

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2008**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on March 3, 2008, at the Fr. Klug Center, Annunciation Parish, 3545 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:00 pm, by President Linda Goldenhar.

**[REPORTERS NOTE:** The Clifton Recreation Center was unavailable for a meeting place because it was a polling place for elections held on March 4, 2008.]

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: John Berten, George Bishop, Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Bill Fant, Linda Goldenhar, Bill Gordon, David Keift, Robin Lee, Al McLaughlin, Malcolm Montgomery, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Jim Segers, Steve Slack and Brad Thomas.

The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

A draft version of the minutes of the February, 2008, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, seconded by President Goldenhar, the minutes of the February 4, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved.

**TREASURERS REPORT AND 2008 BUDGET**

The Treasurer's report for February, 2008, had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Trustee Gordon answered questions raised by the Trustees concerning the report. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, seconded by Trustee Berten, the February, 2008, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Gordon abstaining.

A draft copy of the 2008 CTM budget had been previously reported upon at the February 4, 2008, Board meeting, and was held over to the March, 2008 meeting for action by the Trustees. Trustee Gordon gave a presentation concerning the budget. Trustee Gordon noted several revisions, including an increase in the amount budgeted for the Lantern Walk, which had been discussed at the February 4, 2008, meeting. There was a general discussion of the budget by Trustees and community members in the audience.

Trustee Montgomery inquired whether the budget would accommodate the purchase of additional wireless microphones for use at CTM meetings.

Trustee Berten questioned whether approval of the budget was also an advance approval of appropriations listed in the budget, or whether individual expenditures forecast in the budget must be approved as they arise. Trustee Berten noted that the budget assumes a level of fund raising which CTM may not meet. Trustee Druffel stated his view that as the year progressed individual expenditures in the budget should be reviewed based on the level of fund raising which has occurred.

Community member Jack Brand questioned why there was no budgeted amount for the annual Memorial Day parade. A discussion followed concerning the historic expenses associated with the parade, which are primarily the costs of police protection required by the parade permit. Mr. Brand estimated the 2008 expense at around \$500.00. Trustee Gordon stated that there was a budgeted category in the special events category called "other", which should accommodate the Memorial Day parade expenses. Trustee McLaughlin asked about this category.

Trustee Eby asked for clarification concerning CTM sponsorship of the Memorial Day parade, and the role of Clifton Gaslight Main Street in this event. Trustee Schubauer-Berigan stated that CTM would still sponsor the event as in the past, but that food service at the event would be the responsibility of the Main Street program. Proceeds from food sales would go towards Clifton beautification as in previous years.

Additional comments from community members in attendance were received.

Upon motion made by President Goldenhar, seconded by Trustee Segers, the 2008 budget was unanimously approved by those Trustees voting.

## **SIGNATORIES FOR BANK ACCOUNTS**

Trustee Gordon reported on the necessity to add/remove signatories on CTM's accounts at Columbia Savings Bank. Upon motion made by Trustee Gordon, seconded by Trustee Eby, it was moved that former Trustee Jakubowski be removed as a signatory on the accounts, and that the current signatories be Linda Goldenhar, Dick Druffel and Bill Gordon. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REGULAR REPORTS**

### Recreation Center Report

No report this meeting

## Police Report

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer presented the police report. He was joined by Officer Governor Williams. A report showing February, 2008, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was made available for distribution.

Detective Meyer stated that he felt in general the report was good.

He noted that two robberies had been reported in the month of February. These incidents are pending investigation.

Detective Meyer also stated that the Clifton Citizens on Patrol had reported a burglary at a vacant house. Trustee Lee gave a brief report on the incident, and encouraged Clifton residents to volunteer for Citizens on Patrol.

Detective Meyer reported that thefts in Clifton are generally down. He noted an influx of teenagers from outside the Clifton neighborhood are coming to the Ludlow business district. There have been some problems with shop lifting.

Trustee Slack stated that he has noticed an increase in the number of people sleeping overnight in Burnet Woods. He asked whether this was a matter for the Park Police or District 5. Detective Meyer stated that he would talk to the Park Police about this situation.

Detective Meyer reported on an increase in skate boarders on private property in Clifton. He stated that these individuals do not appear to be Clifton residents. He requested property owners to display No Trespassing signs. Officer Williams also reminded the property owners that they can sign a "right of entry" form and give it to District 5.

Detective Meyer answered additional questions which were raised by Board members and members of the Clifton community.

President Goldenhar thanked Detective Meyer and Officer Williams for their report.

## **LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH CRISIS CENTER**

Bob Mecum and Jeff Hollenbeck gave a presentation concerning Lighthouse Youth Crisis Center on Jefferson Avenue. President Goldenhar and Trustee Bishop had previously toured the facility in response to community concerns about a shoplifting incident at Keller's IGA involving Lighthouse residents.

The representatives of Lighthouse explained to the community the mission of Lighthouse, how it operates, and various security measures in place to control the residents. They indicated their desire to work with the Clifton community to resolve any problems.

Various Trustees who had previous experience with the program spoke highly of the Lighthouse program. Trustee Lee requested that community members visit Lighthouse's website to learn more about the program. Additionally, written materials concerning the program were made available at the meeting.

The Lighthouse representatives stated that they would consult with Detective Meyer to see if there are additional measures they should take in connection with community security.

President Goldenhar thanked Mr. Mecum and Mr. Hollenbeck for their report.

### **I-75 Mt. STORM PARK UPDATE**

Stephan Spinosa, project manager for the Ohio Department of Transportation, gave a presentation and update on I-75 construction near Clifton and its potential impact on Mt. Storm Park.

Using aerial photos, Mr. Spinosa showed the proposed route of the expanded I-75 near the foot of Mt. Storm Park. He explained how much of the park land would be taken as part of the right of way, and what DOT would do to re-vegetate that portion of the park land disturbed as a result of construction. He also gave general construction time lines for the various phases of the project.

Mr. Spinosa answered various questions from Board members and community members about funding of the project. He indicated that additional information concerning the project could be obtained at [www.i75millcreekexpressway.com](http://www.i75millcreekexpressway.com).

President Goldenhar thanked Mr. Spinosa for his presentation.

### **STREET CAR UPDATE**

Trustee Thomas gave a presentation concerning a proposal before City Council regarding the construction of a street car system in downtown Cincinnati, which would be expanded to include the Uptown area near Clifton. Trustee Thomas requested the Board to pass a resolution in support of the project.

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

#### ***CLIFTON TOWN MEETING***

*SUPPORTING the creation of a Streetcar in the City of Cincinnati, Ohio.*

*WHEREAS, mobility and economic development are critical components of a healthy city;*  
*and*

*WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Streetcar will improve access in the urban core; and*

*WHEREAS, the neighborhood of Clifton will directly benefit from additional later phases in the Uptown area; and*

*WHEREAS, an economic impact study conducted by HDR Engineering Inc. indicates the Cincinnati Streetcar will have an economic impact of \$1.4 billion; and*

*WHEREAS, the entire City of Cincinnati will benefit from the additional revenues resulting from the development of the Cincinnati Streetcar and extensions of the Cincinnati Streetcar that could connect the neighborhoods of Cincinnati; and*

*WHEREAS, time is of the essence, as each year of delay adds \$5.1 million in inflation costs to the project; and*

*WHEREAS, the construction of the Cincinnati Streetcar will help the City of Cincinnati and the Region attract and retain greater numbers residents in an increasingly diverse and lively city; now, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED by the Clifton Town Meeting:*

*Section 1. That the Clifton Town Meeting fully supports the creation of a modern Streetcar System in the City of Cincinnati.*

*Section 2. That the Clifton Town Meeting urges Council to approve the funding for the Cincinnati Streetcar as soon as possible to avoid costly delays.*

*Passed \_\_\_\_\_, 2008*

Considerable discussion ensued concerning the merits of the Street Car proposal, both by Board members and members of the Clifton community in attendance.

Various speakers spoke in favor of and against the proposal.

President Goldenhar took an unofficial poll of the Clifton community members in attendance and asked for a showing of hands in favor of and against the proposal. The community members in attendance at the meeting were overwhelmingly opposed to the Street Car proposal, based upon the showing of hands.

Trustee Berten, with a second, moved that the current motion be tabled.

The motion to table passed, with 8 Trustees in favor and 7 Trustees opposed. The Street Car motion was tabled.

## **CLIFTON GASLIGHT MAIN STREET**

Trustee Keift reported that Main Street had received a \$15,000.00 grant from Good Samaritan Hospital. He also reported that shortly Main Street would have its annual review.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan reported that the survey program had been a great success. 191 "street surveys" were obtained. Additionally, about 1000 other surveys were returned either through the website or through the Clifton Chronicle.

Trustee Keift reported plans were underway to beautify the corner of Clifton and Ludlow, near the Firehouse.

He also reported that based on reports from engineers that the Bender Optical site (the proposed Plaza) will not be remediated. There appears to be ground contamination from chemicals, which are presumed to have been used by a dry cleaning establishment which had occupied the site for many years. The engineers are reviewing other options.

He answered questions concerning the progress of the installation of sidewalks. He hopes that this will be finished by late Spring, 2008. The former Bender Optical site will be the staging area for the sidewalk work; and therefore no work on the proposed plaza will begin until the sidewalks are finished.

Trustee Keift reminded community members to visit the Clifton Gaslight Main Street website at [www.ludlowavenue.com](http://www.ludlowavenue.com).

## **LCC REPORT**

At the February 4, 2008, meeting the Board authorized the Executive Committee to meet with the Clifton Business and Professional Association (CBPA) to seek resolution of the outstanding property tax bill owed by the LLC on the former Bender Optical property (the proposed plaza). The Board authorized the Executive Committee to expend no more than \$1,200.00 to resolve the outstanding tax issue and to report to the full Board at the March, 2008 meeting.

Trustee Druffel reported that he met with representatives of the CBPA and reached agreement that CTM and CBPA would each advance the LLC \$750 to satisfy the property tax bill, leaving a very small amount of funds in the LLC account. The Executive Committee approved this action. Trustee Druffel reported that the LLC has paid the property tax and a delinquency fee.

Trustee Druffel reported that meetings are being scheduled with the CBPA to discuss long term issues concerning the LLC; including seeking a property tax abatement or other adjustment for the property; as well as a plan to keep the LLC financially solvent in the future. The Executive Committee will report to the full Board as events develop.

## **FAIRVIEW-CLIFTON GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL**

Trustee Gordon reported that new permanent signage has been installed at the school construction site on Clifton Avenue indicating the name of the school is Fairview-Clifton German Language School. Trustee Gordon also reported that occupancy for the new building is currently being planned for the start of the 2008-2009 school year in late summer, 2008.

## **COMMUNITY PRIORITY REQUESTS (CPR) FUNDING**

Jon Cramer reported that CPR funding requests must be submitted to the City in early April, 2008. Each community can request up to 3 project funding requests. Mr. Cramer gave a brief overview of the type of projects eligible for CPR funding. Since the filing deadline for the CPR funding request is prior to the next regularly scheduled CTM meeting on April 7, 2008, it was determined that ideas for CPR projects should be sent to CTM for review by the Executive Committee. President Goldenhar encouraged members of the Clifton Community in attendance at the meeting to send their suggestions to CTM.

## **PARKS COMMITTEE**

Trustees Slack and McLaughlin reported on meetings with representatives of the Park Board concerning music programs in Burnet Woods. It was reported that currently the Park Board is open to our input concerning the type of music, however we are not invited to assist them in disbursing the Groesbeck Fund without their music booking agent whose budget is privately kept.

A brief discussion ensued among Board members and community members in the audience concerning the history of the Groesbeck Fund and CTM's attempts to insure that the Fund is used for its intended purpose, to provide music programs in Burnet Woods.

Despite these unresolved problems, it appears that the Park Board will currently sponsor musical programs in Burnet Woods, primarily in the summer.

## **COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan reported on CTM membership trends. She displayed a graph she had prepared indicating CTM membership and revenue derived from membership dues. She reported that the Cincinnati Zoo had donated 200 Zoo passes to be used as incentives for new and renewing members.

Trustee Fant reported on changes to the CTM website, [www.cliftoncommunity.org](http://www.cliftoncommunity.org) and listserv. Trustee Fant responded to questions from the Clifton community members in attendance concerning website changes.

Trustee Fant requested that he be reimbursed \$129.85 for out of pocket expenses in connection with revamping the website. Trustee Fant also requested that the Board approve an amount of not more than \$350.00 to be spent in connection with various website and listserv improvements. Upon motion made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the expenditures requested by Trustee Fant. Trustee Fant abstained from voting on this issue.

Trustee Fant moved, seconded by Trustee Thomas, that the Board approve the expenditure of not more than \$175 for the purchase of additional wireless microphones to be used in connection with Board of Trustee meetings.

The motion passed unanimously. Trustee Montgomery will be primarily responsible for acquiring the microphones and will report to the full Board at the next meeting.

## **FUND RAISING**

Trustee Thomas reported that he is continuing to work on fund raising issues and that he is planning to schedule a meeting of his committee in the near future and will report to the full Board.

Trustee Keift observed that fund raising was a very important issue for CTM and that an entire Board meeting should be devoted to that topic. President Goldenhar stated that she would take that suggestion under active consideration.

## **KEEP CINCINNATI BEAUTIFUL MINI GRANT REQUEST**

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan addressed the Board about a proposal to apply for a Keep Cincinnati Beautiful mini grant of \$500 for the purpose of establishing a community garden on the Clifton/Avondale border, near the intersection of Ruther, Glenmary and Vines streets (the Old City Barn property).

Over the past few weeks, a group of Clifton residents (most of whom are CTM members) has been working with the Cincinnati Zoo over improvements that the Zoo wants to make to its City Barn property at the intersection of Vine, Ruther and Glenmary. One improvement is a community garden space, and others are improving landscaping around the property.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan received information from Clifton resident Jane Allan about the project.

The City Barn Community Garden Project is an effort to landscape and beautify a parcel of land located on Vine Street at the intersection of Ruther, Bishop, Glenmary and Vine. The area of interest is the vacant grass-covered parcel adjacent to and south of the old City Barn. Both the City Barn and this vacant parcel are owned by the Zoo. Though the parcel is located in Avondale, it directly borders Clifton and Corryville.

The Zoo approached nearby residents for community support and interest in improving the area with landscaping and a community garden. The City Barn Community Garden Project is a collaborative effort involving the residents of these communities and the Zoo. The project will be applying for a Mini-Grant through Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and the process requires grant applicants be registered non-profit groups. As such, the Project organizers request that CTM act as the grant administrator.

This is a great opportunity to leverage Zoo resources (expertise, labor and equipment, and contacts for discounts and donations of materials) and volunteers from the neighborhoods to make a significant improvement to this intersection that is a very visible gateway to Clifton as well as our neighboring communities to the east.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan reported that CTM and community members have been trying to clean up and beautify this corner for several years, and now the project seems to have some momentum from the Zoo.

There was a brief discussion concerning how the grant money would be administered. Trustee Schubauer-Berigan stated that she would assist the CTM Treasurer in the administrative details.

Upon motion made by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, and duly seconded, those Board members voting unanimously approved CTM applying for the Keep Cincinnati Beautiful mini grant requested by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center, at 7:00 pm.
- Trustee Segers announced that Annunciation School is sponsoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Annunciation Gaslight Gala on April 19, 2008. Informational flyers on this fund raising event were made available at the meeting.
- Trustee McLaughlin announced that his artwork would be on display at Sitwell's Coffeehouse on Ludlow Avenue.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Keift, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary