

CTM Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2010  
Clifton Recreation Center

Trustees in attendance: Dick Druffel, Linda Goldenhar, George Bishop, Ron Becker, Karen Imbus, Steve Slack, Mary Jo Vesper, Jeff Rose, Brian Curwin, Peter Schneider, Mike Elovitz

Minutes: Ron Becker moved approval of the minutes from the March meeting. Passed with 3 abstentions.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed the report from March. Accepted with 1 abstention. Updated on the NSP funding which would now be run through the city rather than be outsourced. Explained the slight changes he made to the application for NSP funding to increase the odds to get full reimbursement given the city's policies. Key activities for NSP funding: Newsletter, Insurance, StreetScapes, Movie Night, Lantern Walk, Carriage Ride Passed 27-0.

### **Regular Reports:**

**Police report:** Officer reported a substantial decrease in crime rate in Clifton from previous year in every category. Updated on recent police investigation of a major block party in University Heights via use of Facebook. Successfully limited the event. A community member complained about speeding on McAlpin and the officer said they would put up a speedwagon and assign a traffic car on the street. There was some discussion about possibilities to record the speed rates of cars in that area. Asked whether there was more info on the tagging problem. Reported that it was a widespread problem throughout the city. Most concerned about the gang graffiti and trying to understand the culture within which the "graffiti artists" operate. Some arrests have been made but catching them at a time of limited resources is challenging. Also, when the perpetrators are juveniles it is hard to make examples of them. Police said they will keep an eye on the new plaza and will address problematic activity if they see it. Unfortunately, much of the problem (with skateboarders especially) involved complex dynamics of trying to police homeless teens. A community member asked about how to remove the graffiti at the plaza. He said he would follow up with the proper person at Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

### **Special CTM Reports.**

#### Clifton Branch Library Update – Kim Fender

In her presentation, Ms. Fender provided a history of the library in Clifton. Reported on the dramatic gap between the small size of the branch and the high use of the facility. Emphasized the generosity of the community to support the library. Argued that the Clifton library needs to be larger. Reported on the opportunity to move into the vacant Cox mansion on Brookline. Asked for the support for the project, including help raising the necessary funds to the renovation.

One community member voiced concern over the consequences of moving from the heart of the business district. A spokesperson from Cincinnati Preservation Association spoke about the support of the organization and its role in helping the project advance.

Asked for wholehearted support from CTM and help in spreading the word about the project and the need for funding.

Dick Druffel proposed a resolution to support the library. Steve Slack stated that he would like to sleep on it. Others voiced opinions in favor and some of concern about the need to vote so quickly. The resolution To support the Hamilton County Library Board's project to convert the Cox mansion into the Clifton. The resolution passed 9 yes. 3 abstentions. Following the trustee votes, Dick Druffel asked for an informal vote (no absolute count) of the audience in attendance. A rough estimate suggested 2/3 "in favor" and 1/3 "abstaining."

### CTM Trustee Replacement Resolution:

The Board voted on a resolution to replace Emily Haas's seat with Christian Huelseman. Passed unanimously.

### Streetscapes Art Carpets – Phil Herrick

Provided an update on the issue for new trustees who may not know the history. After various false starts they have found a firm they think will work ([www.lefevrestudios.com](http://www.lefevrestudios.com)) which produce bronze plaques/art carpets that can easily be installed in the current sidewalks. Timetable: Community engagement sessions to discuss sites/designs May 7, 8, 9. In June, permits will be obtained and ad for installation contractor and installation expected to be completed in October.

### Community Priority Request Projects – Karen

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, submitted 3 requests (as is now typical for every community). 1. Signage for Clifton merchant's lot at Clifton and Howell. Would need help of designer to get help further the brand identity for Clifton. 2. Paving and curb work for the 2012 cycle for Clifton—requested that Wolper Ave, and other be moved up on city's list. 3. Burnet Woods lake area/Trailside improvement in line with Park's master plan. The requests are now being distributed to various city departments for review and recommendations (which will be made in Oct).

### Clifton Plaza Update – Dick

Plaza opened last Friday. In effort to open the plaza quickly, the Plaza committee used signage language inspired by Fountain Square signage as temporary. Will review after a month or so and consider rewriting and redesign of more permanent signs. The Plaza committee has received applications for events to be held at the plaza, which are welcome, but the committee is struggling to develop a policy for such situations. They also want to arrange an opening and are floating the idea of the afternoon of May 15. Volunteers should contact Dick Druffel.

### Revive 75 update—Steve Slack

Upcoming public meeting at Cincy State April 13, 6-8 pm. Can look at near-final studies on the I75 interchange redesigns.

### Governance Revisions—Bill Fant

Highlighted the proposed changes to the CTM Constitution and Bylaws. Moved resolution bring back for action at next meeting. Passed unanimously.

### CTM Conflict of Interest Policy & Acceptance Resolution – Pete

Reported that action on this issue will be held for later action.

### Uptown Signage—Mike Elovitz.

Between 50-60 signs will be going up in the next few months throughout Uptown, including Clifton. A surveillance camera will also be installed in May in Clifton Business District.

### Community Q&A:

An earlier question about possibility of skating on Burnet Woods pond was raised again. Karen Imbus reported that she has researched the issue and the Park Board would not support it due to concerns for liability because of the depth of the lake. Jinny Berten suggested that Clifton residents who wanted to press the issue should go directly to the Park Board.

Mary Jo Vesper announced the April 24 Great American Clean Up which Clifton is participating in. asked for volunteers who may be interested in participating. Meet at 9-1 at Diggs Plaza.

CTM Beautification Committee is distributing the application form for CTM funding (and also download from CTM website).

A speed hump has been approved for Old Ludlow and will be installed in the next 2 months.

Announcements: Next Meeting May 3, 2010 at CCAC because of the election.

Adjourned: 9:10.

February 8, 2010

Cynthia Herrick  
Board President  
Clifton Cultural Arts Center  
3711 Clifton Avenue  
P.O. Box 20041  
Cincinnati OH 45220

Dear Ms. Herrick:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC). CCAC's presence in Clifton has had a very positive impact on the Cincinnati community. It has done a great job of developing arts programming that has been made available to a very broad audience of children and adults at little or no cost. Further it has taken a very important historic structure, Old Clifton School, and improved the building and grounds keeping it from the decline and deterioration experienced by many former Cincinnati Public Schools. Now rather than having an eyesore on our main thoroughfare we have a vital community building. CCAC is spurring economic development and supporting vibrant and healthy communities, children and adults.

CCAC has proven to be a project with broad support, having secured over \$2 million in investments to date - \$1.65 million in the last 14 months alone. This includes a \$1.09 million leadership gift from an anonymous donor, \$250,000 from the State of Ohio, and \$242,500 from the City of Cincinnati through the Capital Budget. Phase 1 renovations begin February 15 to construct a new elevator, fire system and a renovated auditorium, and a welcoming new entry, making the building accessible and code compliant.

Since taking possession of the Clifton School from Cincinnati Public Schools on September 1, 2008, CCAC has served over 9500 adults and children from around the region offering over 77 classes, three summer camps and seven different exhibits. Its Wednesday on the Green concerts drew over 1,800 people throughout June and July of 2009, providing nine evenings of free entertainment to families and adults of all ages.

I am pleased to see CCAC continue to develop as a valuable resource in our community, spurring economic development and improving the quality of life of Cincinnati residents.

Sincerely,

Richard Druffel  
President, Clifton Town Meeting

Uptown Consortium  
Attention: Lajuana Miller  
Re: Seasongood Grant Application

January 15, 2010

Lajuana, The Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is very supportive of the Uptown Consortium's efforts to secure grant funding to build and develop capacity for the community councils and business associations of Uptown. As you are aware CTM is an all volunteer organization. As such it is always a stretch for us to assemble the time and skill sets needed to effectively manage and develop opportunities to improve our community. Keeping up with the fast changing telecommunications opportunities has been particularly challenging for CTM as we try to improve our communication reach and effectiveness to be more inclusive in our process and decision making.

Uptown's recent effort to set up and help manage the Clifton Business and Entertainment Collaborative (CBEC) has been extremely beneficial to the Clifton Community. CBEC brought marketing, communications and organizational skills to Clifton and has dramatically improved the community's ability to market and communicate its events and generate interest and traffic in the community.

We believe the requested grant will also be very beneficial to Clifton and the other Uptown Communities. I believe it would be similar to the CBEC effort in that it would bring needed technical and organizational skills to the communities to improve and enhance their current efforts. Furthermore, I believe that using Uptown to manage and deploy these resources gives us the opportunity to do these activities much more efficiently and cost effectively than each community working on their own.

Sincerely

Richard T. Druffel  
President  
Clifton Town Meeting