

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2007**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on April 2, 2007, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:04 pm. The meeting was chaired by President Druffel.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: John Berten, George Bishop, Carol Brammer, Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Elizabeth Glazier, Bill Gordon, David Kieft, Robin Lee, Malcolm Montgomery, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Steve Slack, Brad Thomas and Beth Withers. Forrest Griffin joined the meeting at approximately 7:45 pm.

The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Secretary Bill Gordon stated that a draft version of the minutes of the March 5, 2007, meeting had been circulated to the Board for review and comment and that some spelling errors had been corrected. Otherwise, the draft version remained unchanged. Upon motion made by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, seconded by Trustee Lee, the minutes of the March 5, 2007, meeting were approved by a vote of 12 in favor, none opposed with 3 abstentions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - None.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

Fire Department Report - None.

Recreation Center Report

- Fishfest will be held in Burnet Woods on Friday, April 6, 2007, and is open to the public.
- Next week (April 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>) the Recreation Center will sponsor Spring Break Day Camp.
- Author Richard Louv, whose February appearance was cancelled due to inclement weather will speak on June 19, 2007, at Crossroads Church.

## Police Report

Cincinnati Police Officer Governor Williams introduced himself as the new liaison officer. Officer Williams' telephone number is (513) 569-8595 and his e-mail address is [governor.williams@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:governor.williams@cincinnati-oh.gov). Officer Williams introduced Lt. Mike Burn, the night shift supervisor for District 5. Lt. Burn's telephone number is (513) 569-8516.

A report showing crime statistics was made available for distribution.

During the last reporting period there were two robberies and five burglaries. Many of these crimes are being classified as early closures because the police lack sufficient information to apprehend a suspect. Officer Williams noted that in some of the burglaries the perpetrator knocks on the door to see if anyone is at home. If there is no response the perpetrator will go to the back of home to gain a point of entry. Police request that members of the public report suspicious behavior to the police for investigation.

In general, robberies are down in Clifton.

Theft from autos continues to be a problem. In response to questions posed by Trustee Bishop, police state that plainclothes detectives have been assigned and decoy autos used. Police state a large part of the problem is repeat offenders being released by the criminal justice system. Trustee Bishop stated that the Safety Committee would be willing to write letters to the judges to keep these criminals off the street.

In response to questions by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, Office Williams stated that police are aware of the "squatter" problem in the area of Bishop Street. Officer Williams stated that he could be called directly if the problem reoccurs.

Trustee Brammer requested clarification concerning when emergency 911 should be called, and when non-emergency number (765-1212) should be called.

Officer Williams and Lt. Burns reported that police have made arrests in a series of copper pipe thefts which had been previously reported at CTM meetings. They credited citizens observing suspicious behavior and calling the police. Arrests were also made of four teens in connection with a series of thefts from parking meters near the University of Cincinnati campus.

## CTM COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Druffel reviewed with Committee Heads the newly adopted CTM procedures for distributing committee reports to the whole Board in advance of the Board meetings. A brief discussion clarifying the mechanics of implementing these procedures took place.

### Parks and Recreation Committee - Trustees Slack and Glazier

- Committee is sponsoring nature walks in Burnet Woods every Thursday in April. Meet at Diggs Fountain Plaza at 6:30 pm. Open to the Community.

- The Trail Side Nature Center in Burnet Woods is scheduled to reopen in mid-June, 2007, after having been closed for a considerable time. Committee is considering a public celebration or party. Will talk with Park Board representatives.
- Committee is applying for grants from Cincinnati Parks Foundation Entertainment Grant and the Shmidlapp Music Fund Grant for the purpose of entertainment at the Burnet Woods Bandstand. (In response to question from Trustee Eby committee is still looking into status of Groesbeck Fund).
- Committee is reviewing ways that public parking for Burnet Woods can be increased. Currently a substantial portion of the parking in Burnet Woods is reserved for permit holders.
- Rawson Woods clean up day is April 14, 2007, at 9:00 am
- Burnet Woods green up day is May 5, 2007.

Discussion took place concerning requesting the Park Board to allow through traffic through Burnet Woods (Brookline to Martin Luther King) while road construction on Vine Street is in progress. No formal action taken at this time. Matter referred to special committee of Trustees Schubauer-Berigan, Elovitz, and members of Parks and Recreation Committee for further review and investigation.

#### Membership Committee - Trustee Schubauer-Berigan

- Currently about 700 members of CTM
- Committee seeking to improve communication with those in Clifton Community without e-mail access.
- Seeking community feedback whether copies of the Clifton Chronicle are being sent to all members of the community.

#### Safety Committee- Trustee Bishop

- Committee has submitted a proposal for a grant from Uptown Consortium to fund a porch light public awareness campaign and a lighting assessment study by a professional design firm. Should have a response to grant request by April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Still recruiting for Citizens on Patrol. Three members of the community are trained, 3 more are in the process of being trained. Need more volunteers. April 20<sup>th</sup> is application deadline. Training sessions at Police Academy, 800 Evans Street, on May 3, 10 and 17.

- Committee still working with Uptown Consortium and U.C. Policing Institute to get accurate crime figures for Clifton neighborhood. Still working with Cincinnati Police to get "Clifton only" crime data. Problem is defining "Clifton" so that accurate crime statistics and population can be determined.

### Housing and Zoning Committee - Trustee Montgomery

Committee is recommending that Board adopt resolutions in support of pending city ordinances relating to the Clifton Cultural Arts Center and a restriction on billboards within 200 feet of a residential district. These items are separately on the agenda and will be discussed in more detail at that time.

Committee reported on zoning variance request by Good Samaritan Hospital in connection with proposed signage. It appears that in response to comments made by the Committee that the Hospital is scaling back its request and that the issue will be resolved.

### **SPECIAL CTM REPORTS**

#### Hebrew Union College Krau Library Renovation Project

Guests, Michael Cheney (VP Finance) and Tim Quinn (Legal counsel) for Hebrew Union College (HUC) appeared before the Board to discuss proposed renovations to the existing Krau Library on HUC campus.

Attorney Quinn explained that due to the type of funding for the project there was a legal requirement for a public hearing and HUC wanted to advise CTM of the nature and status of the project.

Mr. Cheney explained that an existing storage structure would be razed and a similar structure built in its place. There would also be renovations to the Krau Library building. No zoning variances are expected. Mr. Cheney answered questions from the Board and members of the audience. No formal Board action was requested nor taken on this matter.

#### Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Housing and Zoning Committee Co-Chair Guy Humphrey discussed the issue of two proposed ordinances currently pending before City Council which relate to the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC). One ordinance would classify the CCAC as a "cultural institution" thus eliminating the need for re-zoning. The other proposed ordinance would eliminate additional parking requirements for CCAC.

Upon motion made by Trustee Montgomery, seconded by Trustee Berten, it was moved as follows:

Whereas Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) wishes to preserve and protect the quality of life in the Clifton community by maintaining the present zoning restrictions pertaining to the properties associated with the Clifton Cultural Arts Center without hindering its development as proposed;

Be it resolved that:

CTM supports the proposed City Ordinances, for the property at 3645 Clifton Avenue to be know as Clifton Cultural Arts Center, as follow:

ORDINANCE, dated 03/16/2007, submitted by Vice-Mayor Tarbell, from J. Rita McNeil, City Solicitor:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1403-05, Land Use Regulations -- Single-family Districts, of the Cincinnati Zoning Code authorizing the Director of Buildings and Inspections to: a) issue building permits for the renovation of the "Old Clifton School" at 3711 Clifton Avenue and the former McDonald Mansion Carriage House at 3645 Clifton Avenue (collectively the "Property") in the Clifton neighborhood, and b) issue a certificate of occupancy for the use of the Property for a Cultural Institution, which certificate of occupancy will expire upon the transfer of the Property or if the use of the Property as a cultural institution is abandoned.

ORDINANCE, dated 03/16/2007, submitted by Vice-Mayor Tarbell, from J. Rita McNeil, City Solicitor,

Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 1425, Parking and Loading Regulations, of the Cincinnati Zoning Code authorizing the Director of Buildings and Inspections to require no additional parking for the renovation of the "Old Clifton School" at 3711 Clifton Avenue and the former McDonald Mansion Carriage House located at 3645 Clifton Avenue (collectively the "Property") in the Clifton neighborhood."

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### Billboard Ordinance

Mr. Humphrey addressed the Board concerning a proposed ordinance pending in City Council which would restrict billboards within 200 feet of a residential district. Discussion took place concerning the definition of a billboard and the definition of a residential district.

Upon motion made by Trustee Montgomery, seconded by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, it was moved as follows:

“Whereas CTM seeks to protect residential areas from the intrusion of advertising signage; and even if such signage itself is located within a business district, it may yet create an adverse visual impact when close to and visible from homes;

Be it resolved that:

- 1) Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) supports the Monzel motion prohibiting billboards within 200 feet of residential districts and asks that City Council pass it. The text of that motion is :that Chapter 895 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code be amended by inserting the words “residential district” in Section 895-5(g), thereby prohibiting billboards “within 200 feet of a residential district”.
- 2) CTM requests that any rewrite of the regulations be referred to the City Manager to form a committee with representatives from neighborhoods, billboard companies and the city to review and update the current regulations and make their recommendations to City Council.
- 3) As a matter of process CTM believes discussions should include all stakeholders, including the communities. The Board asks that its President be notified in a timely manner both by mail and email in advance of such future meetings/discussions. Contact instructions are attached.”

The motion carried with 14 in favor, none opposed and 2 abstentions.

#### New Officers

President Druffel reminded the Board that current Treasurer Cheryl Jakubowski had announced that she would soon be relocating to another state and therefore could not continue to fulfill her duties as Treasurer. As a result it will be necessary to appoint a new Treasurer. President Druffel stated that it was his intention to appoint current Secretary Bill Gordon to fill the vacant Treasurer’s position and to appoint Trustee Gary Eby to replace Bill Gordon as Secretary. President Druffel stated that he had reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws and could find no specific procedure for the filling of vacant officer positions. President Druffel requested that the Board approve his appointments.

Upon motion made by President Druffel, seconded by Trustee Thomas, it was moved that the President’s appointment of Bill Gordon to fill the unexpired term of Cheryl Jakubowski as Treasurer be approved.

The motion carried unanimously, with Trustee Gordon abstaining.

Upon motion made by Trustee Bishop, seconded by Trustee Elovitz, it was moved that the President’s appointment of Gary Eby to fill the unexpired term of Bill Gordon as Secretary be approved.

The motion carried unanimously, with Trustee Eby abstaining.

### Clifton Gaslight Main Street Program

Jon Cramer, Main Street manager, gave an update on the progress of the program.

The organization has filed papers with the State Of Ohio establishing the organization as a legal entity. The organization is also in the process of obtaining an IRS determination on its tax exempt status. Main Street recently received a \$10,000. grant.

The Main Street kickoff meeting will be held on April 11, 2007, at the E.T. Carson Lodge, 218 Ludlow Avenue, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Trustee Kieft commented that now that the program was in operation it was necessary to get in action and encouraged Clifton residents to attend the Kick Off meeting.

### CTM Website

President Druffel publically acknowledged the work of Clifton resident Bill Fant in helping CTM update its website. Mr. Fant has volunteered to manage the technical aspects of the CTM Website. He has begun to identify and fix long-standing problems that had prevented updating the site for over two months. Mr. Fant was present and was thanked by President Druffel on behalf of CTM.

### School Naming Issue

President Druffel began the discussion by giving a brief overview of the issue. The Fairview German Language School (Fairview) will be relocated to the new school building under construction on the site of the former Clifton School Annex on Clifton Avenue. Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) has in place a procedure for the naming of the school. This procedure involves the Fairview LSDMC along with community input from groups such as CTM.

President Druffel stated that he would like to establish a protocol for CTM's involvement in the naming process, which would include:

- a public discussion of the issues surrounding the naming process;
- establishing a CTM delegation to engage representatives of the Fairview LSDMC and Fairview PTA in discussions concerning the naming issue to see if consensus can be reached;
- solicit candidates for names from CTM board members and the Clifton Community at large.

A wide ranging and extended discussion of the issues ensued. Numerous Board members, including Trustees Gordon, Brammer, Berten, Schubauer-Berigan, Lee, Slack and Montgomery, among others, expressed views. Various members of the Clifton Community in attendance at the meeting also were recognized and spoke from the floor, among them Don Tong and Cindy Herrick, current members of the Fairview LSDMC.

Upon motion made by Trustee Montgomery, seconded by Trustee Elovitz, it was moved to close discussion on the issue. The motion carried with 13 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Upon motion made by Trustee Montgomery, seconded by Trustee Elovitz, it was moved to establish a committee of no more than seven, to be appointed by President Druffel, to work with the Fairview LSDMC and Fairview PTA to recommend a process to name the new school. The motion carried with 8 in favor, 6 opposed and 2 abstentions.

The following six Trustees have been appointed to the Committee: Druffel, Schubauer-Berigan, Brammer, Berten, Gordon and Withers, with one vacant position available to be appointed by President Druffel at a later time.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Architreks® has designed a tour for Clifton. Training tour will start on April 15, 2007, at Rawson Woods. Brochures made available at meeting.
- Uptown Consortium notified CTM that NIOSH has rejected the "triangle" site near Clifton for its new facility.
- A public meeting concerning changes to I-75, including portions bordering Clifton were held on March 29, 2007. More to come in the future.
- Extensive sewer work will be performed over the next two months on Clifton Hills Avenue.
- Annual Memorial Day Parade volunteers need help with food preparation. Skyline Chili has been contacted to see if it would be interested in providing food service.
- Art Works® is making grant money available to communities for the purpose of creating murals. Kip Eagen would like to make application on behalf of CTM. Application deadline is before next regularly scheduled CTM meeting. CTM executive committee will work with Kip Eagen on this issue.
- Trustee Brammer advised the Board that Art Works® is also sponsoring a program where interesting pieces of trash are being used to create a collage.



- The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is May 7, 2007, at 7:00 pm at the Clifton Recreation Center.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Gordon, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary