter at every venue they visit during the day if they wish.

To get your raffle tickets please RSVP that you are participating and drop off your businesses gift card or gift (\$20-25 value) to SRT for the drawing.

Please bring a \$20-25 Gift Card for your business to SRT by Nov. 20.

Collect completed raffle tickets and bring them to SRT by Dec. 4th, 2024.

The drawing will take place on Dec. 6, 2024 and winners contacted between Dec. 7-8th.

Get Free Supplies from Amex for SBS

<https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/business/merchant/supplies/?linknav=merchant-supplies-nav>

Show samples I ordered

Don't accept AMEX ... talk to Aaron Muro (its' worth it!)

3. **Light Up College Hill** Thurs. 12/5.2024

Each business provides their own supplies for whatever activity they are hosting. (unless we want to include a small fund for these along with our decorations