

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING
APRIL 7, 2008**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on April 7, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:03 pm, by President Linda Goldenhar.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: Ron Becker, John Berten, George Bishop, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Bill Fant , Linda Goldenhar, Bill Gordon, David Keift, Al McLaughlin, Malcolm Montgomery, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Jim Segers, and Steve Slack.

The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A draft version of the minutes of the March, 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 March 3, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved by those Trustees voting.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer's report for March, 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 Schubauer-Berigan, seconded by President Goldenhar, the March, 2008, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Gordon abstaining.

REGULAR REPORTS

Recreation Center Report

The Recreation Center is winding down its Winter programs. The age 12 and under Hockey team won the league championship.

Among other programs, the Recreation Center will be offering Jazzercise and teen basketball this Spring. During the Summer the Center will be offering teen programs, the Art for Artists program, and a "Monday Night Girls Only Program".

Police Report

Cincinnati Police Sergeant Jason Volkerding presented the police report. He was joined by Captain Bailey. A report showing March, 2008, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was made available for distribution.

Sgt. Volkerding commented that District 5 was working on a new format for presenting crime statistics to the community, and he was hopeful that this new format would include a map showing crime hot spots.

Sgt. Volkerding also reported that additional funding for walking patrols was available and that Captain Bailey had made a request for increased walking patrols in the Ludlow business district and adjacent gaslight areas of Clifton.

Sgt. Volkerding stated that crime was increasing in Clifton, which was also a citywide trend. He attributed this increase to more moderate temperatures as Spring arrives. Sgt. Volkerding reported that drug related vice activity had increased.

Community member Kip Eagen requested that speed warning signs be placed on McAlpin Avenue. Sgt. Volkerding stated that he would look into this.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan commented on the increase in graffiti in the Ludlow business district. Sgt. Volkerding stated that the Police are aware of this increased activity and that it is under investigation. Captain Bailey also commented on the graffiti problem, known as "tagging", which is generally related to gang activity.

President Goldenhar asked about the status of surveillance cameras being installed. Captain Bailey stated that he was having a meeting with Uptown Consortium where issues concerning how many cameras and where they would be installed would be discussed. There were also technical issues regarding whether the cameras would be stationary or moveable. Captain Bailey felt that Clifton would be one of the first communities have the cameras installed.

President Goldenhar thanked Sargent Volkerding and Captain Bailey for their report.

Burnett Woods Report

Michael George presented a report on upcoming events and activities in Burnet Woods.

The Park Board is sponsoring a summer camp at the Trailside Nature Center at Burnet Woods. Mr. George left informational flyers at the meeting. Additional information can be obtained at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/parks or by calling (513) 321-6208.

The Burnet Woods Spring Wildflower Walks will be held on Tuesday, April 15, April 22, and April 29 between 6:30-7:30pm. There will also be a walk on Saturday, April 19 between 10:30am and noon. Interested persons should meet at the Diggs Plaza fountain, corner of Ludlow and Clifton Avenues. Additional information can be obtained at the Trailside Nature Center (513) 751-3679.

Mr. George also left a number of brochures listing various nature activities in the Cincinnati Parks during Spring, 2008.

President Goldenhar thanked Mr. George for his report.

FUND RAISING

President Goldenhar gave a brief statement concerning the new format for CTM meetings. The Board will try to dedicate the bulk of each meeting to a single topic of special interest to the Clifton community. This meeting is being dedicated to the issue of CTM fund raising.

President Goldenhar gave a brief explanation concerning the reasons why it is important and necessary for CTM to raise money for its various projects. Trustee Gordon stated that CTM's involvement in the Clifton Community LLC as well as the Clifton Gaslight Main Street projects would require CTM to raise additional funds.

President Goldenhar stated that the CTM Executive Committee and others had generated and reviewed a list of 40 possible fund raising ideas. A copy of the list was made available to the Trustees and community members in attendance at the meeting, and had previously been circulated to CTM members via the listserv. (A copy of the list is attached to these meeting minutes).

“Adopt a Gaslight”

President Goldenhar stated that she had investigated the “Adopt a Gaslight” idea and had been informed by Duke Energy that this would not be allowed.

Esquire Theater Event

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan asked community member Jack Brand about his experiences with previous CTM fund raising events involving the Esquire Theater. Mr. Brand stated that in the past CTM raised between \$3,000.00 and \$4,000.00 through those events.

Trustee Keift stated that it takes about 5 weeks to obtain a class “F” liquor permit, if CTM wants to serve beer at the event. Trustee Thomas, who was not present at the meeting, had previously stated that he would assist CTM in liquor permit issues.

Trustee Berten stated that a similar event in connection with fund raising for the Diggs Plaza brought in about \$1,000.00

Trustees Slack, Gordon and McLaughlin made comments concerning the type of event involving the Esquire that they would like to see. Community members Jack Brand and Jinny Berten also made suggestions concerning the event.

President Goldenhar stated that she will take the lead in developing a CTM fund raising event involving the Esquire. Trustee Schubauer-Berigan will co-chair the committee. Trustees Becker and Montgomery also volunteered to help.

Street Scapes

Trustee Segers addressed the Board concerning his ideas to improve the annual Street Scapes event. He talked with Professor Frank Russell from the University of Cincinnati for help and advice. It was noted that Annunciation parish will have its Oktoberfest event at the same time as Street Scapes and possible links between the two events should be explored.

Community member Kip Eagen, who has run the event for the past several years, stated that he will have a reduced role in the 2008 event. It will be necessary to find someone to take on some of the duties, mostly the organization and promotion of the event, which Mr. Eagen previously performed. Mr. Eagen addressed the need for more corporate sponsorships and well as the need for additional space for the event.

Mr. Eagen read a list of the duties of the promoters. It was discussed that Professor Russell is thinking about getting involved in the promotion of the event, as part of a class project, but the event doesn't coincide with the school year, which may make it difficult.

There was considerable discussion whether the historic September date should be fixed. Mr. Eagen stated that having the same date each year was an advantage in promoting the event and getting artists to participate. He stated that work on the event should start about three months in advance.

There was considerable discussion concerning the "car painting" event at last year's Street Scapes, and the extent that this idea could be expanded to include a fund raising element.

Trustee Elovitz began a discussion about the up front costs of the event. Mr. Eagen responded to some of the cash flow issues. President Goldenhar stated that Good Samaritan Hospital may be willing to give CTM a \$5,000.00 grant for the event in September, 2008.

Trustee Fant and Trustee McLaughlin commented on issues relating to expanding the physical area of the event. Community member Jinny Berten also spoke to this issue.

A committee of Trustees Segers (co-chair), Thomas (co-chair), Fant, McLaughlin, Bishop and community member Jinny Berten was formed to work on Street Scapes.

Proposed Ludlow Avenue Plaza - Brick Sales

Trustee Keift reported on a meeting with the architects concerning the status of a plaza on the site of the former Bender Optical building. Due to environmental issues at the site concerning chemical contamination, it is unclear what type of surface will be allowed on the plaza. As a result, it is unclear whether selling engraved paving stones or bricks for the plaza will be a realistic fund raising option.

Trustee Berten commented that the promoters of the Diggs Plaza had looked into selling bricks and that the cost of the bricks was very expensive.

It was determined to revisit the Plaza issue once a more definite idea of the surface requirements was obtained from the architects. Trustees Druffel and Gordon will co-chair the committee looking into this issue.

Clifton House Tour

President Goldenhar announced that Trustee Keller had resigned from the Board. Although Mr. Keller was willing to help out on the house tour he was no longer able to be the committee chair of this event, scheduled for Mother's Day, 2009. Thus it was necessary to find a new chair for this committee.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan spoke concerning the fact that the Clifton House Tour, held every three years on Mother's Day, was the primary fund raising event for CTM. President Goldenhar strongly encouraged all Board members to volunteer for this event.

A search for a chair of the Clifton House Tour committee will continue, with the names of several potential candidates suggested.

The following Board members and community members agreed to work on the Clifton House Tour committee, Trustees Berten, Elovitz, Eby, Schubauer-Berigan and community member Jack Brand.

Flying Pig Marathon

Trustee Gordon reported that fund raising ideas in connection with the Flying Pig Marathon would have to wait until the 2009 event, since the current event is scheduled for May, 2008, and it is too late to get involved this year.

Winter Holiday Concerts

Kip Eagen commented that he felt a series of winter holiday concerts would be a good fund raising idea. It was suggested that CTM might partner with several Clifton based houses of worship to host the event. It was suggested that this event could also be in conjunction with the Clifton Carriage Ride event.

Dues Increase

President Goldenhar raised the issue, which had been suggested to her by a CTM member, that additional funds could be generated by raising membership dues.

A discussion ensued among Board members and members of the Clifton community in attendance at the meeting concerning the issue of a dues increase. There was a discussion concerning how CTM's membership dues compared to other community councils, and although the dues structure of all the community councils was not known, it was believed that CTM was on the higher end of the spectrum.

Trustee Eby suggested that discussions of membership dues increases be put off until the results of other fund raising activities can be analyzed.

It was suggested, without objection, that a tiered CTM dues structure be explored, whereby members would be afforded the opportunity to voluntarily subscribe to a dues amount which was greater than the basic membership dues amount.

PARKS COMMITTEE

Trustee Slack encouraged community members to participate in the Wildflower Walks during the month of April in Burnet Woods.

Trustee Slack announced that on April 24th he will be leading a hike in Mt. Storm Park to view wildflowers in the wooded areas of the Park. Trustee Slack observed that some of these flowers may be at risk as a result of the planned I-75 construction at the foot of Mt. Storm Park.

Trustee Slack reported that he had been informed that the Park Board will be removing the fence surrounding the Rawson Woods Preserve.

CLIFTON GASLIGHT MAIN STREET

Trustee Keift reported that on April 17th Clifton Gaslight Main Street will host a breakfast at Sitwell's for Ludlow business district owners to discuss the recent survey which was conducted.

On April 26th, as part of the Great American Clean Up, volunteers will meet at 9am at the Diggs Fountain Plaza to clean up Ludlow Avenue.

FAIRVIEW-CLIFTON GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

President Goldenhar received information from Cindy Herrick that on May 25th the new Fairview-Clifton German Language School will be open for public tours. The Old Clifton School, the future site of the Clifton Cultural Arts Center, will also be open for public tours.

COMMUNITY PRIORITY REQUESTS (CPR) FUNDING

Trustee Keift reported that a CPR funding request had been made for improvements and beautification near the Clifton firehouse, at the corner of Ludlow and Clifton Avenues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next meeting will be held on Monday May 5, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center, at 7:00 pm.
- Present Goldenhar announced that Trustee Steve Keller notified her of his resignation from the Board. There are now two vacancies on the current Board.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, seconded by Trustee Segers, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary

2008-2009 CTM FUND RAISING IDEAS

A list of 40 possible fund raising ideas was reviewed. The list was reduced by about two thirds and ideas sorted into categories based on whether we believed the activity could get the idea into production this year and their fund raising potential.

MOST PROBABLE TO YIELD BIG RESULTS IN 2008 -2009

- 1) Esquire:
 - a. Movie night with/without beer
 - b. Open a movie at Esquire, followed by dessert and drinks at Ludlow Garage or some other site.
 - c. Movies Round the Clock: 48 hours of great classic movies shown at The Esquire with food available for purchase. You could buy any amount of hours. – Maybe movies that were filmed in Cincinnati

- 2) Build Streetscapes into major fund raising event: (Jim S going to speak with Kip and Frank Russell and begin fleshing out a business plan of how this could work)
 - a. Beer, soda and food,
 - b. car painting,
 - c. booths,
 - d. tee-shirts,
 - e. Yearly Posters,
 - f. calendar
 - g. auction off the streetscapes art
 - h. Clifton Art Show
 - i. Recycled Art Sale

- 3) Sell names on a bricks for the Plaza

- 4) Begin working on 2009 house tour

IDEAS THAT MAY BE EASILY IMPLEMENTED BUT DO NOT OFFER AS MUCH FUND RAISING

- 5) Expand Lantern Walk

- 6) A raffle where some donated or purchased items were raffled off. Tickets could be sold at various locations. We might be able to get some interesting prizes such as vacations for two, a week at a condominium on the beach or the mountains, a Vespa motor scooter, etc....

- 7) A Clifton Calendar featuring pictures of our community and, perhaps, pictures of restaurants with a recipe included, with coupons on the back page for a sampling at the restaurants, along with a CTM membership form, etc. This could be offered as an incentive to get people to join CTM.

PROMISING IDEAS THAT NEED MORE RESEARCH

- 8) Culinary arts – special dinner event perhaps with Cincinnati State.
- 9) Adopt a gaslight
- 10) Get a Clifton group to volunteer to work at Flying Pig marathon, ATP tournament in Mason, and/or Reds game vending with proceeds to CTM.
- 11) Fancy fund-raising dinner at Tink's, probably coordinated with a (special showing of a) movie at the Esquire. This raised some \$2500 in 2005. This would need to be coordinated with MS.
- 12) Clifton Festival in Burnet Woods in conjunction with the Groesbeck music. (We might be able to at least do (a) this year in conjunction with the Park Board's May 31st festival).
 - a. Beer....all beer not sold can be returned so that is a win/win/ This is a big money maker and would be ours.
 - b. Soft drinks...same goes for soft drinks. Both items can provide staff if we want it.
 - c. We can get booths for \$50.00 each. Delivered and set up and taken down) I think we could get \$200 for them. I am sure we could sell 100 so right there is \$20.000.
 - d. Maybe Clifton businesses could be less.
 - e. Maybe we could have a Clifton Art section.
 - f. Jude Johnson at the park can walk us through this re insurance etc. Parks need 3 months lead time.
 - g. We could have old fashioned contests for the kids, a bike parade to open it etc.
 - h. But before we do this, everyone on CTMs board must commit to work and to form committees.
 - i. The second year of a festival is always easier...it could be an annual event.
- 13) A "Taste of Clifton" whereby people could buy a set of tickets that would enable them to try various offerings from the different restaurants or bars in Clifton. I am thinking of, say, a packet of 5 tickets which might enable the buyer to have a glass of wine at the Ludlow Wine Store, a fresh flower at Adrian's, an appetizer at Tink's, some pizza at Dewey's, a featured item at Olive's, dessert at Biaggio's, etc. I think the idea would be for a "sampling" or "progressive" kind of tasting of various things offered at the different restaurants or bars. It would be interesting to have more offerings than five, perhaps ten, so that the buyers could choose five of the places they would want to sample from the ten tickets available. Tickets to the event would be sold for a specific night so that a kind of energy is created for the neighborhood, businesses could stay open late and offer special features. We could, of course, hold this event several times throughout the year.
- 14) "Speakers" night, or series of nights, where we could have a guest speaker with some ability to draw a large audience, and we could charge for tickets. We could have

something like the "Clifton Speakers Series" over a series of nights, say every month or so, in order to get a stream of income flowing.

15) Host some seasonal music events like a Christmas concert, maybe in tandem with our horse carriage rides, so that music is offered while food and drinks are sold.

16) If the Blue Wisp moves to Ludlow Garage we could cooperate with the BW to do periodic "Jazz + Dine in Clifton" evenings - your ticket for the evening would entitle you to admission to the jazz show and a %-off-food discount at a participating Clifton restaurant before the show. These nights would be scheduled for not-terribly-busy evenings at the BW. The ticket price should be about the normal admission to the BW or maybe a little more; we would want \$5 per ticket as our cut for getting customers to the BW on a slow night; we would expect participating restaurants to contribute the same %-off out of their proceeds to Mainstreet.