

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2008**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on October 6, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:04 pm, by Trustee Dick Druffel, who chaired the meeting.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

The following Trustees were present for the meeting: Ron Becker, John Berten, George Bishop, Dick Druffel, Gary Eby, Mike Elovitz, Bill Fant, Bill Gordon, Robin Lee, Malcolm Montgomery, Mary Schubauer-Berigan, 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 September, 2008, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Trustee Montgomery suggested certain corrections and additions to the draft. Trustee Eby accepted Trustee Montgomery's additions and incorporated them in the draft minutes being submitted. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, seconded by Trustee Druffel, the minutes of the September 8, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved by those Trustees voting.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer's report for September, 2008, had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. Trustee Fant answered questions raised by the Trustees concerning the report. Upon motion made by Trustee Schubauer-Berigan, seconded by Trustee Druffel, the September, 2008, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Fant abstaining.

Trustee Fant noted that the Internal Revenue Service had levied a penalty against CTM, in the amount of \$1,080.00, for late filing of an informational tax return. Trustee Fant stated that he had paid the amount, after consulting with the Executive Committee, to avoid the imposition of additional fines and penalties. Trustee Fant requested that the full CTM Board ratify his actions.

Upon motion made by Trustee Druffel, with a second, the Board unanimously ratified the payment of the IRS amount.

Trustee Fant stated that Trustee Gordon had filed an appeal with the IRS on behalf of CTM.

There was also a discussion about CTM paying for landscaping at the Fairview-Clifton German Language School. After a brief discussion concerning what had been budgeted for this purpose, the expenditure was approved by the Board.

REGULAR REPORTS

Fire Report

Cincinnati Fire Department Captain Campbell presented a report concerning fire department responses and run in and near the Clifton area. He reported that there were extensive fire department responses during the wind storm and subsequent extended power outage in late September.

Trustee Druffel thanked Captain Campbell for his report.

Recreation Center Report

Clifton Recreation Center director Tom Reese reported that 80 children participated in the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs event at Miami Whitewater Forest.

He also reported that as a result of the recent power outage some the before and after school programs had to be cancelled. Parents will be credited for fees paid for those lost days. He reported that Fairview Clifton German Language School will be hosting a mini-camp.

Trustee Druffel thanked Mr. Reese for his report.

Police Report

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer presented the police report for Clifton and nearby areas.. He was joined by Officer Lisa Johnson, who is the new neighborhood officer for Clifton and adjoining neighborhoods.

Detective Meyer presented a one year comparison of crime statistics. He reported that reported crime in the past year is about the same as the previous year.

Detective Meyer stated that thefts from autos continues to be the biggest crime problem in Clifton. He stated that this was also a problem citywide.

Trustee Bishop asked Detective Meyer about the current status of surveillance cameras. Detective Meyer stated that Clifton will definitely get the cameras; but he doesn't know when; or where the cameras will be placed.

Detective Meyer stated that the information supplied to the Police Department by CTM will be reviewed in connection with surveillance camera placement.

Trustee Gordon thanked Detective Meyer for sending the crime reported by e-mail prior to the meeting.

Trustee Lee reported that Citizens on Patrol continues to seek volunteers.

A community member asked Detective Meyer about vandalism which had occurred at Good Samaritan Hospital. Detective Meyer stated that the incident is still under investigation and that no arrests had been made.

Trustee Druffel thanked the officers for their report.

Burnett Woods Report

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

Mr. George reported on the planetarium exhibit at the Trailside Museum. The shows are held on the 3rd Friday of the month, and also on the 1st Saturday of the month.

On Saturday, October 18th there will be a workshop on native plants, and ways to eradicate invasive species. The workshop will be held between 1pm and 3pm.

Trustee Druffel thanked Mr. George for his report.

CLIFTON GASLIGHT MAIN STREET

Trustee Gordon gave a brief report in the absence of Jon Cramer.

Mr. Cramer had looked in the issues of the bus stop and the trucking loading zones on Ludlow Avenue, which had been raised at the September, 2008, CTM meeting. It was reported that the project architect stated that the bus stop was never intended to be moved in front of Graeters.

It was reported that the building housing Mediterranean Foods on Ludlow Avenue had suffered significant damage as a result of the recent wind storm. It was reported that the owners intend to restore the building to its original condition.

Community member Nathan Davis addressed the community concerning the placement of the bus stop on Ludlow Avenue.

Community member Howard Goldberg discussed the placement of the Port-o-let on the future Ludlow Plaza site and requested that it be moved because it is unsightly.

FORM BASED ZONING CODES

Cincinnati City Council Member Roxanne Qualls made a presentation to the community concerning form based zoning codes. Council Member Qualls presented an extensive power point presentation explaining form based zoning codes and how it is being used in other cities, particularly Nashville, Tennessee.

Council Member Qualls invited the Clifton Community to participate in developing a form based code for the Clifton Community. She stated that four other city neighborhoods are seriously interested in the program, Westwood, College Hill, Pleasant Ridge and Madisonville.

Following Council Member Qualls' presentation she answered questions from community members and CTM trustees.

Trustee Lee asked how the community could obtain additional information about the program.

Trustee Schubauer-Berigan asked about the distinction between an Urban Design Overlay, which Clifton currently has, and the proposed form based code.

Community member Steve Schrieber noted that the Zoning Code and recently been rewritten, and wanted to know why a form based code would be necessary.

Trustee Druffel stated that the issue of form based zoning codes should be placed on a future CTM agenda for a more thorough discussion.

Trustee Druffel thanked Council Member Qualls for her presentation.

UPTOWN CONSORTIUM

Lajauna Miller, representing the Uptown Consortium, made a presentation concerning the Uptown City District (UCD) project.

Ms. Miller explained the structure and function of Uptown Consortium. She explained that one of the functions of Uptown Consortium is to address quality of life issues in the communities nearby the Uptown Consortium members.

The UCD would address issues such as "safe and clean"; community promotion, parking, and benchmarking. The UCD would be an organization comprised of the various community councils and representatives of the Consortium members. The organization would establish its own governing documents.

Potential sources of funding would be Uptown Consortium, grants, and "community buy-in".

In response to a question from Trustee Gordon Ms. Miller stated that the annual budget of the UDC would be decided by the charter members.

Community member Howard Goldberg asked if “community buy-in” was realistic. Ms. Miller stated that the potential is strong.

Trustee Berten asked if the UDC is intended to replace Clifton Town Meeting. Ms. Miller answered that it is not.

Trustee Slack asked what was UDC’s idea about future development in Clifton. Ms Miller responded that this would be decided by the UDC.

Trustees Berten, Gordon, Schubauer-Berigan and Lee all made comments concerning the proposal to establish the UDC.

Community member Jack Brand asked how much money would be dedicated to staff. Ms. Miller stated that they would be decided by the UDC board, and would depend on funding.

Chairman Druffel thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation and stated that the CTM Board would consider the issues she raised.

CINCINNATI ZOO CONSTRUCTION

Mark Fischer, representing the Cincinnati Zoo, gave an update on Zoo construction. He stated that the City is widening Vine Street and that the project should be finished in about two weeks.

Mr. Fischer discussed the issue of “shared parking” with other institutions in nearby the Zoo, and stated that zoning issues make this problematic.

Mr. Fischer stated that the “City Barn” building will be used for storage. He also stated that a Metro bus hub is now under construction adjacent to the Zoo.

Mr. Fischer also stated that new buildings under construction at the Zoo will maintain historic themes but will use modern building materials.

Chairman Druffel thanked Mr. Fischer for his report.

LUDLOW REVITALIZATION

Phil Herrick gave an update on the progress of the Ludlow Revitalization Project. Mr. Herrick stated that construction has been going slowly. November 15, 2008, is the stated project completion date.

Several community members mentioned the stench which is coming from the sewer near Ludlow and Telford. Although the City was supposed to address this issue as part of the revitalization project, it has not been adequately addressed. It was determined that Clifton Town Meeting will continue to pursue this issue with the City.

Chairman Druffel thanked Mr. Herrick for his report.

CLIFTON PLAZA

Trustee Druffel announced the names of the members of the Clifton Plaza Committee. The committee had its first meeting on September 23, 2008. The next meeting of the committee is October 14, 2008, at the Clifton Recreation Center.

The Committee is working on a design and selection of a contractor for the Clifton Plaza on the site of the former Bender Optical building.

WAYFINDING

Trustee Gordon gave a presentation concerning a meeting he recently attended regarding signage for Clifton and neighboring communities.

HOUSING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Trustee Montgomery gave a report concerning proposed changes to the City zoning code.

The committee reviewed a number of proposed changes to the zoning code and recommends that two receive the formal support of Clifton Town Meeting. Most are technical clarifications to which there was no objection, but there are two significant amendments that will benefit neighborhood organizations and citizens in general who have an interest in the outcome of hearings for variances and appeals:

1429-17 is being amended in response to some concerns from community councils and others affected by hearing examiner's decisions. Previously, only the applicant could appeal a decision. This change allows a community council or an affected party (which is someone who is substantially affected by the decision and has either submitted written testimony or testified at the hearing - i.e. someone who lives a mile away or someone didn't speak up cannot appeal later). It also makes appeals an administrative process to the Zoning Board of Appeals rather than going straight to City Council.

This change generally strengthens CTM's opportunities.

1437-09 is being amended to include the responsibility of the hearing examiner to review and consider applicable community plans when making decisions for projects in Urban Design Districts to see that developments are consistent with the goals, objectives and guidelines of the community plans. This closes a "loophole" where communities may have adopted a neighborhood plan, but since it is not legally recognized by the city, there are no city requirements that they be implemented or even considered.

This change generally strengthens CTM's positions with regard to adopted community plans.

Upon motion made by Trustees Montgomery, and duly seconded, it was moved as follows:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING CODE SECTION 1429-17 AND 1437-09

WHEREAS:

Clifton Town Meeting seeks to improve the neighborhood of Clifton in part through participation in deliberations, appeals, and other administrative processes pertaining to the Zoning Code; and

Clifton Town Meeting supports similar participation by other community councils and other parties affected by such processes;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Clifton Town Meeting stands in support of AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING CODE SECTION 1429-17 AND 1437-09.

The President is directed to forward this resolution to the Planning Commission no later than 12 PM on October 7, for consideration in the public hearing to be held on this and other matters later the same day. AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING CODE SECTION 1429-17 AND 1437-09

The motion was adopted.

CLIFTON HOUSE TOUR

Mark Smith reported that Co-chair Dan Swander had resigned. Julia Mace has agreed to become the new co-chair.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community member Howard Goldberg addressed the Board and requested that Clifton Town Meeting institute a class action lawsuit against Duke Energy for numerous power failures in the Clifton neighborhood.

No action was taken by the Board on Mr. Goldberg's request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next meeting will be held on Monday November 3, 2008, at the Father Klug Center, Annunciation Parish. CTM elections will be held between 7pm and 7:30pm. Meeting will start at 7:30pm.
- Trustee Eby announced that the 8th annual Clifton Lantern Walk will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

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

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary