

CTM Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2009
Clifton Recreation Center

Trustees in attendance: Linda Goldenhar, George Bishop, Mike Elovitz, Dick Druffel, Ron Becker, Mark Smith, Bill Fant, Karen Imbus, Gina Marsh, Malcolm Montgomery, Steve Slack

The board approved the minutes for the May 2009 meeting 6 yes, 5 abstentions.

Treasurer's report. Bill Fant summarized the Treasurer's report. Federal taxes filed on time. Have not renewed insurance policy since city provides that under NSP program for officers' liability and special events. For events with any food or parade will require special fee. The program will save CTM money overall. Filed grant for Invest in neighborhood merit grant for signage at CCAC.

NSP Proposal Vote: Bill Fant explained the application for NSP funds. The application was filled out in line with the program's guidelines. Funds will go to the Clifton Chronicle Newsletter (\$2,700), Street Painting Festival (\$2,000), Movie Night event (\$500), Lantern Walk (\$400), Audiovisual Cabinet (\$1000). We can amend the proposal at any point. The proposal was approved by all in attendance 20-0.

Clifton Town Meeting Resolution for authorization of CTM's part of the payment of the property tax bill for the plaza site. The resolution passed 11-0.

Police Report: Lt. Mike Fern summarized the crime report. Theft from autos continue to be a problem. Arrest made on residential break-ins. Asked for feedback on times and days for special beat officers. Currently schedules an officer for four hour blocks between 3 pm and 3 am Friday-Sunday. Funding for this program will likely continue through September. G Marsh asked for how extra officers could be increased. The officer said it would require extra funding which is unlikely. Focus of efforts are on Ludlow business district and fringe areas where visitors park. J. Brandt recommended replacing Tuesday with Sunday because of the Esquire's specials that night. G. Bishop asked whether the high traffic times might not be the best times since lots of people could deter crimes. Lt. Fern stated that stats show they are the times when crimes are highest. G Bishop stated that after further discussion with Det. Meyer, the decision was made not to ask the prosecutor to attend a meeting to discuss issue of tight jail space. G. Bishop asked the Lt. what steps/strategies can be taken given the current budget problems. Lt. Fern said they focus on prevention efforts, including new tactics for focusing on known offenders.

June 16. 7 415 Straight Street (Deaconess Hospital cafeteria). Neighborhood watch and informational meeting with representatives from vice. Neighborhood watch program provides ways for citizens to participate in crime prevention.

To Do: Find CTM representative to stand in for G Bishop who will be out of town.

Clifton Recreation Center Report: Summer camp starts June 8. Before and after school daycare registration will be July 13.

Kim Fender: Hamilton County Library information. Clifton branch is a heavily used location. 9 employees. 236 free programs, 45,000 reference questions answered, 129,000 visits, 10,640 library cards associated with that branch. Circulation grows (up 4% in May).

Her presentation provided an overview of the extent of and services offered by the library system. Elaborated on the current funding crisis for the library system (cut over 20% since 2000). Because major source of funding is connected to state tax revenues, the current economic crisis is hitting the library hard. Faced with this trend, the library has made numerous cuts in staffing, programs, salaries, etc. Unlike most other major libraries in Ohio, Cincinnati does not get and funding from the city or county. To deal with the looming budget shortfall,

the library is exploring new sources of funding, including from local tax sources. When asked for details, Ms. Fender said they are thinking about a property tax levy. Ms. Fender stated the property tax would be removed if state tax revenue recovered. Are seeking roughly \$30 a year per 100,000 in property valuation.

City Bike Survey: Mel McVay.

A. Update on bike survey project. Survey revealed most residents were unfamiliar with the Sharrow signs. Pilot sharrows installed in Clifton. They will be on the road for 12 months. In a few months, video surveys will gauge impact of sharrows on bike and auto-driver behavior/awareness to see whether it increases the distance between cars and bikes. G. Bishop asked if there was an educational campaign to promote knowledge about sharrows. There will be some press coverage, but will be exploiting word of mouth and community resources.

To Do: send out email to listserv on sharrows.

B. In initial stages of a city-wide bike plan process. New 2009 bike route map available. Put in 62 bike rack in spring and Share-the-Road signs installed.

Clifton Plaza update: Jan presented photos of the 60% design for the plaza. The details of the plan and budget are still uncertain. There are numerous variables in the budget and the funding sources that make the design somewhat tentative at this point. KZF hopes the plaza will be completed by Thanksgiving, though that is assuming the bid-process goes as expected. Subsequent discussion raised a variety of issue (i.e., the desirability of a digital sign, the role of lighting, a 3-tiered structure for the build to anticipate possible variance in budget).

Uptown Access Improvements: Andrea Henderson updated the plans for improving access to uptown from I 75 interchange at Hopple. Discussed new goals for project in response to feedback from community outreach efforts. The next stage is to draft various design alternatives that will give different alternatives for achieving the goals. G. Marsh expressed a desire in the redesigned road not becoming an express-way like pass through with no community neighborhood feel. Ms. Henderson asked for a letter from CTM expressing general agreement with the stated goals. L. Goldenhar asked for the goals be sent so we could have them to discuss further.

Memorial Day Parade report: The parade was well attended (roughly 200-300 people) and a big success. CTM wants to thanks Adam Balz to spearhead the event. After all expenses (except police and insurance) we netted over \$500. The event either broke even or made some money while providing the community with a great event.

House Tour Update: M Smith gave the final updated on the House Tour. (See attachment for details of his presentation). Record attendance. Revenue 12% over plan. Net profit 62% over plan. 64% under planned costs. Total net profit: \$24,442.85.

CTM Beautification Awards: Summarized plan for granting of beautification awards. (See attachment for summary of plan and copy of application form.) Mark Smith suggested the directions make clear that the project must be completed by the end of CTM's fiscal year. M Montgomery suggested a report from the grantee upon the completion of he project explaining its impact on the community.

Community Q and A:

Daniel Ames: commented on the deterioration of the Temple of Love structure in Mt Storm Park. And asked if anyone had info on its status.

To Do: Dick Druffel would follow up by contacting Steve Shuckman.

Daniel asked whether CTM Board has done anything to welcome the Ace Hardware store which will open up soon.

To Do: Dick Druffel would approach the owner.

Mike Elovitz encourage audience members to consider running for the CTM Board in the November election

Next CTM meeting is scheduled for August 3 (July meeting is canceled)

Adjourned at 9:20 pm.