

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING
JUNE 11, 2007**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on June 11 , 2007, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:05 pm. The meeting was chaired by President Druffel.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Bill Gordon, David Kieft, Robin Lee, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Jim Segers, Steve Slack and Brad Thomas. Carol Brammer joined the meeting in progress.

President Druffel noted that the CTM Constitution and Bylaws requires at least 11 Trustees to be present to conduct business and that currently there were only 10 Trustees present. The lack of a quorum was noted. After a brief discussion by the Trustees it was determined to proceed with those portions of the meeting which did not require Trustee vote or approval.

REGULAR REPORTS

Fire Department Report

There was no Fire Department Report at this meeting.

Recreation Center Report

- Richard Louv will be speaking at the Crossroads Community Church on June 19, 2007 at 6:30pm.
- Summer Day Camp is full with 70 kids participating.
- Teen Day Camp is also full.
- Drop-In Day Camp has also been a success.
- Hooked On Fishing program is sponsoring a Fish Fest in Burnet Woods on Friday, June 15, 2007, from 10:30am to 3:30pm
- Clifton Recreation Center made 50 chairs available for the "Cliftonalooza" event sponsored by the Clifton Community Arts Center on June 10, 2007.

Police Report

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer presented the police report. A report showing May, 2007, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was made available for distribution.

Detective Meyer introduced Captain Dave Bailey who has replaced Captain Johns at District 5.

Detective Meyer reported on a series of robberies which have occurred in the Clifton Business district, involving Subway, Mediterranean Foods, Toko Kids and Lady Bug. Based upon investigation the police believe that the same individual is responsible for these offenses.

In response to a question from Trustee Schubauer-Berigan it was reported that the police do not yet have a composite sketch of the perpetrator, but do have a general description, as well as a fuzzy video which is not very helpful in identification.

In response to a questions from Trustee Lee it was reported that the police do not believe that the perpetrator is a panhandler. Detective Meyer reported that the robber has a pattern of hitting the stores in the mid-afternoon.

Kip Eagen requested that if community members see suspicious activity on Ludlow they should call the police. Jack Brand asked the police representatives whether one should call 911 or the non-emergency 765-1212 to report suspicious behavior. Captain Bailey stated that it didn't matter since both calls are handed by the same call center, with 911 calls receiving priority.

Detective Meyer reported that despite the rash of robberies in the business district that through April, 2007, crime is down in Clifton and adjacent areas by 13% compared to last year. He reported that murders, rapes and thefts from autos are down.

Trustee Elovitz reported that in May there had been multiple thefts from autos in the area of Ruther and Bishop streets. He asked if this was common. Detective Meyer stated that it was not uncommon for thieves to break into to a series of autos as part on one continuous activity.

Detective Meyer reported that in areas near Clifton there was an increase in the theft of stained glass windows from older homes. He cautioned Clifton residents to take steps to protect their windows from theft.

Trustee Lee stated that she had sent in a "right of entry" form but had not yet received signage and other information. Detective Meyer stated he would advise Officer Neal.

Trustee Segers requested information concerning the category on the crime report of "Other". Detective Meyer answered his questions.

Beth Koenig spoke from the audience and indicated that many cars are going too fast down Amazon. She stated the need to slow down traffic, particularly in the summer months when there is a lot of Clifton Meadows traffic. Captain Bailey stated that he would advise his patrolling officers. There is also the possibility that a "speed machine" could be installed.

Captain Bailey addressed the meeting and spoke about his experience with the Cincinnati Police Department.

President Druffel thanked the District 5 police officers for their presentation.

CTM COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Druffel commented that he had received numerous written committee reports. He wished to highlight a few of them which had significant activity.

Membership Committee - Trustee Schubauer-Berigan

- As approved at the May, 2007, meeting, the Committee mailed membership solicitations to non-member households in Clifton at a cost of \$1,235.00. To date, CTM has received \$2,662.00 in dues revenues from 181 new members from 134 new households.

Parks and Recreation Committee - Trustee Slack

- The Burnet Woods Trailside Nature Center will have its formal reopening on Thursday, June 14, 2007.
- After consultation with Park Board representatives, CTM will be co-sponsoring a community event in Burnet Woods on Saturday, June 23, 2007, to celebrate the reopening of the Nature Center.
- Trustee Slack requested that the CTM listserve be used to promote this event.
- Trustee Slack stated that volunteers are always welcome.

ARTWORKS™ Program

Jon Cramer introduced representatives of the Artworks Program. Kip Eagen had applied for a grant on behalf of CTM for the Artworks Mural program. Clifton was one of 7 local communities which received a grant.

The mural program is based on the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program. Teens between the ages of 14 and 19 are employed to work with professional artists to produce murals in the community.

The Clifton mural will be applied to the facade of Keller's IGA on Ludlow Avenue. The mural will depict an artist's conception of 1930's Ludlow Avenue. The mural will be painted on fabrics at the Ludlow Garage building and then applied to Keller's facade. Work is scheduled to start soon and continue through July, 2007. The public will be invited to observe the progress of the work at the Ludlow Garage. Several Clifton residents are among the teen artists who will be participating in the program.

Uptown Consortium Grant

President Druffel reviewed that CTM had submitted 3 separate grant requests to Uptown Consortium totaling \$36,000.00. These grant requests were for website development; audio/visual equipment and the Safety Committee's "light up Clifton" campaign.

The Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) had separately requested a \$25,000 grant from Uptown in connection with the renovation of the McDonald Carriage House.

Uptown considered the CTM and CCAC grant requests jointly and gave a total grant of \$15,000.00. There was a brief discussion concerning how this grant money would be apportioned between CTM and CCAC; and also how the CTM portion of the grant would be divided among the three CTM grant requests.

Trustee Keift commented that Trustee Montgomery had requested CTM funding for the audio/visual equipment and was told that there was no money in the budget at that time, and was encouraged to seek grant funding for the project. Since Trustee Montgomery did seek the grant funding from Uptown it was Trustee Keift's view that CTM should honor its commitment and apply a sufficient amount of the Uptown grant towards Trustee Montgomery's request.

President Druffel stated that CTM has one year to use the grant money and that the division of the grant money should be discussed at subsequent CTM meetings.

Clifton Gaslight Main Street Program

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

Main Street is currently working on eliminating numerous news boxes on Ludlow Avenue. Main Street received a grant from the City of Cincinnati to assist in branding, identity and website issues.

Ludlow Revitalization Project

President Druffel reported that he has not received any updates from the City of Cincinnati concerning the progress of the Ludlow Revitalization Project.

School Naming Issue

President Druffel began the discussion by giving a brief history of CTM's attempts to engage the Fairview School Community in discussions concerning the naming of the school to be located in the new building being constructed on Clifton Avenue on the former site of the Clifton School Annex.

He stated that at the April 2, 2007, meeting a special committee had been appointed to engage the Fairview School community on these issues. President Druffel reported that to date there have been no meetings with the Fairview LSDMC.

President Druffel expressed his frustration that the school naming process as stated on the Board of Education's website was not working. At the same time he stated that it was CTM's hope and goal that the community council could work with the school to welcome it as part of the Clifton community.

President Druffel also noted that the concept of the new school was that it was be a "campus style" school which would work closely with the nearby Clifton Recreation Center and the Clifton Cultural Arts Center.

President Druffel stated that despite the failure of the community involvement process he had been advised that the Fairview LSDMC would be willing to recommend the name of the new school to be "Fairview-Clifton German Language School" provided that CTM would support this recommendation.

President Druffel reported that the CTM special school naming committee had recently met to discuss this issue and that the committee had suggested one of the following three approaches be taken:

- That the proposal be rejected, and that a letter be sent to the Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education expressing CTM's concerns about the failure of the Fairview LSDMC to engage the Clifton community, though its community council, in the school naming process;
- That the proposal be accepted and that the letter described above be sent;
- That CTM take no action on the proposal at this time

A copy of a draft of the letter to the Board of Education which was being proposed by the committee was made available to the Trustees and was read aloud by President Druffel to the Clifton community members in the audience.

[Reporters Note: At this point Trustee Brammer arrived at the meeting.]

An extended and considerable discussion ensued by both Trustees and Clifton community members in the audience.

Among the many views expressed was that the name "Fairview" should not be in the name of the school since Fairview is the name of a community/neighborhood and the school will be located in Clifton. It was stated that CTM is working hard to maintain the identity of Clifton as a unique neighborhood and that naming a school located in Clifton as "Fairview" would be counterproductive to CTM's efforts. Others expressed the contrary view that most people do not consider "Fairview" to be the name of a community/neighborhood and that the name is closely associated with the German Language School. It was pointed out that another well-known city-wide magnet school, Walnut Hills High School, is actually located in the Evanston community.

Others expressed the view that the Fairview LSDMC has failed to follow the community engagement guidelines established by the Board of Education. The view was expressed by numerous speakers that bad behavior should not be rewarded, and that by agreeing with the LSDMC's proposal without following the rules would establish a bad precedent for future relations between CTM and the school. Others expressed the view that the actions of the Fairview LSDMC are being mis-characterized, and an explanation was offered by a Clifton resident who is also a Fairview parent as to how the "Fairview-Clifton" name compromise proposal came about.

Other Trustees and members of the Clifton community spoke and expressed views on related topics, both in favor of and opposed to the proposed name change.

President Druffel noted that with the arrival of Trustee Brammer as the 11th Trustee at the meeting a quorum was present and that the Board could take action on this matter.

There was a brief discussion among the Trustees concerning procedural aspects of formally bringing this issue to a vote.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gordon, Seconded by Trustee Thomas, it was moved as follows:

WHEREAS Fairview German Language School is moving to a new building located on Clifton Avenue on the site of the former Clifton School Annex:

Be It Resolved That:

In the event that the Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) of Fairview German Language School should propose to the Cincinnati Board of Education to rename the school as Fairview-Clifton German Language School, Clifton Town Meeting supports that proposal.

Trustee Gordon was questioned whether his motion included sending a letter to the Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education as had been proposed by the special school naming

committee. Trustee Gordon stated that his motion did not include sending such a letter. Considerable and extended discussion ensued on the motion with various Trustees and members of the Clifton community speaking in favor of and against the motion.

Upon the request by Trustee Eby to President Druffel to call the question on the motion, a vote of the Trustees was taken, and the motion failed, with 4 votes in favor, 5 votes against, and 2 abstentions.

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

WHEREAS Fairview German Language School is moving to a new building in Clifton; and

WHEREAS the new building for the school has been developed as one component of a Community Learning Center that will also include the restored Carriage House, the Clifton Recreation Center, and the new Clifton Cultural Arts Center; and

WHEREAS Clifton Town Meeting, the community council for the neighborhood in which the new school will be located, has requested input into the process of deciding upon a name for the new school that acknowledges the school's role as a component of this larger Community Learning Center and Clifton Cultural Arts Campus; and

WHEREAS no such process has been implemented; and

WHEREAS the Fairview German Language School has reasons related to school history and recruitment of new students for wanting to retain the current name of the school; and

WHEREAS the Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) of Fairview German Language School, the policy-setting body of the school, has proposed asking the Cincinnati Board of Education to rename the school as Fairview-Clifton German Language School in acknowledgement of the move of the school to a new location in Clifton and the school's new role as a component of a larger Community Learning Center;

THEREFORE Clifton Town Meeting has resolved:

To reject the proposal by the LSDMC to change the name of the school, because this name was proposed by the LSDMC without following a process of obtaining community input into possible new names for the school; and to engage the Clifton community in a process by which acceptable new name(s) for the school may be selected for recommendation to the CPS Board of Education and the LSDMC of Fairview German Language School.

Considerable and extended discussion ensued on the motion with various Trustees and members of the Clifton community speaking in favor of and against the motion.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan accepted a friendly amendment to her motion which would clarify that communications to the Board of Education protesting the lack of community involvement would specify the "Clifton community". The amendment was seconded by Trustee Segers.

Upon the request of Trustee Keift to President Druffel to call the question on the motion, a vote of the Trustees was taken, and the motion carried, with 6 votes in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is July 9, 2007, at 7:00 pm at the Clifton Recreation Center.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A draft version of the minutes of the May 7, 2007, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Upon motion made by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, seconded by Trustee Thomas, the minutes of the May 7, 2007, meeting were approved, with 10 in favor of the motion, none opposed, and one abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Gordon distributed to the Trustees a consolidated report for the months of March, April and May, 2007. Upon motion made by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, seconded by Trustee Thomas, the Treasurer's report was approved, with 10 in favor of the motion, none opposed, and one abstention.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Eby, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary