

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2007**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on November 5, 2007, at the Klug Center, 3547 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:05 pm. In the absence of President Druffel the meeting was chaired by Trustee Kieft.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: John Berten, George Bishop, Jack Bourgoin, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Elizabeth Glazier, Bill Gordon, David Kieft, Malcolm Montgomery, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Jim Segers, Steve Slack and Brad Thomas. Forrest Griffen joined the meeting in progress.

The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

Trustee Kieft thanked Annunciation Parish for allowing Clifton Town Meeting to use the Klug Center for its meeting, due to the unavailability of the Clifton Recreation Center.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A draft version of the minutes of the October, 2007, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, seconded by Trustee Slack, the minutes of the October 1, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved, with three Trustees abstaining.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for October, 2007, had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Treasurer Gordon gave a presentation concerning the Treasurer's report and answered questions from Board members and members of the Clifton Community in the audience. Upon motion made by Trustee Bishop, seconded by Trustee Thomas, the October, 2007, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Gordon abstaining.

REGULAR REPORTS

Fire Department Report

No report this meeting.

Recreation Center Report (Dale Doerman)

- Seniors will be taking a holiday trip to Pyramid Hill on December 13th;
- 12 teens from the Clifton Rec Center participated in a rafting trip as part of the Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs program;
- Rec Center will be sponsoring Family Fun Nights during November and December, for parents and kids. No membership fee is required for these events;
- Try-outs for the co-ed basketball program will be taking place;
- Several teens from the Clifton Rec Center cleaned up litter in the Clifton Community;

Mr. Doerman announced that he will be retiring from the City Recreation Commission on December 1, 2007.

Community member Kip Eagen expressed to Mr. Doerman the Clifton community's thanks for his many years of service at the Clifton Recreation Center.

Police Report (Detective Meyer and Officer Williams)

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer presented the police report. A report showing October, 2007, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was made available for distribution. Detective Meyer was joined by Officer Governor Williams.

Detective Meyer stated that the October report was a good report. He noted that serious crime was down 19%. He also noted that robberies around the University of Cincinnati campus were also down about 25%.

Detective Meyer answered several questions posed by Board members.

CTM COMMITTEE REPORTS

Safety Committee- Trustee Bishop

Trustee Bishop gave a report on the Light Up Clifton campaign. He thanked Linda Goldenhar, Bruce Bernard, and all the volunteers who have made the project a success. The Committee has distributed approximately 900 packets containing light bulbs and safety information to Clifton households. Trustee Bishop reported that there are an additional 600 packets in the process of distribution; and requested volunteers to help distribute them.

Parks and Recreation Committee - Trustee Slack

Trustee Slack reported on discussions with the Cincinnati Park Board concerning music programming in Burnet Woods for 2008. Park Board representatives are considering the concept of CTM budgeting the annual Groesbeck Fund of up to \$10,000.

Trustee Slack responded to questions raised by Trustee Eby concerning the current status of the Groesbeck Fund.

Trustee Slack also reported that honeysuckle was eradicated from Burnet Woods by a small group of volunteers working with the Park Board on Nov. 3rd.

Marketing and Communications Committee - Trustee Glazier

Trustee Glazier and committee member Bill Fant reported on the status of updating the CTM website.

Housing and Zoning Committee - Trustee Montgomery

- Zoning Code changes

Trustee Montgomery reported on recent changes to the Cincinnati Zoning Code. These changes involve the authority of Hearing Examiners to approve requests for variances. Trustee Montgomery explained that if community councils wish to appeal a hearing examiner's approval of a variance there is a \$500 appeal fee.

Whereupon, Trustee Montgomery moved, with a second, that Clifton Town Meeting adopt the following resolution:

Whereas:

- **Community councils are charged with protecting and promoting the interests of their neighborhoods,**
- **Modifications to Section 1445-01 of the Cincinnati Zoning Code will grant broad authority to a single Hearing Examiner to approve requests for variances, some of which may be harmful to the community,**
- **Community councils wishing to challenge such decisions are, for practical purposes, denied the right to do so by the requirement that they pay a \$500 appeal fee,**

Be it resolved:

- 1) **That Clifton Town Meeting requests the Planning Commission, the Economic Development Committee, and City Council Members, to eliminate the appeal fee and any other fees required of community councils to participate in City governance.**

A considerable discussion of the motion ensued among the Trustees. Clifton resident Michael Ramundo addressed the Trustees and members of the Clifton community concerning issues relevant to the discussion.

Trustee Goldenhar, seconded by Trustee Bishop, moved to table the motion. The motion to table failed, with 1 in favor, 12 opposed and 1 abstention.

Upon failure of the motion to table, the question was called, and the motion passed 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstaining.

- Proposed cell phone tower

Trustee Montgomery also reported on discussions the Committee has had with representatives of T-Mobile Company concerning the election of a cell phone tower in the vicinity of Lafayette Avenue. Trustee Montgomery requested that T-Mobile representatives be given an opportunity to make a presentation to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

It was recommended that in advance of any such presentation that T-Mobile send written notice to all residents within 1000 feet of the proposed cell phone tower location.

Nomination and Election Committee (Trustee Schubauer-Berigan)

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan reported that the election of Trustees for CTM will be held on December 3, 2007, between 7:00 - 7:30pm at the Clifton Recreation Center.

At this election ten candidates will be elected to fill Trustee vacancies commencing on January 1, 2008.

7 candidates will be elected to fill a three year term expiring in 2010;
2 candidates will be elected to fill a two year unexpired term, expiring in 2009;
1 candidate will be elected to fill a one year unexpired term, expiring in 2008.

Pursuant to the CTM Constitution and By-Laws, the CTM Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals as candidates for the Trustee positions:

Ron Becker
George Bishop
Jack Bourgoin
Mike Elovitz
Bill Fant

Steven Keller
David Kieft
Al McLaughlin
Steve Slack
Jan Toraason

Secretary Eby reported that no petitions by other CTM members to be placed on the ballot had been received.

Clifton Gaslight Main Street Program

Jon Cramer, Main Street manager, gave an update on the progress of the program. Mr. Cramer reported on a grant which had been received, and the need for volunteers in connection with the Ludlow Business District survey.

Mr. Cramer reported that his e-mail address is jon@ludlowavenue.com

Ludlow Revitalization Project

Trustee Kieft gave an update on the planned demolition of the Bender Optical Building, 333 Ludlow Avenue.

Other Business

The retirement of Ed Harris, long time editor of the Clifton Chronicle was noted. The Board thanked Mr. Harris for his many years of service to the Clifton Community and the Chronicle.

Trustee Berten commented that the audio-visual equipment which had been acquired with the Uptown Consortium grant at the urging of Trustee Montgomery was a good idea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The December 3, 2007, CTM meeting will be held at the Clifton Recreation Center at 7:00pm. Trustee elections will take place at the meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Kieft, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary