

CTM Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 2009  
Clifton Recreation Center

Trustees in attendance: Linda Goldenhar, Dick Druffel, Ron Becker, Brian Curwin, Michael Willing, John Berten, Jim Segers, Steve Slack, Mike Elovitz, Mark Smith, Karen Imbus, Gina Marsh, George Bishop, Malcolm Montgomery

The board approved the minutes for the January 2009 meeting, with one abstention.

Treasurer's report. In his absence Bill Fant circulated a report of the January expenses and income via email. Income from NSP funding, membership dues. Major expense CTM's portion of the LLC property tax for the plaza location.

Dick Druffel provided an update on the status of the latest draft of the 2009 budget. Major change in projected income: fundraising increased from 2008 to reflect the income from the House Tour with expected net income of \$15,000. Expenses: B. Fant projected expenses slightly higher than 2008 and projected \$7,500 for expenses related to possible LLC expenses. Under special events, street painting event was included in projected expenses (\$4,000). Budget reflects plan that the event would generate revenue projected at \$5,000. A vote on budget would be delayed until March meeting, but an open discussion of feedback took place. Mark Smith suggested that the budget reflect gross income and expenses for the House Tour for clarity. John Berten raised a question about the gap between historical pattern in which House Tour income sustained the budget for 3 years, but the current budget doesn't reflect the same long-term surplus. Given Berten's comment, Mark Smith suggested we more closely examine discretionary expenses. Discussion about shifts in income and expenses raised issues about the need to rethink current budgeted expenses. Malcolm Montgomery (in reviewing 2006 budget) pointed out that it reflected a \$12,500 carry over. Brian Curwin pointed out that the gap in 2009 reflects the LLC expense. Dick Druffell said he would email Bill Fant to alert him to this issue and ask for budget adjustments to create a surplus. Linda Goldenhar raised the idea of creating a policy to more systematically handle requests for and distribution of funds for beautification.

#### Regular Reports:

Lisa Johnson and Jason Pechiney: (asked citizens with questions to contact Lisa Johnson in upcoming weeks)  
Crime up 4% in Clifton area. Nothing major. A number of significant arrests, including a major drug arrest in Spring Grove Village of a man who often worked in Clifton. Reported on use of canine resources. Informed committee of the police division's efforts to do more with less resources. Encouraged those present to pick up a pamphlet from theft from autos and underscored the threat of auto break-ins. Linda Goldenhar asked if an e-copy of the theft from auto pamphlet was available. When one is available, it will be sent to CTM and posted on the website. In a question about the accuracy of 4% increase, Pechinery discussed that crime citywide is up significantly and Clifton's rate of increase is less. He acknowledged that with limited resources, attention is being focused on violent crime and high-level drug activity (rather than property crime). The police force hopes to seize assets of drug traders to fund police activities. He linked their situation to nation-wide trend in tighter budget situations. Jim Segers asked if any progress on three recent robberies had been made. It was reported that there might have been an arrest. Dick Druffel raised issue of the process for community feedback on liquor license reviews. Opened up issue to discussion for feedback on the request for a transfer of a liquor licensee to Apna. Apna would be selling liquor, wine, and beer. Officer said of the process: if there's a reason to object to a liquor request/transfer, the police division will be sure to make the community aware. Dick Druffel suggested that if the police want community feedback, a monthly CTM meeting would be best place for that feedback rather than an email request sent to the CTM board with a short turn around for a response.

CRC: Tom Reported when CRC closed for the ice storm the previous week. Announced the upcoming spring classes (pottery wheel throwing for ages 10-15) and an application deadline of March 15 for individuals living in Cincinnati for arts grant funding. (CRC will connect those interested to a grant writing workshop.) He reported the 2010 census is looking for workers and made a pamphlet available. Encourage CTM to use Invest in Neighborhood list serve to circulate information. Requested CTM to budget \$500 to supplement CRC programming. The money would fund the formation of the Clifton Teen Council. Would help encourage teen use of CRC facilities. Encouraged community to spread word about summer teen program opportunities. Explained the CRC's efforts to recycle and reuse.

Queen City Bike informational talk by Gary Wright. A new organization formed in 2008 to work on bike month (May). They promote biking as everyday mode of transportation in the city as a health, environmentally friendly and sustainable form of transportation, especially for short trips and in neighborhoods like Clifton. Encouraged community to think about what could be done to make a neighborhood and city a great place to live in the future and envision how biking could promote the kind of neighborhood Clifton is. Mr. Wright reported on infrastructure efforts other cities have begun to promote biking as mode of transportation and that Cincinnati will be updating bike plan for first time in 30 years. He encouraged the community to think about the long-term impact on Clifton with the changes at MLK and the two interstates. The organization sees opportunity to promote higher density living in uptown and use biking as important form of transportation. Requests CTM to draft a resolution stating CTM values bikes and wants urges the city to consider bikes in future plans for area. Steve Slack asked what Queen City Bike had done with state to make them aware of role of bikes in the expansion of I-75. They have begun talks to try and change mindset. Dick Druffel mentioned that a bike rack was in the planning for the new plaza or the merchant lot. George Bishop encouraged multiple bike racks to help make business district more bike accessible. Asked those present to fill out a card that states you support biking. Steve Slack made a motion to use the language of Gary Wright's handout. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Smith House Tour update: Updated CTM on the status of the tour, including various opportunities to reduce expenses through volunteer/donation of time/resources. VIP event committee is working on a plan. One house backed out so tour will have 9 destinations (8 homes and CCAC). Reported that *Cincinnati* magazine will not be taking over advertising sales and asked for a CTM trustee to chair sub-committee on advertising and sponsors. Wants each CTM Board member to commit to finding 5 volunteers and 10 tickets. A discussion on the issue ensued. Volunteers would be able to attend a post-event party and get a ticket for the tour at a reduced cost of \$10. Volunteers should be directed to Karen Imbus at [kimbus@cliftoncommunity.org](mailto:kimbus@cliftoncommunity.org). Dick Druffel proposed a motion following on Mark's request for commitments. The motions passed unanimously. Dick Druffel will research whether cost of ticket is tax deductible. No volunteers were forthcoming for the ad sales chair position. Mark would pursue alternative ideas and the consequences for the event and income potential.

Plaza Update (Ted Johannson): Reported on meeting of committee with KZF and other related groups. Explored options of used material from city's demolition of Fountain Square. ArtWorks attended and explored synergy with art carpet project. Public meeting on plaza design: February 23, 7:30 p.m. CRC. Bike racks will be in design somehow. One option might be in free space on west side of merchants' lot. Report that adjacent building owners are open to various wall adornments and that the committee is exploring ways to beautify the view from the parking lot.

Gina Marsh: Report on Streetcar routes in Uptown, including possible route to Clifton. City will hire a consultant team to explore streetcar route alternatives for a circulator in uptown. Ms Marsh made a motion that CTM write a letter to city for team to consider a route that touches Clifton Gaslight neighborhood and for a Clifton representative be on the study team. George Bishop made friendly amendment to change the language to: "include the Clifton Gaslight business district as a destination on the streetcar line." Passed with one abstention. Dick Druffel will draft a letter and circulate it to trustees for approval.

CPBA election: On January 26 election, Barb Druffel elected President. Other officers from Columbia Savings and Mustard Seed. CTM 2009 goals require close cooperation with CBPA.

CTM 2009 Goals: Dick Druffel presented amended version of 2009 goals after last meeting and feedback from Executive Committee. Changed more abstract goals into a preamble stressing importance of cooperating with various Clifton organizations and institutions. Added a goal focused on the street painting event. Druffel pointed out the need of a committee devoted to movie night event (Linda Goldenhar, chair) and street painting event (Kip Eggen, chair). It was recommended that committees discuss how to establish criteria for measuring success at end of year. Steve Slack followed up on previous meeting suggestion to have a goal of improving Burnet Woods interface with neighborhood and agreed to be in charge of efforts. Dick Druffel stressed the importance of commitment from trustees to help achieve these goals through volunteering for specific committees.

Betty announced that the May meeting is incorrectly listed on the website as being held at CRC instead of at Annunciation. Steve Slack mentioned odd wording on the website regarding CTM's relationship to Uptown Consortium. Mark Smith encouraged the updating of CTM subcommittees and contact information for chairs (and list updated 2009 goals). Such issues would be followed up with Bill Fant.

Tim Buschnel suggested having crime reports archived on website and a mapping of crime stats. George Bishop raised various problems with form of data and accuracy of Clifton boundaries, and consequences of publicizing crime on website. Tim encouraged a discussion on the issue. Linda Goldenhar proposed a safety committee discuss issue and bring to CTM.

Next meeting, Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at CRC

Adjourn at 9:10 pm.