

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2008**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on December 1, 2008, at 7:01 pm, at the Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Avenue by President Linda Goldenhar, 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, Linda Goldenhar, Bill Gordon, Robin Lee, Malcolm Montgomery 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 November 3, 2008, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. President Goldenhar and Trustee Druffel suggested corrections to the draft which were incorporated by Trustee Eby. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, seconded by Trustee Druffel, the minutes of the November 3, 2008, meeting were unanimously approved by those Trustees voting.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer's report for November, 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 President Goldenhar, seconded by Trustee Druffel, the November, 2008, Treasurer's report was unanimously approved, with Trustee Fant abstaining.

Trustee Fant made a motion, which was seconded, that an additional \$300.00 be approved in connection with the Carriage Ride event scheduled for December 19, 2008. The motion carried.

Ruth Dickey, Director of the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) briefly addressed the Trustees concerning a request for a grant for beautification, which will be formally made in connection with the 2009 budget. Ms. Dickey answered questions from the Trustees.

Trustee Fant reported that CTM had received Invest In Neighborhood funds in connection with the Movie Night Event (\$1,500.00) and also from the Interest Fund (\$861.00).

Trustee Fant reported that the IRS had denied CTM's appeal from the imposition of fines and penalties for the late filing of the 990 informational return. It was noted that reasons behind the late filing had been addressed; and the situation was not likely to occur again.

REGULAR REPORTS

Police Report

Cincinnati Police Detective Paul Meyer and Sgt. Jason Voelkerding presented the police report for Clifton and nearby areas. They were joined by Officer Lisa Johnson. A report showing crime statistics for Clifton and nearby areas was distributed.

Sgt. Voelkerding reported that in the near future police recruits will be passing out door hangers concerning safety tips. This activity will mostly be in the Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview Heights area; but some of it will occur in Clifton.

Sgt. Voelkerding thanked the community and business owners on Ludlow for their cooperation with police in apprehending two individuals who caused a public disturbance in Keller's IGA.

Sgt. Voelkerding reported that thefts from autos continues to be a problem in Clifton; but this problem is not limited to Clifton but is a region-wide problem. He cautioned Clifton residents not to leave valuables in plain sight in their cars.

Detective Meyer reported that the Cincinnati Police had hired some graduate students from the University of Cincinnati to help the department in statistical analysis in connection with the on-going investigation into the activities of the Taliband Gang operating in Northside. Detective Meyer stated that the Police Department is considering enrolling police officers in courses at the University to receive this type of training.

In response to questions from Trustees Berten and Druffel, Detective Meyer reviewed the status of certain criminal incidents in the community.

Trustee Lee stated that Citizens on Patrol (COPS) will be meeting Thursday, December 4th. She stated that the program is focusing on preventing theft from autos in the Clifton area.

President Goldenhar thanked the officers for their report.

Recreation Center Report

Clifton Recreation Center director Tom Reese gave an update on the status of the Clifton Recreation Center before and after school programs.

He reported on plans for the after school day camp, involving local artists and local art institutions, such as the Taft Museum; the Cincinnati Ballet and the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Mr. Reese reported that there had been theft from autos in the Recreation Center parking lot and that the Center was considering requesting funding for surveillance cameras.

President Goldenhar thanked Mr. Reese for his report.

Clifton Community Arts Center Report

Ruth Dickey gave a brief report on the activities of CCAC, which includes the current exhibit Neo Porkopolis; and the start of winter classes. The CCAC is offering various classes, which are described on the CCAC website.

President Goldenhar thanked Ms. Dickey for her report.

CLIFTON GASLIGHT MAIN STREET

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

Trustee Gordon reported that seasonal decorations had been placed on the Diggs Fountain and along the Ludlow Business District. He also reported on Main Street's participation in the Uptown Consortium pilot program.

Main Street is in the process of writing a report concerning the Ludlow Business District Survey.

LIBRARY REPORT

Betsy Black reported that, as last year, Reindeer figures will be placed on top of the library building, and also on top of Graeter's. Once again the Library will sponsor an essay contest concerning how the Reindeer found their way to Clifton. Details can be obtained at the Clifton Branch library.

CLIFTON COMMUNITY LLC

Trustee Druffel reported that at the November 3, 2008, meeting the Trustees had approved an amendment to the Clifton Community LLC operating agreement. Pursuant to this agreement CTM would pay one half of the operating expenses of the Plaza to be built on the former site of the Bender Optical Building until construction was completed. After construction was completed the Clifton Business and Professional Association would be responsible for the operating expenses. Appropriation of \$1,000.00 for this purpose had been held over to the December, 2008, CTM meeting, pursuant to the CTM constitution and by-laws.

Upon motion made by Trustee Druffel, which was seconded, the appropriation motion was adopted.

FORM BASED ZONING CODES

Trustee Montgomery gave a brief report and update on the status of the adoption by City Council of form based zoning codes for Clifton. No further action was taken by the Board.

NEW TRUSTEES, OFFICERS AND OUTGOING TRUSTEES

President Goldenhar thanked all of the outgoing Trustees for their service to the Clifton community and welcomed the incoming Trustees who would take office on January 1, 2009.

President Goldenhar also announced the slate of CTM officers for 2009:

President:	Dick Druffel
Vice-President:	Linda Goldenhar
Vice-President:	Mike Elovitz
Treasurer:	Bill Fant
Secretary:	Ron Becker

A brief discussion followed concerning whether any other Trustees wished to be considered for the Officer positions. No other Trustees indicated their desire to be considered for an Officer position. Upon motion made by Trustee Eby, which was seconded, it was moved that the Officer slate be approved by acclamation. The motion carried. President Goldenhar welcomed the newly elected officers, who will assume their duties January 1, 2009.

President-elect Druffel thanked President Goldenhar for her work as President during 2008.

GASLIGHT STREET ASSESSMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL

Trustee Eby gave a presentation concerning a proposal by the City Manger in the City of Cincinnati's 2009-2010 Budget to assess \$4.00 per linear foot, on a re-occurring basis, property owners with gaslights.

Trustee Eby discussed the potential impact such an assessment would have on the Clifton ceommunity. Trustee Eby gave a brief outline of the legislative process leading up to such a budget proposal being adopted by City Council. Trustee Eby indicated that Mayor Mallory had already recommended that the gaslight street assessment not be adopted by City Council. The matter was now in the hands of City Council.

Several community members spoke in opposition to the gaslight street assessment. A discussion followed including Board members and community members.

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

WHEREAS, Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) is the recognized Community Council for the community of Clifton; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager of the City of Cincinnati in his 2009-10 budget proposal recommended that the City levy an assessment of \$4.00 per foot of frontage on gas light streets in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Cincinnati has removed the gas light street assessment from the budget he has submitted to City Council;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting is opposed to the levy of a gas light street assessment as set forth in the City Manager's proposed 2009-10 budget; and

The Secretary of Clifton Town Meeting is authorized to communicate to the Mayor and to members of City Council CTM's opposition to this item and its support of the Mayor's decision not to seek a gas light street assessment.

So resolved: December 1, 2008.

The motion was adopted.

ZONING CHANGE INVOLVING CINCINNATI ZOO

Trustee Elovitz gave a brief report concerning proposed zoning changes involving the Cincinnati Zoo and surface lot parking in the area near the Clifton/Avondale border. It appears that notices sent to residents concerning the zoning change are inaccurate.

FAIRVIEW-CLIFTON GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL LSDMC

President Goldenhar reported that she had been contacted by the Fairview-Clifton German Language School concerning a “community member” appointment to the school’s LSDMC.

Trustee Berten asked questions concerning the position and who the appointee would report to. Trustee Gordon addressed the issues raised by Trustee Berten.

President Goldenhar announced that anyone wishing to submit a candidate for the position should contact her.

CLIFTON HOUSE TOUR- MAY, 2009

Committee Co-chairs Mark Smith and Julia Mace gave a report concerning the progress of the Clifton House Tour project. It was reported that several homes have been selected for the tour and that a few remaining homes need to be finalized. Mr. Smith also reported on publicizing the event in connection with Cincinnati Magazine. The possibility of having “VIP” tickets is being explored.

President Goldenhar thanked Mr. Smith and Ms. Mace for their work on the project.

LUDLOW REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Phil Herrick gave an update on the progress of the Ludlow Revitalization Project.

The Art Carpet concept which was discussed and approved at the November 3, 2008, CTM meeting, has also been approved by the Clifton Business and Professional Association. Mr. Herrick reported that Ludlow Avenue property owners and businesses are cooperating with the project.

Mr. Herrick reported that the contractor on the project is running behind schedule. He indicated that there are many weeks of work left before the project will be completed. At the request of the Ludlow Avenue merchants, work on the project will be suspended during the holiday shopping season to minimize disruption to the merchants’ businesses.

Mr. Herrick answered questions from Board members and community members regarding various aspects of the project.

President Goldenhar thanked Mr. Herrick for his report.

CARRIAGE RIDES

Trustee Berten gave a brief report on the status of the Ludlow Business District Carriage Rides scheduled for Friday, December 19, 2008. He reported that the event will take place between 6pm and 9pm. The rides will start in front of Graeters and will follow the same route as 2 years ago.

He reported that the Clifton Business and Professional Association has agreed to be a co-sponsor of the event. The Committee organizing this event needs additional volunteers.

LUDLOW PLAZA

Trustee Druffel reported on the progress of the Ludlow Plaza.

He reported that requests for proposals had been sent to several firms, and the Plaza Committee had interviewed two firms. After the interview process was completed, the Committee selected the firm of KZF to be the architect and construction manager.

Trustee Druffel answered questions from Board members and community members concerning how much additional public input into the design of the Plaza would be possible. There was also discussion concerning when the construction of the Plaza would begin and when the project would be completed.

Trustee Druffel stated that while a specific timetable had not be adopted by the Committee it was the hope and expectation that the construction of the Plaza would be completed during calendar year 2009.

Trustee Druffel stated that the first issue was to develop a design for the Plaza and to insure public input into the design.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Community member Daniel Ames addressed his concern over the number of "news boxes" on Ludlow Avenue, and requested CTM to see if the number of such boxes could be reduced.

Trustee Gordon addressed the issue, and stated his belief that Clifton Gaslight Main Street was looking into what could be done. Trustee Gordon stated that there were certain legal issues which the City is looking into.

President Goldenhar reported that CTM had received a communication from a community member objecting to certain persons throwing bread on Ludlow Avenue to feed the birds. It was stated that the bread was also attracting vermin. It was suggested that Clifton Gaslight Main Street also look into this situation to see what could be done about it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next CTM meeting will be held on Monday January 5, 2009, at the Clifton Recreation Center at 7:00 pm.
- The annual retreat for CTM Trustees, including the newly elected Trustees, is Saturday, December 14th at the Trailside Museum in Burnet Woods.
- Annunciation School will hold their 2nd Annual Winterfest, Saturday, December 6th, between 6-pm at the Father Klug Center at the school.

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 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Eby, Secretary