

CTM Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM
October 3, 2011
Clifton Recreation Center

Meeting Called to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on October 3, 2011 at 7:07 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center at 320 McAlpin Avenue, by Trustee Karen Imbus, who chaired the meeting.

Trustees in attendance for the meeting: Bob Blum, Eric Clark, Brian Curwin, Linda Goldenhar, Karen Imbus, Malcolm Montgomery, Ben Pantoja, Jeff Rose, Jim Segers, Mary Jo Vesper, and Mike Willing. The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

Reviewed and Approved:

Secretary's Report: A draft version of the minutes of the September 12, 2011, regular meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment.

Motion: K. Imbus moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011, regular meeting. L. Goldenhar seconded.

Vote Results: The minutes of the September 12, 2011, regular meeting were unanimously approved with two abstentions.

Treasurer's Report: The September Treasurer's report had been previously circulated to the board for review and comment.

Motion: K. Imbus moved to approve the September Treasurer's report. M. Vesper seconded.

Vote Results: The September Treasurer's report was unanimously approved with two abstentions.

Regular Reports:

Clifton Recreation Center: Report given by Tom Reese. Mr. Reese stated that a new free exercise program would be held on Wednesdays. Additionally, most of the fall programming is still accepting new attendees. Mr. Reese also stated that the CRC has no opposition to the Esquire's liquor license. K. Imbus stated that CTM also had no opposition and asked the audience for any additional comment.

Clifton Senior Center: Report given by David Dunn, Director of North College Hill Senior Center. The Center is taking over the work that the Clifton Senior Center has done historically. He stated that meals on wheels will continue; along with congregate lunches, medical transportation, and some activities. Mr. Dunn has been involved with the Senior Center for 15 plus years. He has also worked with the Clifton Senior Center over the past few years with meals on wheels. Services for seniors previously serviced by the Clifton Senior Center were

started today, but Mr. Dunn asked for patience as they take on the additional seniors. Most services will remain the same and the only changes should be back office related. They're currently looking for help raising funds and volunteers. Meals on wheels has a particular need for volunteers. The center's number is 861-6934. J. Segers requested that Mr. Dunn return next month to come to update everyone on the center's progress. Mr. Dunn mentioned that they had met with Marilyn Hyland and other concerned Clifton residents to determine what could be done to save the center. He wants to continue some programs and to see this as a strong resource in Clifton. Mr. Dunn wants to stress the fact that fundraising efforts in Clifton and nearby neighborhoods will continue to be a key focus. Tom Lohre asked for 400 words to publish in the winter edition, and Mr. Dunn said he will provide. K. Imbus offered CTM's list-serv as a resource for advertising for fundraisers or volunteers.

CPS Levy Campaign: The Principal of Fairview, Karen Mulligan, spoke about the CPS levy that would be on the November 8th ballot. She stated that it was not an easy decision by the committee to put the issue on the ballot, but that they had no alternative to maintain the current level of services. She stated that CPS is the only "effective" rated urban district in Ohio. The levy is needed for three reasons: (i) for capital improvement fund for textbooks, IT, and buildings, (ii) for relief to the general fund, which will face a \$30 million deficit next year without cuts, and CPS would need to layoff teachers next spring without any additional revenue, (iii) to replace funding cuts by the State of Ohio, county, city and Duke energy. By the year 2025, CPS would face a \$40 million shortfall. The city has already stopped funding crossing guards, reduced funding for nurses, and may eliminate funding for nurses altogether next year. Duke Energy's current tax appeal may be retroactive, which would take funding back from previous years as well as future years. She handed out a small handout for those in the audience.

StreetScapes: Kip Eagen spoke about the StreetScapes event as well as Music on the Trails. It was the first year for Music on the Trails and the concerts worked out well. Each performance was located close to hiking trails, which allowed people an opportunity to explore Burnet Woods as well as the music. Partners included Uptown, CityBeat, and the Cincinnati Parks. Groesbeck Fund was used to cover the expenses. This year was the first time that the community presented its own idea for the use of the Fund and was a true partnership with CTM. Previous years were done by a promoter. They tried to use Clifton musicians: first Sweet Basil (recent UC grads); second Faux Frenchmen (a very popular Clifton band), third The Poulenc Woodwind Trio; and fourth Mohenjo Daro. Subsequent years will try to build on the success of this year.

StreetScapes this year included nine street paintings, five art cars, and over 5,000 people in attendance. The first StreetScapes only included one painting and had around 300 people in attendance. Over the years, the event has continued to expand. Mr. Eagen then showed pictures of the event. Uptown helped to advertise the event this year and was a great partner. The committee cut back on some of the side events this year due to expectations of reduced fundraising. A committee reviews submissions from different groups each year for inclusion in the event, and the main requirement is that the paintings must be in a major museum to be selected. This year also included five art cars, which were painted in Goessling's Clifton

Market parking lot, which provided cover in the event of rain. Goessling's also held a groundbreaking the same weekend with a cookout, and CTM celebrated its 50th anniversary with a cake cutting. Mayor Mallory attended the groundbreaking of Goessling's and all three Cincinnati TV stations covered the event. The kid's area did well, with over 350 squares completed. Mr. Eagen extended a special thank-you to the U.C. BearCAT group for providing volunteers. They helped with setup, teardown, and running the event. Goessling's plans to sponsor the artists' party next year. Mr. Eagan stated that a full financial report of the event would be provided at the November CTM meeting.

From an initial review, he stated that it looks like the event will be very close to budget except for the cost of the tents to protect the street paintings. Mr. Lohre said that the tents with advertisement may have actually helped to draw a larger crowd due to increased visibility from the street. The artists stated that the tents also helped provide shade from the sun. One year, the event was moved to the CCAC due to the rain, and attendance dropped. K. Imbus mentioned that the tents were expensive but were critical for keeping the event within the business district. The CTM executive committee decided that the tents were appropriate due to the importance of the event and the strength of CTM's financial standing. K. Imbus mentioned that Sunday evening was the Clifton Fund dinner at La Poste. Mr. Eagen stated that StreetScapes t-shirts were also sold. M. Montgomery asked if any businesses in the business district spoke about an increase in sales. Mr. Eagen said that he heard that Biagio's did well, as did Ace on Sunday. Graeter's did well throughout, and Skyline also spoke of increased sales. Goessling's products sold well and the Mustard Seed had a good weekend. K. Imbus thanked Mr. Eagen for his continued dedication to making the event a success. Clifton Chronicle Editor, Tom Lohre, requested pictures for the winter issue of the Chronicle. M. Vesper said it was good to see the event and Goessling's groundbreaking on the news. She also thanked Good Samaritan and Tri-Health for their support of the event. Mr. Eagen also thanked CTM, CityBeat, Eccra, Uptown, and the other event sponsors.

Audience member Marilyn Hyland specifically thanked Goessling's for their support of the event. They held a groundbreaking inside the store and showed the tin ceilings that were exposed as part of the renovation as well as drawings of what will be coming within the space. K. Imbus stated that remarks from Mark Mallory, Dave Mallory, and Eric Kearney brought additional interest to the weekend. Roxanne Qualls also stopped by the event. Janelle Lee from Uptown also attended. Pete Cronis, the President of Reese Campbell, also presented the company's plans for renovations of the store and stated they were looking forward to the grand opening in January. The children's choir sang. Tom Lohre asked for pictures of the event to include in the Chronicle. WLW also spoke about StreetScapes and Goessling's during the weekend, and the story was published via a number of articles in local print media. K. Imbus said that planning the events together was a great idea.

Movie Night: Linda Goldenhar stated that the event will be October 23rd, and is the 4th annual. This year's movie will be Hocus Pocus, with Sarah Jessica Parker and Bette Midler. It's a great movie for kids, and this year's raffle will be even better than last year, with participating merchants such as Ace, Biagio, Brueggers, Columbia Savings, etc., including two \$100 gift certificates. Only adult tickets will be a part of the raffle. Free soda and popcorn will

be included with the price of the ticket. L. Goldenhar specifically requested support from the board on ticket sales since this is the only CTM fundraising event outside of the Clifton House Tour. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

CTM Elections: L. Goldenhar stated that the committee was currently recruiting volunteers and had formed a nominating committee. The election will be held in November, and four people had been identified with one other person being actively recruited. Mike Elovitz, Christian Huelsman, and Ron Becker are all working on the committee. Tom Lohre asked for short biographies of each of the candidates for print in the Clifton Chronicle. The submission deadline is November 1st, and the Chronicle will be published on November 12th, with a December 1st date for mailboxes. M. Montgomery asked if other sources had been used for solicitation of nominations. L. Goldenhar said that other sources had been considered, but due to time constraints, the committee may move forward with the five currently selected. M. Montgomery stated there may be a misperception of how nominees are selected. K. Imbus stated that nominations were requested at the last CTM meeting. Audience member Mike Elovitz mentioned that the request was also posted on CTM's website.

Mayor Mallory's Community Council: Report given by Christian Huelsman. He previously worked with RecycleBank and is now a contracted employee. He's working to get the word out on the Mayor's recycling challenge. The last time a challenge was instituted was 2008, and only small green bins were used. In 2008, the competition was very one dimensional. This year, the group is taking a multi-faceted approach and will provide communities with a number of ways to earn points. With the new collection bins that have been rolled out, the city is now at a 70% participation rate, which is up from 25-30% before the new carts were rolled out. They've broken all recycling records since recycling began in Cincinnati 21 years ago.

The challenge is open to all community councils. Each community that enters the event will be given \$100 for simply entering the challenge and can earn an additional \$250 for increasing recycling in their neighborhood by 10%. The top three neighborhoods will get a grand prize of \$1,000. Communities can also earn an additional \$100 for identifying misused carts and getting additional residents to sign up for RecycleBank will allow for the opportunity to earn another \$500. The challenge officially kicks off in December. If communities register before December 1st, they earn an additional \$100. C. Huelsman stated that he cannot fill out the form since he's connected with RecycleBank, and he said that another trustee would need to complete the form. E. Clark asked about getting an additional bin. C. Huelsman said that the request could be made online. Audience member Daniel Ames asked if there were any restrictions on how much an individual household could recycle. C. Huelsman stated he would look into it and report back. Tom Lohre asked if businesses could participate. C. Huelsman stated that it's decided on a case-by-case basis. Previously, apartment buildings with more than four units were not allowed in the program. There are no limits to the number of carts per building. An audience member asked about Clifton's current participation rate. C. Huelsman said it is a little fewer than 2,000 bins, amounting to approximately 86% participation. K. Imbus asked about next steps and completing the application. C. Huelsman said any of the trustees could complete it and it's only one page. M.

Montgomery said he would complete. C. Huelsman said he was willing to help develop the plan.

Motion: M. Montgomery motioned for CTM to apply to the challenge. K. Imbus seconded. Results: Motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Making a Difference Day: C. Huelsman stated that he sent a call for attendees via the list-serv; however, only one person attended and no emails were received for feedback. They brainstormed various projects including cleanup of corridors and other areas. However, he registered the neighborhood for three projects: (i) cleanup of the south end of Ludlow Avenue going downhill toward Cincinnati State, (ii) cleanup along Vine Street including yard upkeep and other beautification, and (iii) cleanup along Lowell Avenue. K. Imbus asked about the 10/22 date and gathering volunteers. C. Huelsman stated he had asked BearCAT for help, and Clifton residents are excited about the Great American Cleanup. It runs from 9:00am-1:00pm. C. Huelsman believes businesses may support the event. K. Imbus liked the extension of the cleanup to the borders of the community. She stated that CTM could help advertise and reimburse refreshments. C. Huelsman said posters will be posted at businesses. L. Goldenhar recommended list-serv email with list of upcoming events.

Clifton House Tour: B. Blum and E. Clark stated that the planning is going well and they asked for a volunteer coordinator.

Issues and Candidates' Forum: K. Imbus stated that CTM will be sponsoring the event. Ten city council candidates have been confirmed. Judicial and school board candidates have also been invited. Issues will be covered first, and the evening will be moderated by the League of Women Voters to ensure proper procedure and conduct. Some issues will be more controversial than others. Each side will have three minutes to present. After the issues are covered from both sides, the audience will be allowed to ask questions. Finally, the candidates will speak. The event provides a great opportunity for CTM to showcase the CCAC and to partner with neighboring communities. The event will be held in the CCAC auditorium on the 3rd floor on October 19th from 7pm-9pm. She asked the audience to please mark their calendars and plan to attend. A similar recent event in Avondale was full enough to be standing room only. Hyde Park, Oakley, Madisonville, and Mt. Lookout will be holding an election event on October 20th.

Letter of Support for State Funding of the I-71 / MLK Interchange: Uptown Consortium asked Uptown community councils to request support from Jerry Wray to support the city's application for I-71 / MLK interchange. They believe that future gridlock can be avoided by improving this interchange. Additionally, if the interchange is not supported now, it may be a long time before it comes up as an issue again.

Motion: E. Clark motioned to send a letter in support that had been previously drafted by K. Imbus and sent the Board for review. B. Pantoja seconded.

C. Huelsman asked if studies were done showing how traffic would be affected and that the potential economic benefit is unknown. He stated his concern that the capacity increase may lead to more congestion. E. Clark said that earlier studies had been published by Uptown Consortium and didn't believe it would cause more congestion. The current interchange option of getting off at Taft also doesn't provide access to the Zoo, hospitals, housing, etc. He suggested that C. Huelsman and others visit the Uptown website. Audience member Mike Elovitz stated that an OKI UTS study was incredibly comprehensive and was completed with all main arteries into Clifton reviewed. This was not an Uptown Consortium study, and it supported the improvements.

E. Clark mentioned that the Uptown area is the second largest area of jobs behind downtown and that additional access points may drive more jobs to the area. J. Segers asked about the current plan. Audience member Mike Elovitz said that the committee is down to two plans. K. Imbus said B. Fant went to press conference. People attending the meetings feel like it's a good idea. C. Huelsman suggested continuing discussions to ensure ongoing dialogue. K. Imbus said that monthly meetings with all five communities have provided a forum for collaboration and cohesiveness and that they were keeping an eye on it. M. Montgomery said efforts were taken to curb expansion of the Clifton and MLK intersection. M. Montgomery cautioned about the potential I-71 traffic increase. He suggested making a reference in the letter for potential future adjustments to the plan. E. Clark said the current letter shouldn't create any issues, as it simply supports funding. He mentioned that there are three options: (i) full access on MLK, (ii) full access on Taft, or (iii) full access through a combination of MLK and Taft. Additional entry will provide for economic development. E. Clark said potential traffic increase at Clifton / MLK is not quantified. Uptown and other organizations' studies have been performed to improve the lives of residents. B. Blum stated he was OK with the letter as-is.

Motion: B. Blum re-motined approving and sending the letter. E. Clark seconded.

Vote Results: The motion passed with two opposed.

K. Imbus stated she would send this letter this evening, and thanked everyone for a good discussion.

Clifton Chronicle: Editor Tom Lohre said November 1st is the deadline for the Winter issue. He believes the availability of the Chronicle online is very important. They have a new staff photographer who is performing very well. An audience member suggested the possibility of selling copies of Chronicle pictures to Clifton residents as a way to help support the Chronicle. Mr. Lohre stated that he hopes the next editor will be a CTM Trustee.

Audience Q&A:

Audience member Daniel Ames said a sewer odor has been coming from the grate near Graeter's again. B. Blum said he'll submit a service request on the city website. K. Imbus thanked Mr. Ames and B. Blum and said she has noticed this issue in other spots within the city.

Announcements: Next meeting is November 14, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center.

A handout on the Who and What for the upcoming election from the League of Women Voters was left on the back table.

Meeting Adjourned 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Rose, Secretary