

CTM Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2009
Clifton Recreation Center

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

The board approved the minutes for the February 2009 meeting unanimously.

Treasurer's report. Bill Fant summarized the Treasurer's report passed with 2 abstentions.

Budget: Bill Fant explained the proposed 2009 budget (total income \$43,800, estimated expenses based on previous year's budget \$43,800). He suggests that the board needs to consider cutting expenses if there is a desire to carry over a significant portion of the house tour income, mentioning beautification as one obvious line of discretionary expenses and called for the need for the board to consider the process by which we deal with requests for beautification funds (in contrast to the past where the process seemed ad hoc). L. Goldenhar mentioned that some expense related to the membership drive could be lowered. G. Marsh asked for details on beautification expenses and a brief discussion ensued about the history of beautification funding. Board members who have thoughts about how to establish criteria to help lay out a consistent process should share them with the executive committee who will explore options and return to the board with recommendations. Mark Smith clarified that the projected income for the House Tour should be \$25,000 and expenses \$10,000, netting \$15,000. It was agreed the budget would be voted on when it returned with revisions.

Police Report: Det, Paul Meyer. Presented the February crime report. Pointed out that Clifton is a relatively safe neighborhood in regards to theft from single family homes (in contrast to apartment buildings), but summarized details from 3 thefts from single family homes. Emphasized importance of locking doors and windows as deterrent. Explained the arson incident at the loading dock of Keller's. Despite widespread reports of thefts from autos in the region, there had recently been few in Clifton (though incidents may increase).

Clifton Recreation Center Report: Summarized upcoming activities at the Rec Center.

CBPA: Introduced Barbara Druffel as new president of CPBA and confirmed the hope of CBPA to improve its presence and service to the community. Explained a revitalized engagement in the organization by business owners.

I-75 Expansion Report: Joe Vogel presented progress on 2 projects.

1. (in adjacent neighborhood) SpringGrove Ave. (Winton to Mitchell) and Clifton Ave at Kenard Street Improvement to improve walkability in area. Plan to change corner radii at certain intersections to improve car safety, reduce concrete coverage, replace sewers, create buffer between sidewalks and road, add rain gardens, replace bridge over Mill Creek, island in middle of Springgrove, will complete sidewalk on the west side of Clifton Ave, may add bike path along Mill Creek if funding is found. There will be a crosswalk at the intersection of Clifton and Kenard. Construction will start April 2009 and should be finished by end of the 2009 construction season (with some landscaping finished in the next year). L Goldenhar asked whether there were plans for bike lanes on Springgrove. There are no plans for bike lanes on Springgrove, given plans for nearby bike paths. D Druffel suggested that bikers needed safe access to get to bike trails, specifically modifications to Ludlow. Presenter mentioned that access to Mill Creek Trail will be at Clifton and explained interest of city department to enhance bike options.

2. West MLK Drive access improvement. Asked for community feedback at early stage in project that will improve west MLK from Clifton to McMicken. The project was developed in response to community concerns about the functioning of the road. Key problem spots: A. Intersection of MLK and Clifton (top 5 city-wide

accident location with high car and ped. volume). B. MLK and Dyxsmith. C. Curve lower down the hill on MLK with limited sight lines and inconsistent street parking. D. Lead up to the I-75 design at bottom of hill. The city will create a website to get continual feedback from citizens. D. Druffel asked if the city was considering widening and home removal. Goal for presentation was to get feedback from community first before making recommendations. Planners anticipate increased volume of usage when I-75 interchange at Cincinnati State will be closed. Planners hope to include ped/bike usage. Planners envision a 2-year planning process before proposal (and earliest 4 year to completion). Gave brief overview of possible redesign of I 75 Hopple interchange to which these changes will flow into. Community comment forms will be emailed to listserv.

House Tour: Mark Smith gave update on progress of house tour. Biggest issue: we have lost venue for VIP brunch because of difficulty of staffing for event). Efforts are being made to find alternative venue. Reminded importance of trustee's providing volunteers. Asked for clarification on the nature of insurance liability for CTM and home owners on Tour. Reminder that volunteers are invited to volunteer reception and receive \$10 tickets for the tour.

City Barn Garden: Jane Elovitz asked for CTM to serve as pass through organization for funds. D. Druffel asked how CTM could support the project without undermining our non-profit status. He suggested a board member volunteer to oversee how the funds were spent to uphold our fiduciary responsibility. Assurances were made that the Avondale community council will be contacted and updated (since the site is in Avondale). How the pass-through process works was clarified with the assurances that the role is expense-neutral. B. Fant emphasized that the CTM board member volunteer examine all applications submitted. Brian Curwin volunteered to serve as the CTM representative. A motion was made to serve as the organizations pass-through funding organization and it passed unanimously.

Plaza Update: D. Druffel updated the status of the plaza design process and asked for any further feedback to be given to design contractor.

Uptown Pilot Project (pilot partnership between Uptown Consortium and Clifton community organizations): G. Marsh reported on meeting for pilot program (named: Clifton Business and Entertainment Collaborative). 2009 Goals of partnership to take over some of the tasks MainStreet will be giving up to help maintain and improve the core business district. Some goals: sidewalk cleaning, snow removal, flower boxes (possibly with partnership of Cincinnati State), Clifton consumer guide, business directory, Streetscape event, improve parking signage and lot use, grant writing. Next meeting will be later this week. There was a discussion about the exactly what Mainstreet did in 2008 that the pilot program will be taking over.

CTM Goals discussion: D. Druffel reminded the board that CTM's activities are fully dependent upon volunteers and asked for ideas of how to generate more volunteers. B. Bishop suggested a social event to help generate a sense of community identification. M Montgomery suggested a bulletin board where specific requests for volunteers could be posted. S. Slack encouraged reaching out to college and high school students for specific projects. L. Goldenhar stressed that sub-committee chairs should identify specific needs to get their sub-committee's work done. K. Imbus suggested using the House Tour volunteer reception to generate more volunteerism via a pitch at the party.

Announcements:

Howell, Terrace, and Clifton Hills passed initial requirements for spend hump process, with expected construction to begin spring 2009.

Art Works announcements of employment opportunities for teens to get involved in summer positions. Details will be sent via listserv.

Bill Fant presented a survey requested by the City's new neighborhood funding support program, asking for help in filling out and voting on the survey. Vote: For how we filled out the survey: 15, against: 0, abstain: 1.

Daniel Ames: mentioned that an Ace hardware Store will open in May 2009 in Ludlow garage. He reported hearing a rumor that owners might want to tear down some properties on the block to create a parking lot. CTM had not been notified of a filing for a demolition permit. A subsequent discussion explored options for finding out more on the issue. Zoning committee will gather relevant information and update board at next meeting. D Druffel will ask property owners to make a presentation at next meeting.

Nicholas Holland, candidate for city council introduced himself. Announced March 9 press conference for more information. Key issues: neighborhood revitalization driven by neighborhood groups. Investment in children (i.e., high infant mortality rates in Cincinnati, education performance).

Corky Lehman: Clifton-Fairview representative discussing plans for school ground beautification.

Adjourn at 9:22 pm.