

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 2, 2008**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on June 2, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:00 pm, by President Linda Goldenhar.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: Ron Becker, George Bishop, Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Bill Fant, Linda Goldenhar, Bill Gordon, David Keift, 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 May, 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 May 5, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved by those Trustees voting.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

The Treasurer's report for May, 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 May, 2008, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Gordon abstaining.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**Recreation Center Report**

Tom Reece introduced himself as the new Director of the Clifton Recreation Center. President Goldenhar welcome Mr. Reece to the Clifton Community.

## Police Report

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer presented the police report. He was joined by Lt. Michael Fern. Detective Meyer announced that the report showing May, 2008, crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was not yet available for distribution.

Detective Meyer reported that there have been approximately 10 burglaries in the Clifton and nearby areas since May 18<sup>th</sup>. Although police were not initially sure if the Clifton area burglaries were related to a series of burglaries in North Avondale; police now think that there may be a connection.

Detective Meyer stated that both District 5 and District 4 are working very hard to apprehend the individual or individuals who are responsible.

In response to a questions Detective Meyer stated that most of the homes which were targeted did not have alarm systems. Detective Meyer emphasized that it is important to keep your property well light at night.

Lt. Fern reported on a series of jay-walking tickets which had been issued in the Ludlow Business District. Lt. Fern stated that stepped up enforcement was the result of citizen complaints received by District 5.

Lt. Fern reported that there would be increased foot patrol activity in the Ludlow Business District are various times during the weekend.

President Goldenhar thanked the officers for their report.

### **CLIFTON CULTURAL ARTS CENTER (CCAC)**

Clifton Cultural Arts Centers President Cindy Herrick, and Mark McKillip, Secretary, introduced Ruth Dickey to the community as the new Executive Director of CCAC. Ms. Dickey briefly addressed the audience concerning her goals for the CCAC.

Mr. McKillip gave an extensive presentation, with graphics, to the community regarding future plans for both the Old Clifton School building and the Carriage House. Mr. McKillip answered various questions from community members.

President Goldenhar thanked the CCAC representatives for their report and welcomed Ms. Dickey to the Clifton community.

### **CLIFTON GASLIGHT MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION**

Mary Schubauer-Berigan gave a Power Point presentation concerning the results of a Ludlow Avenue Business District Patron Survey. Data for the survey was obtained from in person interviews on Ludlow Avenue; website responses; as well as response sheets contained in the Clifton Chronicle.

## **LUDLOW REVITALIZATION REPORT**

Phil Herrick reported that work on the sidewalks portion of the Ludlow Revitalization Project should start within the next 2 to 4 weeks. Mr. Herrick answered questions from Board members and community members regarding the project.

## **CLIFTON COMMUNITY LLC REPORT**

Trustee Druffel reported that real estate taxes for the property formerly occupied by the Bender Optical building and owned by the Clifton Community LLC were due on June, 20, 2008. Trustee Druffel stated that the LLC has insufficient assets to pay these taxes.

It was moved by Trustee Druffel, and seconded, that:

*Clifton Town Meeting Resolution  
June 2, 2008*

*Re: CTM the property tax bill payment for Clifton Community LLC.*

*This is to authorize payment of \$1,923.28 to the Clifton Community LLC for the payment of the second half of 2007 property tax bill. The payment represents 50% of the total tax bill. The other half of the bill will be paid by the Clifton Business and Professional Association. The bill is due June 20, 2008.*

*CTM is a member of the Clifton Community LLC with the Clifton Business and Professional Association. The LLC owns the property located at 333-335 Ludlow Ave.*

An extended discussion ensued among the Trustees concerning CTM's legal obligations to the LLC as well as the wisdom of making the payment, with Trustees speaking on both sides of the issue.

Trustee Gordon proposed an amendment to the Motion, which was seconded, that any such payment by CTM would be with the understanding that by September 1, 2008, appropriate documents would be filed with the Hamilton County Board of Revision to seek reduction on the property valuation.

The motion, as amended, carried with 10 Trustees voting in favor, 1 Trustee opposed, and 2 Trustees choosing not to vote.

Trustee Fant brought up the issue of liability insurance on the LLC property, which is now a vacant lot. An extended discussion ensued among the Trustees concerning the necessity of liability insurance and issues related to it.

Trustee Bishop, with a second, moved that by the next meeting (August 4, 2008) CTM make a determination concerning CTM's liability for the property and the cost of procuring liability insurance.

The motion carried with 12 Trustees voting in favor and 1 opposed.

## **RAWSON WOODS FENCE ISSUE**

At the invitation of President Goldenhar, Mr. Steve Schuckman, Superintendent of Division of Planning and Design Program Services, Cincinnati Park Board, addressed the Board and community members concerning the status of the fence removal and/or replacement at the Rawson Woods Preserve, at the corner of McAlpin and Middleton.

Prior to this meeting President Goldenhar had received numerous e-mails from Clifton residents expressing their opinion concerning this matter. These community comments had been shared with Mr. Schuckman prior to his presentation.

Mr. Schuckman stated that the Park Board was planning on replacing the fencing along McAlpin and Middleton at Rawson Woods since the fencing that is there is in a deteriorating condition. Just as the Park Board was preparing to replace the fence, the idea came up to take down the existing fence but not put anything back to replace it (along the street frontage). None of the City's other parks or preserves have fencing, even ones with sensitive habitats. And there are hillsides and drop offs along sidewalks at Burnet Woods and at other park sites that are unfenced so this did not seem like it would be a problem. The Park Board never planned to make any other changes to the site or treat it in any other way than as a preserve (like the adjacent Edgewood Grove Preserve). Park officials consulted with their land use managers, naturalists, Park Police and park operations staff and the consensus was that removing the fence was a good idea.

Mr. Schuckman acknowledged that Clifton residents and neighbors of the park have been discussing the issue and many of them (not all) voiced concerns, and these concerns have been shared with him. Given the sentiments and concerns expressed, the Park Board has no problem keeping the fence as is. One alternative suggested is to take down the fence and not put a replacement up for a trial period - say 30 to 60 days. Park Board officials could then see what the impact was and at that time make a final decision on putting up a new fence.

Mr. Schuckman stated that he was at the meeting this evening to discuss these issues with Clifton residents.

President Goldenhar opened the floor for community comment and discussion. Several community members spoke in favor of replacing the fence with a new fence, including George Rodin, Kip Eagen; Burt Lockwood and Dora Lewis, among others.

After considerable discussion by community members, President Goldenhar suggested that there be a showing of hands in favor of various options presented by Mr. Schuckman:

1. Keep existing fence
2. Replace existing fence with new fence
3. No fence at all
4. Remove fence and wait and see

The overwhelming number of community members expressed their desire to replace the existing fence with a new fence. Mr. Schuckman stated that the Park Board would proceed along those lines.

## **DOG PARK DISCUSSION**

At the May 5, 2008, meeting the Board had adopted a "Resolution In Support Of The Concept Of a Dog Park In Clifton". This resolution had been forwarded to the Park Board for its information.

President Goldenhar had also invited Mr. Schuckman to address the community on the subject of a dog park in Clifton (Mt. Storm Park or Burnet Woods).

President Goldenhar advised the Board and community members that she had received a letter from Park Board representative Willie Cardin indicating that the Park Board was not supportive of a Dog Park in Burnet Woods.

Mr. Schuckman gave the Park Board's reasoning for not supporting a dog park in Burnet Woods or Mt. Storm Park. He answered questions posed by various Clifton residents in attendance at the meeting.

Clifton resident Diane Young presented Mr. Schuckman with a petition signed by Clifton residents in support of a dog park.

A discussion ensued regarding whether, in lieu of a dog park, the leash laws in either Burnet Woods or Mt. Storm Park could be relaxed at times when the parks were not heavily used.

Upon motion made by Trustee Slack, which was seconded, it was unanimously resolved that relaxing the lease laws in either Burnet Woods or Mt. Storm Park, during appropriate times of the day, should be further explored.

## **MOUNT STORM PARK - I-75 EXPANSION**

Upon motion made by Trustee Slack, which was seconded, it was moved as follows:

*6-2-2008*

*To: Our honorable elected officials and those involved with the I-75 Freeway expansion into historic Mount Storm Park, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

*From: The Clifton Town Meeting, Neighborhood Community Council, Cincinnati, Ohio*

### *I-75 Resolution*

*Whereas: The Clifton Town Meeting has been informed that ODOT plans to expand I-75, cut the toe of the hillside of Mount Storm Park, regrade the lower portion of the hill and install a 3 foot barrier wall.*

*Whereas: Grading in these areas will result in a greatly altered topography, and encompass removal of over 550,000 cubic yards of the hillside in Mount Storm Park to lessen the slope and accommodate the three-foot maximum height of the wall.*

*Whereas: The Clifton Town Meeting feels that this current plan intends to make the park fit the wall rather than the wall fit the park, and as such will significantly degrade the natural topography and associated aesthetics of the park's namesake.*

*Be it resolved:*

*The Clifton Town Meeting encourages our elected officials, government representatives, and associated contractors to explore alternatives to minimize the extent of the proposed grading in historic Mount Storm Park. We encourage alternatives such as variable, or contoured wall heights in order to maintain, if not emphasize the natural contours of the park, and to minimize the negative effects of typical grading that will be seen by millions of motorists and our neighboring communities.*

The motion carried unanimously.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan reported that the nominating committee was in the process of proposing a slate of candidates for the upcoming CTM Trustee election.

## **STREET SCAPES**

It was reported that due to anticipated sidewalk construction on Ludlow Avenue as part of the Ludlow revitalization project; and the lack of a program director, that the Street Scapes event may be cancelled this year.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting will be held on Monday August 4, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center, at 7:00 pm. The July, 2008, meeting is cancelled.
- President Goldenhar announced that this would be Trustee Keift's last CTM meeting. He is relocating to Iowa to take a new position. President Goldenhar thanked Trustee Keift on behalf of the Board and community members for many years of service to the Clifton community.

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion made by President Goldenhar, seconded by Trustee Eby, the meeting was adjourned upon unanimous consent at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary