

CTM Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2009
Clifton Recreation Center

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

The board approved the minutes for the March 2009 meeting with 3 abstentions and 0 against.

Treasurer's report. Bill Fant summarized the Treasurer's report passed with 1 abstention.

Budget: Bill Fant explained the proposed 2009 budget (total income \$53,800.) Expense budgeted at \$40,300. Provide a surplus of \$13,500 carry over. S. Slack raised a question about what the \$2000 budgeted for the LLC referred to. It was reported that it was for the anticipated tax bill. A follow up question was raised about the need for insurance expenses. D Druffel reported all expenses will be the responsibility of the CBPA. The budget passed unanimously.

Police Report: Reported on use of a bait car and success with capturing car thefts. Nevertheless, crime is up; the city and county's budget crisis is making keeping criminals in jail hard for non-violent crimes. As a result, the department is working with federal prosecutions where jail space is greater. There was a discussion about the targeted Amber alert that had been sent out that morning for 2 missing children to Clifton phone numbers. The officer clarified the process for reporting missing person's report. Gary Eby reported an email sent in by a concerned citizen regarding a rape in Clifton. The officer said that it was a known assailant in a date rape situation and a warrant is out. The officer left pamphlets for car-safety education (Lock It or Loose It campaign). Mark Smith asked if there was a following up to the hate crime in CUF. The detective reported the police have solved the case and gave some details as they were known. A member asked about the rules regarding bike and car safety on Clifton Ave, especially with the upcoming construction. J. Berten asked whether the closed curb lanes on Clifton connected to the construction didn't seem necessary. The police stated that regulating such issue is a City Streets and Traffic Engineering.

Clifton Recreation Center Report: Summarized upcoming activities at the Rec Center. Promoted the summer day camp June 8 to August 7. 50% of slots still available. Reported success of karate and fencing programs. Looking forward to policy on funding requests from CTM. Announced the digital quilt photo program that will run on the Fountain Square Jumbotron on April 17 at 4 pm.

CCAC report: Raised 1.5 million in capital funds that will help revise the building so the entire building can be usable. Left handout of upcoming events that will take place through the spring and summer. Hoping to apply for CTM beautification funding to improve the front lawn in advance of "Wednesdays on the Green": 7 pm every Wednesday in the summer. In June CCAC will hold the art carpet design show in lead up to the streetscape project's next stage.

Clifton Plaza Update: Ted Johansson. Anticipates the job will go out in mid-May and hopes construction will start in June. The final design plans (anticipated to be ready next week) will be presented to the public in some manner (not for another round of comments, but to present how the previous comments were incorporated in conjunction with other necessities [budget, city codes, etc]). Underscored that this stage will only be the first step in the life of the plaza. Design one is meant to set an attractive and functional plaza that could be developed ever further in the future.

Possible Water Works Sale. Dan LaBotz. Wanted to inform the community about the possible sale of the Water Works. Raised several questions about what the consequences if the currently public-owner water works was sold. The possible privatization of the water works could pose numerous problems (e.g., new taxes,

increased water rates, undermined union workers). Mr LaBotz stated that he didn't come to ask CTM to take action, except for the community to get involved in finding out more about the possible sale. He pointed audience to Natiprotectourwater.org for more information. Reports suggest the issue will come to the city council within 2 months. The feasibility report is reportedly going to be released at the end of April.

Spring Grove Bike Lane: Greg Harris reported that, in part because of feedback from CTM community, he had looked at plans for upcoming reconstruction of Spring Grove Ave with the idea of including a bike lane as part of the plan. They requested a feasibility study to explore the possibility amending the current plan (the study should be released in April). If included, the bike lane would give Clifton residents access to an extensive network of bike lanes. Harris asked for the Clifton community to be advocates for plan once the feasibility study emerges. A resident asked for M. Harris's position on and the current state of the I-71 ramp to MLK. He reported he supported it and the plan is moving forward. M Elovitz asked whether there wasn't a formal policy that every street re-do would have to consider inclusion of bike lanes. M. Harris said he was unsure of the official nature of that issue.

House Tour Update: M Smith updated the board on the state of the House Tour. R Becker requested that anyone who knew of a spot to hang up a poster they could take some before they leave. M Elovitz asked those present if anyone had experience with walkie-talkies. S Slack agreed to head the efforts to ensure we have garbage collection materials to be available outside each home. The garbage collection will be added to the set up and break down plans for each house. Kip Egan suggested contacting Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for help. All trustee were to contact B. Fant to pay for and receive the 10 house Tour tickets each was committed to sell.

City Ordinance –Neighborhood Support Program. Gina Marsh updated the board on a new ordinance being proposed by Councilwoman L. Cole. A key component of the ordinance would be redefining voting rights to include all residents in a neighborhood. Furthermore, votes would be open to all residents. Several other issues regarding how community councils would run and relate to the city would be changed. D Druffel summarized the history of these proposals, pointing out that the last time similar proposals were made and mentioned the fact that CTM board had been opposed for a variety of reasons (problems raised by hot button issues, impact on budget if membership fees were not required, diminished role of Trustees.) M Elovitz updated some revisions that L. Cole made at a recent meeting. At that meeting, M Elovitz reported, there were a lot of negative comments by the audience (filled with various community council members from across the city). M Montgomery asked if any one knew if there were specific situations motivating the change. G Marsh reported that she felt that there were general sentiments that the amended policy would be more democratic. There also seemed to be some desire to clarify what kind of entity a community council is. G Marsh stated that she had heard that there would be a public hearing on April 14 when community councils could provide their opinions on the ordinance. An audience member made a call for CTM to support the changes because it would help the community councils be more representative of the community and as a result would be more influential in shaping city council. One member recommended that CTM recommend that the city delay the process for approving the ordinance so that it more fully includes community involvement. Bill Fant recommended that as a non-profit corporation who received over 33% of our budget from the city we shouldn't lobby the city (who we reported to the federal government was a major sponsor.) Subsequent debate took place over that interpretation and whether CTM should in fact draft a resolution and also exactly what different board members thought about the proposed ordinance.

Invest in Neighborhood \$2000 merit grant proposals. Due April 30. Possible ideas for a proposal: 1). Beautification for CCAC. 2). Beautification for merchant's lot. 3). Possible improvement of plaza. 4). Survey gaslight inventory. D Druffel asked for ideas for funding. S Slack suggested funding for invasive species removal. M Elovitz raised question of signage for merchant's lot. CCFund's effort to light the fire station. G Marsh raised issue of bike racks and newspaper condos. Bill Fant recommended, given the various constraints of the proposal process, that we propose funding for CCAC green space project. D Druffel made a motion. 23 yes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Uptown Consortium Community Council Strategic Planning: D Druffel reported that neighborhood and UpTown Consortium are working together to develop better planning and communication processes between Uptown and neighborhoods. There will be a meeting (date to be set) where council presidents and business association pres would meet with Uptown Consortium. Jerry Lawson will be the moderator for the meeting.

Community Q and A: CCAC and CCFund will have September event (“Out of the Attic”)—to sell attic art to raise funds. Asked for contributions for the sale. 961-6762.

Laurie Kindelman introduced herself as running for city council and asked for signatures. George Sambry did same.

One member asked for the trashcans on Ludlow be emptied on Sunday given the negative impact. G Marsh said she would contact the city to request weekend service.

Bill Fant asked, on behalf of the Chronicle’s Tom Lohre for permission to spend up to \$500 to spend on software for the Chronicle. Motion made. Passed unanimously.

Motion regarding CTM’s recommend that the city ensure community council involvement in the decision – making process regarding the neighborhood council ordinance revision. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 9:30 pm.