

CTM Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2009
Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Trustees in attendance: Dick Druffel, Linda Goldenhar, Malcolm Montgomery, Jim Segers, Steve Slack, John Berten, George Bishop, and Karen Imbus.

There was no quorum, so the Board could not approve the minutes for the September meeting.

Police Report: Detective Meyer indicated that the 15-year-old suspect who allegedly stabbed another youth, may be bound over as an adult. Detective Meyer also expects that the “dead-bolt robber” will be incarcerated for several years.

Candidate Talks: John Banner and Mary Welsh Schlueter, independent candidates for the Cincinnati Board of Education, requested support in the November 2 election. John Banner announced that the Sisters of Charity have bought the former Concordia School and expect to open a De Paul Cristo Rey High School in approximately 2011.

Mark Thornberry of the Cincinnati Water Works urged a “yes” vote on Issue 8, which will require a public vote to sell the water works.

CTM Elections: Steve Slack announced the results of the election of the CTM Board of Trustees. Robert Blum, Emily Haas, Zack Kafoglis, Jeff Rose, Pete Schneider, and Mar Jo Vesper have been elected to serve three-year terms as trustees of the CTM Board. In addition, Linda Goldenhar was elected to serve another term.

“Revive I-75”: Cameron Ross, a City of Cincinnati employee, gave a brief presentation of the revive I-75 Cincinnati project. The City of Cincinnati is studying how to rework, renew, and revive neighborhoods in the I-75 corridor. The City is currently inviting public input into issues created by the re-routing of I-75, including economic development, urban revitalization, green infrastructure, and transportation improvements in the following neighborhoods, two of which are in the Clifton area: Mitchell Avenue Interchange area, I-74 Interchange area, Hopple Interchange area, and Queensgate/ Central Business District.

The City is inviting public input at a Phase I meeting, which will be held at Cincinnati State on November 12, 2009, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at 3520 Central Parkway, Advanced Technology & Learning Center Auditorium, 2nd Floor. Parking will be available at Central Parkway Garage.

Phase II will include a second public meeting on January 14. Phase III will involve the roll-out of the final public plan.

CTM Trustees’ Retreat: Dick Druffel is organizing a retreat in December to acquaint the new Board to the CTM trustee responsibilities and processes. It will be held at the Trail Site Museum Center.

Community Recycling Opportunities: Christian Huelsman, a Clifton resident, presented “A Vision for a Cleaner Clifton.” He spoke about the variety of assets in Clifton, including the walkable business district, access to five Metro bus routes, a healthy mix of businesses, the fact that Clifton is an attractive destination for the region, and Clifton’s plethora of institutional neighbors. Promising future infrastructure developments include the pending streetcar connection; complimentary bicycle infrastructure; and the Clifton Plaza, which is a remediation of a Brownfield site. Opportunities include improved recycling infrastructure within the business district, better partnerships with universities/institutions, and cooperation with the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES). Promising results include shared facilities between various groups, sustainability initiatives at UC and Cincinnati State, and higher rates of recycling (especially in non-single family homes).

Mr. Huelsman asks Clifton Town Meeting to consider options such as 1) designating a community composting site or garden; 2) greater neighborhood business district recycling/less trash overflow (may require partnering with HCDOES for a neighborhood drop off point near Ludlow); 3) the first Cincinnati neighborhood with separate street recycling facilities; 4) continued recycling emphasis; and 5) exploring partnerships with institutional neighbors and our adjacent communities. Linda Goldenhar suggested that CTM create a recycling coordination committee and asked Mr. Huelsman if he would serve as the chair of “The Green Clifton Committee.” The Board will discuss recycling opportunities for Clifton at the new trustee retreat in December.

CTM members suggested CTM attempt to get curbside yard waste pick-up restored because some people will not put wet leaves, etc. in their cars to take them to a community composed site.

Clifton Plaza Update: Ted and Jan reported that construction has begun on the Plaza, and the fence has been erected around the construction site. Ted and Jan have selected a bamboo species from Bertin’s Bamboo. It will be 10 to 12 feet tall and hopefully will come back in the Spring. The bamboo costs approximately \$1,000, of which Scott Crawford is donating \$450. A CTM member expressed concern that the bamboo being planted on the Plaza may be an invasive species. Jan assured the member that the species being planted is non-invasive, and will be contained appropriately.

The Plaza Committee is looking for donors for additional landscaping funds. Uptown Consortium may make a contribution. An anonymous source is donating all the furniture at a cost of over \$13,000. Uptown Consortium is donating another \$7,500.

There was a proposal from the audience to consider whether the Plaza can be a designated a non-smoking area. Further discussion will be given by the Board.

There was discussion about whether the Plaza Committee should install sound equipment. There is no plan to install sound equipment at this point. Lighting decisions for the Plaza also have been made.

George Bishop proposed that we have programming for the Clifton Plaza in the way that there is programming for Fountain Square. Discussion ensued about forming a programming committee, which George Bishop volunteered to participate in. Dick Druffel reported that dialogue re: programming for the Plaza has started with CBPA. The Board will discuss this at the retreat.

Issue 9 Resolution: Karen Imbus introduced a resolution regarding CTM's opposition to Issue 9. The intent of the resolution was to communicate Clifton Town Meeting's opposition to Issue 9 to its membership via a November 2 email to the Clifton Town Meeting listserve. Because there was no quorum, the Board could not vote on the resolution.

Holidays on Ludlow: George Roden announced that Holidays on Ludlow is scheduled for December 11 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Carriage rides will be offered as they were last year, at a cost of \$750, which the CTM Board has pledged and budgeted. Mr. Roden requested volunteers to help with carriage rides, which were very well-received and enjoyed last year. He asks that volunteers take one-hour shifts to manage the queue, hand out jingle bells, etc.

Movie Night Recap: Linda Goldenhar reported that movie night was a very successful event. She thanked the committee of Jean Sorkin, Kelly McKinly, _____, Barb McManus, Ron Becker and herself. 167 tickets were sold, 48 child and 119 adults, for a total ticket sales proceeds of \$1,430. Good Sam contributed \$2,300. CTM received \$500 in NSP funds. The Esquire waived the rental fee and provided popcorn and soda at a reduced price. Net income was \$1,620.30.

Community Q & A: Daniel Ames asked about the bulletin boards on the Telford Street seating area. Bill said that the contract was signed in mid-September. The contract provided for performance within 30 days. However, fabrication delays have extended the performance period by a couple of weeks. Bill expects that the bulletin boards will be installed any day now.

Ms. Lewis, who lives at the corner of Amazon and Clifton, complained that the water main removal resulted in the ditch being filled with reduced stone and rip rap, which has created a variety of problems. People don't like to walk in the rip rap to pick up litter and dog poop. Ms. Lewis wants the area to be filled in with greenery. Steve Slack volunteered to take a first cut at drafting a letter to the City to describe the problem and ask for help. Steve Slack and/or Dick Druffel will also communicate with Joe Voegel about the situation and also ask for an update regarding the City's promise to extend the sidewalk up the east side of Clifton Avenue.