

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on September 10, 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: John Berten, George Bishop, Jack Bourgoin, Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Elizabeth Glazier, Linda Goldenhar, Bill Gordon, David Kieft, Robin Lee, Jim Segers and Steve Slack. Carol Brammer and Forrest Griffen 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 August 6, 2007, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, seconded by Trustee Goldenhar, the minutes of the August 6, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved, with three Trustees abstaining.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for August, 2007, had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Upon motion made by Trustee Keift, seconded by Trustee Berten, the August, 2007, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Gordon abstaining.

REGULAR REPORTS

Fire Department Report

No report this meeting.

Recreation Center Report

- A report was given on the Art for Artists program, which is primarily designed for senior citizens.
- Ohio Arts Council has given the Cincinnati recreation Commission a grant in connection with its Quilting program.

- Recreation Center will be involved in Streetscapes events involving children.
- On October 14, there will be a city wide rafting trip as part of the Hooked on Fishing program.
- Clifton Recreation Center is requesting donations of perennials for the flower garden. Great activity for kids.
- A report was given on the after school program being offered at the Clifton Recreation Center.

Police Report

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer presented the police report. A report showing August, 2007, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was made available for distribution. Detective Meyer introduced Officer Lilgenia Wharton as the newly assigned community Liaison Officer.

Detect Meyer reported on a robbery which occurred on Telford Avenue near Tinks Restaurant. Victim was approached by 4 individuals and grabbed purse. Police no not have good descriptions of the suspects.

Detective Myer reported on a burglary on Terrace Ave. This is the second time that the residence has been burglarized.

Detective Meyer reported that a clerk at the motel at 3356 Central Parkway was robbed at knife point.

It was noted that the Clifton proper crime was is down 13.5% compared to the same period last year.

The Detective noted that crime may pick up as more students return to the area for fall classes.

Detective Meyer answered questions from Trustee Bishop concerning theft from autos near the University of Cincinnati campus and Burnett Woods.

Detective Meyer answered questions from Trustee Kieft concerning the perception that there was increased loitering in the Ludlow Business District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Druffel noted that not all committee chairpersons are submitting reports as required, and that the committees work on improving this situation.

BURNET WOODS -TRAILSIDE NATURE CENTER

Michael George, the director of the Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods gave a presentation.

Mr. George discussed several of the programs which the Nature Center is currently providing and encouraged members of the Clifton Community to visit the City of Cincinnati Website to obtain more information.

Trustee Slack and Kip Eagen gave a slide show presentation showing the Trailside Nature Center re-opening event which was held in June, 2007, and sponsored in part by CTM.

It was reported that Kip Eagen will meet with Park Board representatives in October to discuss sponsoring a similar community event next year.

Trustee Slack read a draft of a letter he requested be sent to the Park Board, from CTM, concerning the Trailside event. Upon motion made by Trustee Slack, seconded by Trustee Bishop, the Trustees unanimously approved sending the letter which had been prepared by Trustee Slack.

SCHOOL NAMING ISSUE

President Druffel began the discussion by reciting a brief history of CTM's efforts to engage the Fairview German Language School LSDMC in a process to establish a name for the new school which is being built on the site of the former Clifton School Annex on Clifton Avenue.

President Druffel reminded the Board that at the August 6, 2007, CTM meeting he had been authorized by the Board to send a letter to Cincinnati Public Schools Superintendent Blackwell, Fairview German Language School principal Mulligan, and the Cincinnati Board of Education, expressing CTM's concerns that the Fairview LSDMC had not complied with School Board policy in connection with the school naming process. This action by the CTM Board was in response to information that the architects of the new building had been advised that the name of the new school would remain Fairview German Language School. The letter was also to request that the School Board not approve any name for the new school until the community engagement process had been completed pursuant to School Board policy.

President Druffel stated that a draft of the letter has been prepared and has been circulated to CTM Board members on the School Naming Committee for comment and review; however the letter has not yet been sent to school officials.

President Druffel stated that in light of recent events involving the Board of Education he did not feel that sending the letter would be a productive exercise. President Druffel cited various reasons, including the recent announcement by Superintendent Blackwell that she was resigning as Superintendent, as well as the recent decision of the Board of Education to place a tax levy on the November, 2007, ballot.

President Druffel also noted that under the Board of Education's school naming policy the LSDMC makes the final decision.

President Druffel requested the CTM Board to take the following actions:

- Not send the letter which had been previously authorized by the CTM Board at the August, 2007, Trustee meeting:
- Accept the compromise name of Fairview-Clifton German Language School which had been previously rejected by the CTM Board at its May, 2007, meeting.

