

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING  
MAY 7, 2007**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on May 7, 2007, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:09 pm. The meeting was chaired by President Druffel.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: John Berten, George Bishop, Dan Deering, Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Elizabeth Glazier, Linda Goldenhar, Bill Gordon, Cheryl Jakubowski, David Kieft, Robin Lee, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Steve Slack and Brad Thomas. Forrest Griffin and Carol Brammer joined the meeting in progress.

The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

A draft version of the minutes of the April 2, 2007, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Upon motion made by Trustee Jakubowski, seconded by Trustee Goldenhar, the minutes of the April 2, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT -**

Treasurer Gordon reported that at the June, 2007, meeting a consolidated report for the months of March, April and May, 2007, would be presented.

Treasurer Gordon requested that requests for payments be submitted on a form indicating the purpose of the payment and the account from which the payment should be made. He indicated that this would save him time and also help document the basis for the payment. A brief discussion concerning the form and reimbursement procedures ensued.

President Druffel stated that he supported the need for accurate documentation and requested that the proposed form and other procedures should be discussed at the June, 2007, meeting.

## REGULAR REPORTS

### Fire Department Report

Cincinnati Fire Department Captain Campbell reported on the department's activities in and near Clifton during the month of April, 2007. There were 3 extra alarm fires in Avondale; 1 structure fire in Clifton, and 10 small fires in Corryville. Total responses for the month was 147, which was down from the month of March, 2007.

Captain Campbell announced that during the month of May the fire department will be performing maintenance on fire hydrants and going door to door in selected neighborhoods to distribute free smoke alarms as part of the Safe Summer Months program.

In response to questions from Trustee Goldenhar Captain Campbell stated that Clifton was not one of the selected neighborhoods for the door to door canvass, but that free smoke alarms are available at the fire house for Clifton residents.

### Recreation Center Report

- Parents Recognition Dinner was a success with approximately 100 parents participating.
- Hooked on Fishing was also a success with approximately 400 kids participating.
- Registration for Summer Day Camp will be on May 23, 2007, between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. 35 participants have already been registered for the program.
- Clifton Recreation staff has undergone CPR training.
- Mark Summer from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will be meeting with the staff. ODNR provides grants to the Recreation Center and also provides training for the Hooked On Fishing program.
- Clifton Recreation Center will be providing parking for the "Cliftonalooza" event sponsored by the Clifton Community Arts Center on June 10, 2007.

### Police Report

Cincinnati Police Officer Lutz and Lt. Stu Kepe presented the police report. A report showing April, 2007, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was made available for distribution.

Police officers reported that, in general, there was less reported crime for April, 2007 than the previous month.

In response to questions from Trustee Bishop the police reported that theft from autos was down. They reported that in conjunction with the University of Cincinnati Police an arrest had been made near campus using a decoy vehicle.

In response to questions by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, Lt. Kepe stated that there had been an incident involving someone throwing a brick at a school bus in the vicinity of Vine and Wolper. However, this area is near the boarder of District 5 and District 4, and he believes that the incident occurred in District 4, since he had not seen a written report.

In response to questions by Trustee Slack, the police representatives stated they have observed no significant trends in an increase in vandalism in Burnet Woods. Theft from autos is the primary crime problem in the park.

In response to questions from Trustee Brammer, it was reported that the robbery at the Subway restaurant was still under investigation.

In response to questions from Trustee Bishop the police identified the location of certain streets which appeared on the April, 2007, crime statistics report.

It was announced that Captain Johns is being transferred to the internal affairs division, and that Captain Dave Bailey will be assigned to District 5. On behalf of CTM President Druffel requested Lt. Kepe to communicate to Captain Johns the community's thanks for his service at District 5.

It was announced that District 5 will hold an open house on May 14, 2007, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

### **CTM COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Druffel briefly commented on the importance of the work of CTM committees and commended the committees for their timely and well prepared written reports. Each committee was invited to give a brief overview of their written report.

#### **Transportation and Planning - Trustee Deering**

- A Power Point presentation was made concerning a feasibility study for a Street Car project similar to one in current operation in Portland, Oregon. The project is initially envisioned for downtown Cincinnati, with a possible second phase extension to the Uptown area, including parts of Clifton. Various comments were made by Trustees and members of the Community and questions answered.
- Trustee Thomas reported that University of Cincinnati students, faculty and staff will now be able to ride the Cincinnati Metro free of charge for a two year period as part of a program jointly sponsored by Cincinnati Metro and the University. University I.D. will be required to participate. Questions from the Trustees and community members were answered by Trustee Thomas.

### Constitution, By-Laws and Boundaries Committee - Trustee Eby

- Committee had reviewed the CTM Constitution and identified the geographic jurisdiction of CTM. A map showing these boundaries has been prepared.
- The Committee reviewed a map which had been prepared by the City Manager's Office indicating the City Manager's view of the geographic jurisdictions of the 52 community councils recognized by the City.
- The Committee compared the City Manager's map to the language in the CTM constitution and found 4 areas of discrepancy:
  - Burnet Woods which is included in the CTM jurisdiction is considered "disputed" by the City Manager;
  - The area near Good Samaritan Hospital and Hebrew Union College which is included in the CTM jurisdiction is considered to be part of the CUF community council jurisdiction by the City Manager;
  - Certain portions of Bishop Street which are included in the CTM jurisdiction are considered to be part of the Corryville community council jurisdiction by the City Manager;
  - Portions of West Mitchell Avenue and Vine Street, which are not included in the CTM jurisdiction are considered to be part of the CTM jurisdiction by the City Manager.
- A detailed written report, with maps, was distributed to the Board members.

An extensive discussion followed in which various Trustees expressed their views concerning the importance of resolving this issue with the City and the means by which this could be done. President Druffel suggested that a letter should be sent to the City expressing CTM's concerns over this issue.

City Council member, Jeff Berding, who was present in the audience, stated that he would address this issue with Council member Laketa Cole, who chairs the City Council committee dealing with these issues.

- The Committee reported on a proposed amendment to the CTM Constitution and By-laws concerning clarifying "term limits". Proposed amendment language is still under review.

### Marketing and Communications Committee - Trustee Glazier

- Committee is working to update CTM website. Currently committee is reviewing adding a link to Clifton Gaslight Main Street website; adding a list of upcoming events; updating list of CTM committees and contact information for volunteers; search function; discussion board; committee reports, meeting agendas and membership update.
- Committee is also exploring adding the CTM list serve to the website and adding an additional list serve for board members only that will update the emails of the members.
- Committee is considering the installation of a digital sign at some location on Ludlow Avenue to communicate hot topics and current events. This would provide access to community members who do not have internet access.

### Membership Committee - Trustee Schubauer-Berigan

- 10 new and renewing members added this month to database and email Listserv
- reviewed Chronicle mailing list to remove duplicate names
- Drafted recruitment letter and identified 3,500 Clifton households not currently CTM members. Currently budget for committee is insufficient to pay for postage and handling of these recruitment letters. Discussion ensued concerning the "cost-benefit" of increasing budget allotment to cover anticipated expenses of postage and handling. It was determined that if only a small percentage of targeted households became members of CTM that increased dues revenue would offset the cost of solicitation.

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

**Whereas Clifton Town Meeting has in its 2007 budget allocated \$100 for membership recruitment; and, whereas the estimated cost for mailing a recruitment letter to approximately 3500 non-member households in Clifton is \$1500 or less, the Membership Committee of CTM requests approval to spend up to a total of \$1500 (including the \$100 previously allotted in the 2007 CTM budget) to produce and mail a recruitment letter to non-member households in Clifton.**

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

- It was announced that membership dues for students will be the same reduced rates as for senior citizens, \$10.00. The Committee is also exploring membership incentives from the local business community.

### Parks and Recreation Committee - Trustee Slack

- The Committee has obtained two grants totaling \$600.00. A \$100.00 grant from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and a \$500.00 grant from the Cincinnati Park Board.
- The grants contain the following restrictions: the grant must be used for an event in a Cincinnati Park which is family oriented live music, dance or theater, and must take place no later than November 18, 2007. CTM must initially incur the costs for the event and seek reimbursement from the Cincinnati Parks up to \$600.00.
- The Committee recommends that the above grant money be used in connection with an event in Burnet Woods to celebrate the reopening of the Trailside Nature Center, which is scheduled sometime in June, 2007.
- Committee has scheduled a meeting with representatives of the Park Board for May 9, 2007, to discuss coordination of the proposed event.

Upon motion made by Trustee Slack, seconded by Trustee Jakubowski, it was moved as follows:

**Clifton Town Meeting will release to the CTM Park Committee up to \$600.00 to pay for a planned event that will include either music, dance or theater in Burnet Woods Park. The amount spent is to be reimbursed to CTM by a grant awarded by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the Cincinnati Park Board, as confirmed by letter dated April 6, 2007.**

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

### Safety Committee- Trustee Bishop

- As reported at the last meeting the 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. Response from Uptown has been delayed but is now expected by June 1, 2007.
- Committee has requested space in the summer issue of Clifton Chronicle to publicize porch light campaign.
- Citizens on Patrol. Four additional members of the community are now in training. Three member have been training, bringing the total number of volunteers to 7. More are needed.

