

CTM Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2010  
Clifton Recreation Center

Trustees in attendance: Dick Druffel, Linda Goldenhar, George Bishop, Ron Becker, Karen Imbus, Steve Slack, Mike Elovitz, Malcolm Montgomery, Mike Willing, Bob Blum, Mary Jo Vesper, Mark Smith, Pete Schneider, Jeff Rose, Brian Curwin, Emily Hass

Minutes: Ron Becker moved approval of the minutes from the Dec meeting. Passed 10 for/4 abstentions.

Officers: Move approval of officers for 2010.

2010 CTM Officers Election

Candidates:

President – Dick Druffel

Vice President - Mike Elovitz

Vice President – Karen Imbus

Treasurer – Bill Fant

Secretary – Ron Becker

George Bishop moved that candidates be approved by acclimation: passed with 1 abstention (S. Slack).

Regular Reports:

Police report: Det. Paul Meyer reported little criminal activity in business district during the holiday season. One specific case discussed: Dec 11 at Clifton Hills and Ludlow. A neighbor frightened off a break-in in progress. Eventually, the suspects were caught when they returned to get their (stolen) car. The arrest was due in great part because of an observant citizen. Crime in 2009 (as of the end of November) was down 2%. At one point the increase had been nearly 30% so the end of the year saw a significant reduction. Det Meyer announced that Fire Capt. Campbell had been transferred. (With extra funding from federal grant), the police were able to stake out the area make a significant arrests over the winter break. Although crime rates are down, burglaries are up, so they encouraged citizens keep an eye on their neighbors.

- G Bishop asked about what seemed to be a rash of graffiti. The officer described the police's efforts to deal with graffiti and the challenges of dealing with the increase.
- When asked about a high number of police cars in central Clifton, the officer reported that they were chasing a suspect.

Cameron Ross (City Planning): Gave update of land use plan study being conducted in relation to the I-75 construction. The project is focused on how to use the reconstruction to create effective gateways from the interstate into the area. There will be a public meeting presenting early plans to the public on Jan 14 from 6-8 pm at Cincinnati State. He also encouraged everyone to participate in the census, stressing the importance of the census to the city.

A representative from the newest city council member (Laure Quinlivan) encouraged everyone to visit her office.

Clifton Rec Center: Celebrated the parking lot renovation. Encouraged everyone to sign in when visiting the center (and give demographic info—child, senior, etc) because such stats are key to receiving city funding. The center has already lost staff and been forced to reduced hours because of under-reporting. Also encouraged people trying out the 3-month free membership opportunity.

## **Special CTM Reports.**

Dick Druffel welcomed new trustees

Addendum to the LLC Operating Agreement: Dick Druffel updated the board on developments. With the help of Karen Imbus, important changes were made to the agreement. When meeting with the CPBA representatives, a few minor changes were made and signed by both parties. A key point on the agreement is that in 2010 CTM would share in the expenses. In 2011, CBPA would take over sole responsibility for expenses. A committee would meet at least quarterly to deal with management issues. S Slacked asked who had check-writing rights for the LLC. The LLC treasurer does under specific limitations.

### **CTM 2010 Operating Plan:**

#### **1. Calendar of events (Mike Elovitz)**

Mike Elovitz gave an overview of the preliminary calendar of events which CTM are involved in. Dick Druffel opened a discussion if the existing program of events should continue as is or if people had ideas of changes. Noted that many of the events are co-sponsored by CBPA. G Bishop mentioned the fact that with the opening of the plaza (with its stage) would likely create new events that CTM would likely be asked to and want to be involved with. M Montgomery encouraged having a one-page events calendar for user clarity. Mark Smith recommended that there be greater clarity on what events CTM had a leadership role in, what events would be fundraising versus community service, etc.

Discussion of events:

Plaza opening ceremony: envisioned as a celebration spearheaded by the LLC committee and in cooperation with CBPA sometime in the spring. D. Druffel asked if people thought the event has support from the board. There was general support.

Memorial Day Parade. Jack Brandt said he would manage the parade component but raised questions about the cost and volunteer labor of the picnic part. The varied history of the event and CTM's role in it was discussed.

Clifton Chalk Drawing Festival: major event historically organized by Kip Eggan. CTM has kicked in \$5,000 (which combined with corporate sponsorship) covered the event. Has tended to require more money than volunteer time because of Kip Eggan's involvement. Eggan said he would manage the event again next year. M Elovitz stated that he had heard mixed opinions about the event and its appeal. S. Stack said he felt it was an important and worthwhile event. Jack Brandt raised the issue that the event is extremely weather sensitive and wondered whether it might be useful to consider moving the event earlier in the month to ensure odds of better weather. G. Bishop seconded that opinion and pointed out the danger of putting all our eggs in a basket so seriously dependent on the weather. C. Hilman suggested investing in a way that would make the event do-able outside. Another member raised the idea of an art fair instead of or as part of the event. D. Druffel ended the discussion by stating that there was general support for the event but concern with the weather-dependence. He would follow up with Kip Eggan to work on key points.

Lantern Walk: Community volunteers ran the event with funding from CTM.

Holiday Decorations: had been done by Mainstreet most recently and before that Clifton Community Fund. Expected that CTM and CBPA would share expenses. Requires volunteers.

Carriage Rides: Others have historically organized the event (sometimes at the last minutes) with CTM funding.

Burnet Woods Restoration: S. Slack would spearhead efforts with help of others on Parks committee to try and enhance area that interfaces with Clifton by the fountain. Mentioned possible items for improvement that CTM funding could support: better trail infrastructure, new railing by steps, trail signage.

Flowers on Ludlow: Mainstreet had covered the issue most recently; CTM now may share cost and volunteer time with CBPA. Last year, funds came from CBPA.

Great American CleanUp: Sometimes CTM has been involved, sometimes not. Maybe a useful event to connect the community with the Clifton Rec Center

Movie Night: Considered a fundraiser, but without support from Good Sam, it would have been just a community event. Given that, it seems the only real fundraiser is the House Tour. L Goldenharr asked us to think about what our response should be to that fact. Mark Smith strongly argued that CTM plan a number of events as fundraisers so CTM is not dependent so drastically on the House Tour. Ron Becker stated that movie night doesn't seem to have the economic model to be a viable fundraiser.

Ron Becker recommended that the executive committee get feedback tonight and then identify issues that should have a liaison versus other issues that should have committees with specific tasks, budgets, etc. How can we use our committees to be proactive on priority issues and liaisons as standing people to deal with possibly recurring issues? Bob Blum raised the point that the board should be responding to requests from committees and decide if there are the resources to devote to a project for the year or not. If not, then a liaison could be adequate.

The executive committee would meet to revise the committee/liason structure and return to ask the board for volunteers to hold those positions.

Christian Hilman: Formed a committee to promote green opportunities in Clifton and connect those efforts to various community events. Introduced people (mainly students at DAAP) who had helped move the committee's efforts ahead at the early stage. Encouraged the board to consider creating a permanent committee to deal with these issues (rather than just on an ad hoc basis).

Jack Brandt encouraged that a system get created to recruit volunteers from the wider community.

S. Slack: had been invited to a meeting with neighboring communities about the I-75 reconstruction plan and asked if others wanted to attend the meeting and work with him as the liaison on this issue. The meeting will be 7:30 am Thursday at Frisch's on Springrove.

#### Discretionary Goals for 2010

- 1) Complete the Clifton Plaza
  - Finish the construction including surface, landscaping and furniture
  - Set up LLC Organization to manage Plaza operations
  - Host a public opening ceremony
- 2) Make Clifton a "Greener" Community
  - Expanded Recycling Program
  - Other initiatives

D. Druffel asked trustees and audience members for feedback/ideas of goals for 2010.

George Bishop suggested having the goal of making it a cleaner community.

Bob Blum raised issue of the problematic activity at the fountain.

Mark Smith pointed out the need to include any priorities identified (i.e. to make a profit of movie night)

M Montgomery suggested becoming educated on form-based codes.

Community Q and A:

One member stated that a signature oak tree by fountain had been removed. He asked how the decision to remove the tree had been made. S. Slack said the park committee would follow up and report back.

Christian Hillman noticed that one night all the trash cans had been upturned on Ludlow. Asked if that had happened before.

Next meeting, Monday, Feb 1 at Rec Center.

Adjourned: 9:10.