President Druffel stated that it was his view that it was important for CTM to get this matter behind it and move on to other important issues effecting the Clifton Community.

Trustee Berten stated that pursuant to Cincinnati Board of Education Policy 7551

The naming of school buildings and grounds in entirety or in part is a function of the Board of Education. No school building shall be named in honor of any living person. Names of school buildings can be changed for the following reasons: change in grades or programs, e.g., senior high to junior high, or junior high to elementary; establishment to special programs or alternative schools; closing of school and relocation to new facility. Whenever possible schools shall be given names that identify with geographic / neighborhoods locations or special programs. In the event that regular classes and special programs exist in the same facility, the existing name will take precedence. Individual areas within buildings or on grounds may be named in honor or in memory of distinguished persons. All requests for the naming of Board of Education property in part or whole shall include the written recommendations of school and interested community groups as a condition of consideration by the Board.

Trustee Berten stated that the Fairview German Language School LSDMC did not have the final say on the name of the school, that was a function of the Board of Education. Trustee Berten expressed his view that the "Fairview" designation in the school's name was contrary to Board of Education policy 7551 since the school was located in the Clifton Community, not the Fairview Community.

Trustee Bishop expressed his concern that President Druffel unilaterally determined not to send the letter after being directed by the Board to do so. Trustee Bishop stated that he was more concerned with the process that was used, rather than the soundness of the decision in this individual case.

President Druffel responded by stating that he had not disregarded the CTM Board's directive but rather had postponed implementation of the directive. President Druffel stated that if it continued to be the CTM Board's desire to send the letter to would do so tomorrow.

Trustee Lee stated that it is time for CTM to move on to other issues and that the Clifton Community should welcome the new school.

Trustee Bourgoin stated that in light of this being Superintendent Blackwell's last year it would be futile to pursue the matter since it is not likely to get much attention.

Trustee Berten stated that he had a conversation with School Board member John Gilligan and that Mr. Gilligan was unaware of the situation. Trustee Berten reported that Mr. Gilligan was surprised to learn that this was happening, particularly since the public schools need community support at this time.

A member of the Clifton Community spoke from the audience and suggested that CTM representatives attend the next meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Education and express their concerns over this issue. President Druffel stated that this was a good suggestion.

Trustee Brammer stated that historically communications between CTM and the Fairview LSDMC have been poor.

Trustee Slack stated that members of the Cincinnati Board of Education should be made aware of this situation.

Clifton resident Jack Brand spoke from the audience. Mr. Brand stated that he is in agreement with the comments previously made by Trustee Berten. Mr. Brand commented that this is a bad start to the future relationship between the school and the Clifton community. Mr. Brand suggested that this matter be brought up to School Board candidates at the candidates night in October.

Community member Betsy Black spoke from the audience. She noted that at the August, 2007, meeting it was reported by Cindy Herrick that the building architects needed to know by late August what the name of the school was going to be in for the purpose of building signage. Ms. Black wanted to know if this meant that it was too late to change the name to Fairview-Clifton German Language School as was being proposed. Ms. Black also wanted to know if this meant there would be no "interim" name for the school as had been previously discussed.

President Druffel stated that the architects request for a final name was done pursuant to contractual obligations in their agreement with the Board of Education. President Druffel stated that he was confident that Principal Mulligan and the Fairview LSDMC would still be willing to compromise on the Fairview-Clifton German Language School name.

President Druffel then read aloud to the audience the text of the proposed letter which had been authorized by the CTM Trustees at the August, 2007, meeting.

Trustee Kelft stated that it was his sense that the school naming issue was not considered that important by the Clifton community at large. It was his view that it was time for CTM to move on.

Trustee Gordon stated his view that in the past CTM had little interest in the Fairview LSDMC. Trustee Gordon stated that CTM should work with the school and welcome it to the community.

Trustee Elovitz questioned whether the draft letter was the best letter that could be written. Trustee Bishop stated that the tone of the letter could be improved.

Trustee Brammer commented that it was her opinion that in the past CTM had tried to work with the Fairview LSDMC but that CTM input was not welcomed.

Trustee Bourgoin stated that the tone of the letter could be softened; indicating CTM's desire to move forward with a better process in the future.

Trustee Goldenhar stated that she still felt that sending a letter was a good idea; but that it should be rewritten to reflect the view of the Trustees as stated at this meeting.

Trustee Berten addressed the interim name issue. He stated that it was his understanding that the initial name of the school would be temporary until a final name could be determined. President Druffel stated that he thought that suggestion might have come from Principal Mulligan, but he is not sure that the name proposed by the Fairview LSDMC is meant to be temporary only.

Trustee Slack stated that he is opposed to an interim name and that the matter should be resolved once and for all. Trustee Segers stated that temporary names are not uncommon for new buildings and that he would support an interim name.

Trustees Slack noted as a point of order that since the Trustees had voted at the August, 2007, meeting for President Druffel to write a letter to school officials concerning the naming process, that any decision to reverse that vote would require a motion to reconsider. There was a discussion among the Trustees concerning procedural issues related to Trustee Slack's point of order.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gordon, seconded by Trustee Bishop, it was moved that the Board reconsider its prior action taken at the August 6, 2007, meeting directing President Druffel to send a letter to the Superintendent and the School Board concerning the school naming issue. The Motion carried with 12 Trustees in favor, 2 Trustees opposed, and one abstention.

Upon motion made by Trustee Druffel, seconded by Trustee Lee, it was moved that President Druffel not send the letter to the Superintendent and School Board as previously directed by the Board at its August 6, 2007, meeting. The motion carried with 9 Trustee in favor; 4 Trustees opposed and 2 abstentions.

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

Upon motion made by Trustee Gordon, seconded by Trustee Goldenhar, it was moved that Clifton Town Meeting request the Fairview LSDMC to recommend to the Cincinnati Board of Education that the name of the new school be Fairview-Clifton German Language School.

A motion was made by Trustee Berten, seconded by Trustee Bishop, to amend the pending motion to include that the Fairview-Clifton German Language School name be interim only, and the parties would continue to work through the established process to recommend a final name for the school. The motion to amend the pending motion carried with 7 Trustees in favor, 6 Trustees opposed, and 1 abstention.

The motion as amended carried with 9 Trustees in favor, 4 Trustees opposed, and 1 abstention.

Upon motion made by Trustee Bishop, seconded by Trustee Bourgoin, it was moved that President Druffel send a letter to Superintendent Blackwell, Principal Mulligan, the Fairview LSDMC chair and members of the Board of Education, setting forth the actions that had been taken by the CTM Board at this meeting, the underlying complaints of CTM about the school naming process, and that the CTM Board was only agreeing to an interim name and expected the naming process to continue. The motion carried with 13 Trustees in favor and 1 abstention.

STREETSCAPES

Kip Eagen gave a report on the status of the Streetscapes event. Mr. Eagen stated that he had received most of the money that had been committed by sponsors, however one sponsor had dropped out. The event is still looking for an additional \$1,500.00 to be used in connection with T-Shirt sales.

Mr. Eagen reported that he is talking to the City of Cincinnati to see if Telford Avenue can be washed by city crews immediately prior to the Streetscapes event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Druffel gave a brief overview of the upcoming elections for Trustees. President Druffel appointed himself, Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, Trustee Bourgoin, Trustee Slack and Trustee Goldenhar to the nominating committee. President Druffel's appointments were unanimously approved by the Board.

UPTOWN CONSORTIUM GRANTS

President Druffel reported that the Uptown Consortium grant money had been received.

COUNCILMEMBER MONZEL

Cincinnati Councilmember Chris Monzel briefly addressed the Board and Community members concerning quality of life training seminars being sponsored by the City. There is an upcoming training session at the Oakley Recreation Center.

DIGGS FOUNTAIN UPDATE

Jinny Berten gave an update of repairs to the Diggs Fountain in Burnet Woods. The pump in the fountain is defective and it is being repaired.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

- Clifton resident Daniel Annes discussed his concerns about issues on Shiloh Avenue.
- There was a discussion about certain rental properties in Clifton being acquired by new owners. The owners have stated their intention to improve and up keep these properties.
- There was a discussion about who was responsible for cutting weeds at the old Clifton School. President Druffel stated that the School Board was still responsible for this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next CTM meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2007, at 7pm at the Clifton Recreation Center.
- Betsy Black reminded the group that the November, 2007, CTM meeting is scheduled to be held at the Annunciation Parish, due to the unavailability of the Clifton Recreation Center.
- Candidate's Night is scheduled for October 22, 2007, at 6:45pm at the Clifton Recreation Center.
- 7th Annual Lantern Walk is scheduled for Sunday, November 4, 2007.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Gordon, seconded by Trustee Berten, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary