

## Clifton Town Meeting – December 5th, 2005

### Meeting Minutes

In attendance: John Berten, George Bishop, Betsy Black, Patrick Borders, Carol Brammer, Sharon Christopherson, Kip Eagen, Cindy Herrick, Cheryl Jakubowski, David Kieft, Pat Rupich, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Steve Slack.

#### Regular Reports:

- 1) Police: Officer Dana Jones reports on crime activity over the past month. Not a terrible crime report. Burglaries at Frat house on Jefferson are a common problem because they don't lock door. Update on shooting on McAlpin; got a confession from the suspect on a female who was shot; the suspect also tortured and dismembered someone downtown, and confessed to a murder. Graffiti arrests: worked on a juvenile who was responsible for WOER tag; still is on Ludlow on several rooftops. This youth has confessed to tagging at least 15 different locations. He is a fourteen-year-old Clifton resident; thought to be responsible for some of Clifton school graffiti as well. Usually hit during the day. Other news: Walking patrols will be in the business district all month, 3 days a week. Residents have raised concerns about speeding on McAlpin. Police have done directed patrol on different days, during which they tagged and gave warnings to many different people. One speeder was clocked at up to 60 mph. Q: what is the extent of crime activity on Woolper and Vine? A: Lee's deli gets a lot of drug arrests, and has a liquor license. Someone was shot across street at drive-up liquor store on Vine. They will be closely evaluating this during the liquor license renewal.
- 2) Fire: During November there were 155 responses, 91 were EMS calls, 54 "other responses", only 10 actually fire responses, which is 40% lower than usual. Talk about closing the firehouse is only talk; they are unable to get more information. Still trying to determine how the draft decision came about. Suggest a petition to the Fire administration and city manager for more information.
- 3) Recreation: Joe Goeldner reports on some activities that occurred downtown ("Dazzle Days" sponsored by DCI) On Dec 10, 11, 17 and 18 from 12-3 pm there will be more events citywide. Dec 9 will be family ornament workshop 6:30-8:30 pm at the Corryville recreation center. Clifton having mini-camp Dec 19-23, and Dec 27-30. See Joe for more information. Flag football team won city championship. Clifton Seniors had first Thanksgiving dinner here on Nov 10. On Jan 3, new quarter begins.

#### Special Guests:

- 1) **Brad Thomas speaks on a Graffiti removal initiative** He has spoken with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and Councilman Tarbell, who have offered anti-graffiti paint to Clifton. Mr. Thomas is seeking community support for his graffiti removal effort. Can we store paint somewhere accessible? He originally thought that the Civic Center would work for storage of the paint. Interested citizens should e-mail

[CliftonGraffiti@hotmail.com](mailto:CliftonGraffiti@hotmail.com) for more information. Who will work on the painting? He will, and is looking for assistance on this. **A motion is made and seconded to support Mr. Thomas' graffiti-removal activity. Discussion: who is currently painting out graffiti? Suggest talking to the CBPA on this; Brad will look into this. Motion passes unanimously.**

### **CTM Committee Reports**

- 1) Park Board and Groesbeck Fund**—Steve Slack and Andrea Rosenthal report on the history of the Groesbeck Fund and on a motion that is newly presented on this, which is dated December 5, 2005. First year in recent memory that funds were used for music was 2001, for \$5000. History of the fund: Mr. Groesbeck gave \$50,000 to be used for funding in Burnet woods in the late 1800s. CTM was informed there is just under \$500,000 in principle remaining for this effort. Ms. Rosenthal was told that \$10,000 would be made available annually. She did receive a letter from Parks Director Willie Carden about the funds. She has concerns about potential misuse of funds over the years. Also has a concern about how the funds are being bundled together. The Park Board has indicated that funds were recently spent in other parks, e.g., Balluminaria. Ms. Rosenthal has concerns as well about how the \$10,000 was spent in Burnet Woods. Also concerned about the influence of this on future bequeaths.

**A motion is made and seconded to accept the following resolution: “Be it resolved: The Clifton Town Meeting seeks to view an annual accounting from the Director of Finance of the flow of funds from the Groesbeck Fund to the Park Board since 1955 and we also seek a detailed annual accounting by the City Audit Department of the Park Board’s flow of funds from the Groesbeck Fund towards music in Burnet Woods from 1955 to the present.”**

Discussion: Question about the significance of the 1955 date. This was the date the City invested the remaining funds out of Water Works (where they were initially placed), with funds henceforth going into securities. There is currently approximately \$500,000 in the fund. In past motions, requests for restitution were proffered. This has been removed from the current resolution. Want to know how the Park Board handled the money they have been given? What is the history of expenditures for music? What do we want out of this (change from this point forward, reimbursement of expenditures that CTM has spent on music in Burnet Woods, etc)? Other comments: in previous discussions, we have heard about possible improvements to Burnet Woods. Can we ask to have a seat on the Park Board’s architectural selection committee? Can we be more involved in the determination of the music that is presented there? Park Board agreed they would first separate it out as a first step. Want to consider requesting CTM taking on more of a role. The point is made that once we have a clear, full accounting we can then take additional steps. It is pointed out that there is a lack of community input on the concerts. The promoter may have too many events to produce. Continuing involvement is necessary. Ms. Rosenthal would like to have us add to the request the breakout of the budget, from the time that the new promoter took over. Concern is expressed by others about the actions we are taking having an adverse impact on the new activities and overhauls that will be occurring in the

Park. Concern is also expressed that the Park Board won't be able to provide additional accountability. CTM should be ready to strike quickly requesting more information. Another board member requests that we proceed with caution, given that Burnet Woods has been chopped up quite a bit during UC's expansion, and that much of Burnet Woods is outside of Clifton. There is doubt that we can force the City to provide restitution for music funding; therefore, perhaps we should request more access to the planning process instead. After this discussion, motion passes unanimously as written above.

- 2) **Treasurer's report and 2006 budget**—Cheryl Jakubowski presents the accounts report. She distributes the new budget, which was presented at the last meeting. Questions are asked about the audit cost of \$1500, which covers all expenditures, not just the NSP budget. Concern is expressed about the solvency of CTM over time; how do we determine what we can spend? Revenue sources are a difficult issue. **A motion is made and seconded that we ask Invest in Neighborhoods to put out a joint proposal on behalf of interested neighborhoods for some relief on the insurance expenses.** Discussion: Cheryl indicates that in 2006, it will not be possible. It is suggested that there is not enough money allotted for fundraising, which brings in money. It is also suggested that we hold off on the vote until the priorities determined by the retreat can be adopted. A question is also raised about the comparison between budget projection and reality for 2005. It appears that we are about \$16000 ahead of projections in total funds available, so perhaps the situation is not as dire as suggested above. Suggest that we attempt to reduce the expenses after approval. There is a lot of discussion about the proposed and projected expenditures, with a suggestion that this go to the committee. Want to have money take us through the next three years, and expect to have the committee look at this again and perhaps present an amended budget at the February meeting. There is clarification raised about the bylaws, and a quick review reveals the bylaws only require that a budget be presented, not voted upon. A request is made to lay out a 3-year budget. **The motion is tabled until Jan 9.**
- 3) **House tour**—Mary Schubauer-Berigan reports that the call for committee and other volunteers has been successful, and have all committee chairs filled. Still in need of a couple tour homes Next meeting is Tuesday, Dec 13, at 7:30 pm at Ann Marchioni's house in the clubhouse of the condos on Rue de la Paix.
- 4) **Traffic and Streets:** No report
- 5) **Carriage rides:** Jinny Berten reports that free carriage rides will take place Friday Dec 16; Still need a volunteer again for 7-8 pm (call Jinny if able to help; 961-6762). Patrick Borders mentions that we also need a custodian for the sign announcing each monthly meeting. Duties are to put it up Thursday before the meeting and pull it down. Malcolm Montgomery agrees to do this.
- 6) **Zoning** – Cindy Herrick discusses the mission statement and guidelines, presented previously. Comments have been incorporated, and it has been e-mailed to the entire board with these suggestions.

- 7) **Safety committee** – George Bishop reports that the committee met to discuss initiatives proposed at the retreat. He met with Officer Franz on the camera initiatives. Nothing is definite yet, but it looks as though we have a good chance to get up to 4 cameras in the business district. At the meeting, they indicated a team will be needed, with representatives from CTM, CBPA, and our community officer. The approval process is a bit more involved than perhaps we thought. Also need to have volunteers to monitor the footage to assist in monitoring the cameras. There will be a \$70/monthly charge per camera to maintain. There is a lobbying effort to request that the City fund these cameras. Would businesses on Ludlow be willing to help fund this? George thinks this is not likely to be successful, but we should approach them. Comment on Northside council meeting. They are also dealing with the crime cameras, with the businesses supporting their implementation. There is a comment that there are activities that occur but are not caught. There is a lot of nighttime activity that is not reported.
- 8) **Parks:** Steve Slack reports that the Parks horticulturists have agreed not to plant London Plane trees and that they would be more than happy to plant American Elm Princeton cultivar. Steve agreed that it would be a wonderful solution to this issue. Mature elms went all the way up Clifton at one time. Trees at the bottom of Whitfield; Redbud would be nice for that location. Question is raised about the “honeysuckle popper” to more easily remove these trees.
- 9) **Fundraising:** Carol Brammer reports there has been a good response to DVD marketing idea for neighborhood. If you’d like to be involved, contact Carol at 675-6589 or [cbrammer@comey.com](mailto:cbrammer@comey.com).
- 10) **Presentation of slate of officers:** Sharon Christopherson presents the proposed slate of officers for 2006: President: Dick Druffel Vice Presidents (2): David Kieft, Cindy Herrick; Secretary: Michele Murphy; Treasurer: Cheryl Jakubowski. This slate will be voted upon at the January meeting.

**Motion for the adoption of November 2005 minutes is seconded and passes unanimously. Also a presentation is made to Sharon, Pat, Patrick and John, in appreciation for their hard work on CTM.**

**Adjourn – 9:30 P.M.**

Next meeting is Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm at Clifton Recreation Center.