- 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. Map of Clifton on CTM website as proposed by Constitution, By-Laws and Boundary committee would be helpful. Also a list of street addresses in Clifton would be helpful. Membership Committee (Trustee Schubauer-Berigan) is working on preparing such a list and will share with Safety Committee.

### Housing and Zoning Committee - President Druffel

President Druffel noted that the Housing & Zoning Committee had submitted a written report. The Committee does not oppose a variance request of one additional dwelling unit at 3315 Jefferson (the Parkside). Committee did raise questions why off-street parking is not required.

### Clifton Gaslight Main Street Program

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

The Main Street kickoff meeting held on April 11, 2007, at the E.T. Carson Lodge, 218 Ludlow Avenue, was a success with over 100 people attending. Mr. Cramer encouraged community residents to volunteer for various committees which were being established.

### School Naming Issue

President Druffel began the discussion by recounting that at the April 2, 2007, meeting a special committee had been appointed to engage the Fairview School community in issues relating to the naming of the new school to be located on Clifton Avenue on the site of the former Clifton School Annex.

President Druffel reported that, to date, the special school naming committee has been unable to meet with Fairview School community groups due to scheduling issues. A meeting has been scheduled for May 21, 2007. The groups involved have agreed upon the presence of a mediator to facilitate discussions and resolution of issues.

In response to questions by Trustee Jakubowski, President Druffel stated that the mediator would volunteer for the first session, but that subsequent sessions would be on a fee paying basis.

Trustee Thomas stated that he may be able to obtain volunteer mediators. President Druffel stated while he is not opposed to the idea, the Fairview groups would also have to agree.

In response to questions by Trustee Berten concerning whether the School Board has a deadline to resolve the school naming issue President Druffel stated that the School Board wanted this issue resolved before now; but that he is unaware of any specific deadline imposed by the School Board.

## Park Study

President Druffel reported that the Park Board has issued a final report on the park plan. He indicated that there will be an opportunity for community feed back.

Questions were raised concerning the Park Board's intention to place a restaurant in Burnet Woods. President Druffel stated that CTM would closely monitor the situation and commented that this is an example of why the issue of whether Burnet Woods is considered part of Clifton or not could be important.

## Memorial Day Parade

Jack Brand announced that the annual Memorial Day Parade sponsored by Clifton Town Meeting would be held on Monday, May 28, 2007. Participants are encouraged to gather starting at 10:30 am at the intersection of Middleton and McAlpin, near the Rawson Woods Preserve. Parade is scheduled to start at 11am.

Jinny Berten reported that there are still outstanding issues concerning providing food service at Mt. Storm Park at the conclusion of the parade. There have been discussions with Skyline Chili and Panera Bread. After considerable discussion it was determined that CTM volunteers would provide food service. Jinny Berten and Trustee Brammer will solicit volunteers from the community.

## Changes In The Ludlow Business District

There was a general discussion about plans of private developers to place a restaurant in the former Uno's location (342 Ludlow Avenue) and demolition of the building currently occupied by Golden Lions Lounge (340 Ludlow Avenue) for the purpose of putting in a surface parking lot. President Druffel stated that CTM had no specific knowledge about these issues but that he would look into it.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jinny Berten reported that the fountain at Diggs Plaza is leaking and that it will be repaired.
- Ann Marchioni reported that Good Samaritan Hospital will have an open house for the Clifton community on June 3, 2007, between 10:30am and 3:30pm.
- Trustee Jackubowski announced that due to her relocation to another state that this would be her last CTM meeting. President Druffel thanked Trustee Jakubowski for her service to CTM and the Clifton Community.
- Joan Kaup, spoke from the audience, and introduced herself as a candidate for Cincinnati City Council.



- Cincinnati Council member Jeff Berding spoke from the audience and announced that the City will be sponsoring a "Cease Fire" program this summer.
- Christa Criddle, a representative of Cincinnati Council member Chris Monzel, spoke from the audience and announced that she had placed cards in the back of the room with important numbers to call and that they were available to the public.
- Betsy Black reminded the Board that the July, 2007, meeting is currently scheduled for July 2, 2007. She suggested to the Board that if the meeting date was going to be changed due to its proximity to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday that this decision should be made soon so that proper notice could be given to the community.
- The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is June 4, 2007, at 7:00 pm at the Clifton Recreation Center. **[ Reporters Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was learned that the Clifton Recreation Center would not be available on June 4, 2007, and the meeting date was changed to June 11, 2007, at 7pm at the Clifton Recreation Center.]**

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Jakubowski, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary