

## CTM Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2010

Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Trustees in attendance: Dick Druffel, Mike Elovitz, Bill Fant, Malcolm Montgomery, Steve Slack, George Bishop, Mary Jo Vesper, Jeff Rose, Brian Curwin, Robert Blum, and Karen Imbus.

### **Regular Reports:**

Fire Report: Officer Campbell has returned to Engine Station 34. He has served in Hyde Park since January. He reported 143 responses in April: 99 EMS, 34 non-fire (e.g., accidents); and 10 fire. There were no fires in Clifton. Officer Campbell noted that in January, Clifton's firehouse was first on the list for closure. He reported that the community's lobbying efforts, under the leadership of George Bishop, were critical to keeping the firehouse in Clifton.

Police Report: In April Detective Meyer reported crime was down 43% in Clifton for the year, attributable in part to common sense efforts such as people not keeping valuables in their car. Since the last meeting there has been a slight uptick in crime in Clifton: 9 thefts from autos, 3 burglaries, and 6 to 7 street robberies (occurring mostly east of Clifton Avenue in the early morning and late night). District 5 spent a lot of time recently solving the beating of the homeless person that has been in the news. Citizens on Patrol is active. They've been giving Burnet Woods, the Shelter House, and the Fountain lots of attention.

CCAC Report: Ruth Dickey reported that construction has begun on the elevator, which is due for completion on or before October 1. CCAC is hosting numerous activities in 2010 including Kids' View, an exhibition of photography by the kids participating in the Kids' View photography program at Prairie (May 4 through May 16); M.F.A. thesis exhibits from UC, DAAP (May 28 through June 11), and Wednesdays on the Green, which will kick off its second year on June 2.

Cincinnati Recreation Center Report: CRC will host the 2010 Botterell in partnership with the Cincinnati Fencing Club on the weekend of May 8. The event is free for spectators. Summer day camp will be held from June 7 to August 8. Registration is closing fast but there are currently 12 positions left.

### **Special Reports:**

Citizens Budget Meetings: Carolyn Miller reported the next citizens budget meeting will be May 5 at Midway School. The all-city meeting will be held at the Cintas Center on June 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Coalition supporters suggested citizens give city council their input before council developed priorities regarding budget cuts and/or revenue raising activities. There is currently a \$51 Million Dollar shortfall in the City's budget.

Art Carpets: Kip Eagan reported that Lefevre Studio has talked with shop owners and is coming back for a community engagement process. Lefevre Studio and Art Works are inviting people to bring memorabilia and design input so that artisans can take it home and start to make design decisions. Community sessions will be held at the CCAC on Friday, May 7 from 6 – 8;

Saturday, May 8 from 10 - 12 and 2 - 4. Art Carpets is sticking with the library location for an art carpet because the library has been at its current location for decades and holds a lot of memories. Streetscapes is looking for donations of cars for “Art Cars” in September.

Memorial Day Parade: Jack Brand reported that the Memorial Day parade will happen on Monday, May 31 – rain or shine. The parade will gather at the intersection of Middleton across from Rawson Woods, and leave for Mt. Storm at 11:00. The City has had trouble getting the insurance certification needed for the parade permit. Jack is asking the police to process the parade permit with the insurance certification. The City has assured Jack that the certification will come through. Parade organizers are looking for a vintage convertible to transport the couple who originally organized the Memorial Day band. Adam Balz is organizing the Memorial Day cookout.

Clifton Branch Library Proposal Discussion: Dick Druffel has received several emails about the library moving to the old Boss Cox Mansion, expressing concerns about the effect of the move on the Ludlow Business District. CTM wants to be as prepared as possible for the library’s moving and is seeking to address any concerns in a proactive way. Kim Fender from the library reported that there is a 3 year time-line for the new library. The library is seeking to raise \$3,000,000. When sufficient funding has been secured, the library will engage an architect to develop plans. It is anticipated that construction will take from 12 to 18 months. The community wants to maximize opportunities that result from such a good location turning over. Community members expressed the following comments:

- Ellen Biersdorf expressed concern about pedestrian impact.
- Irene Lohre commented that parking is both good news and bad news. Concerned that when parents get in their cars after leaving the library, they’ll head up to Rookwood instead of patronizing Clifton businesses.
- Tom Lohre wants to know whether CCAC has been considered. Ruth Dickey said the library would be welcome to locate to the CCAC.
- Jack Brand reported that Kim Fender has met with the merchants to talk about the impact of the move. Clifton merchants did not feel it would have a particular significant impact on their businesses. The merchants feel that there will be some impact, but most people who combine shopping trips with visits to the library will continue to do so after the library moves to the Boss Cox Mansion. The current library space is 2,500 sq. ft. Most Clifton Business District spaces are approximately 1100 sq. ft., so the library’s move presents a unique opportunity. Until the library finalizes the lease with the owner of the current location, CBPA will not become very involved in this discussion. After that, CBPA intends to do an inventory of the people and businesses interested in locating to Clifton and avoiding any potential inappropriate use of the current library site. CBPA wants to be a partner in this process to create a very beneficial situation for Clifton.
- CTM wants the community to attract the kind of business that will have a synergistic effect on other businesses.

- Carolyn Miller asked why Clifton is being asked to contribute funding for the new library when the community has not been asked in the past. Kim Fender indicated it's because all the money in the library system's capital budget has been spent, in part for operating needs. The Bond Hill library was done with donated funds, and Pleasant Ridge is doing funding for handicapped access to its library. Kim Fender thinks a lot of library donations will come from historic preservation interests.
- Kip Eagan commented that the library move is a win/win situation. Clifton library was on the chopping block if the last library levy had not passed because the Clifton branch has no parking, no meeting space, and doesn't own its own building, etc.
- Sandra Geiser, a Wentworth Avenue resident, was delighted to see the building on her street. She believes it is a good location because there are not many houses on Wentworth and Boss Cox Mansion overlooks Burnet Woods. She suggested that the current library location could be re-developed as a children's learning center.
- Bob Blum thinks it is an asset that the library will be across from Burnet Woods and believes there will be a demand for the current library space.
- Malcolm Montgomery is wholeheartedly positive about the library. His only issue is the impact on the business district, because the library is an anchor. He believes moving the library to a distance that is not walkable would severely impact the business district. Malcolm thinks a parking garage at the Merchants Lot would be ideal with the library incorporated. He reported that Roxanne Qualls asked him at the Form-Based Codes meeting why the community has not pushed for a parking garage.
- Steve Schreiber commented that the idea of incorporating a library into a parking lot was suggested by David Gosselin in the mid-90's. Steve, Jack and others worked on that proposal and couldn't make it happen because it was too expensive then, and it would be more expensive now.
- Kim Fender indicated that the letter of intent regarding the donation of the Boss Cox Mansion specifies that it would be donated for the purpose of a library. Ownership has not transferred yet. If the library were going to seek to change the use of the building, she believes the library would have to discuss that with the donor.

6 in favor; 5 abstentions. Resolution passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Fant reported that Clifton was one of only a few communities that got 100% reimbursement for its NSP projects. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. 10 in favor; 1 abstention.

Motion was made to give the CCAC \$30 for providing a location for the Form Base Codes meeting. The resolution passed unanimously.

A motion was made to suspend the bylaws and authorize immediate payment to the LLC of \$1,077.17 from CTM funds received as gifts designated specifically for Plaza-related purposes. Bill explained that it was necessary to suspend the bylaws because this was only the first reading of the expenditure of the \$1,077.17, but the bills were due. He also noted that CTM had budgeted \$1500 for the Plaza. Dick explained that \$9,000 in donations were made to CTM for Plaza-specific purposes. For accounting and transparency reasons, CTM will funnel that funding to the LLC for Plaza operations the City won't pay for, such as gatorbags. The resolution passed unanimously.

A motion was made to add the balance of funding donated to CTM specifically for Plaza-related purposes to the \$1500 budgeted previously for the Plaza, for a total of \$9,000 to be budgeted for the Plaza. Resolution passed unanimously.

Steve proposed that CTM periodically review the LLC's income and expenses. Dick noted that the LLC operating agreement provides for a quarterly meeting of the LLC Committee. It was agreed that the trustees would review the resolution about the LLC and see if it covers financial reporting to CTM. If it does not, the resolution will be amended to provide such.

Clifton Plaza Update: Dick Druffel reported that construction is 99% finished. Chrome signage has been ordered, and two lockable message boards have been ordered for the cedar fence. The lockable message boards are not for general community use, but for CTM and CBPA to address Plaza operations. The remaining item is to make bigger signs. The LLC Committee will accomplish this. It is anticipated that the message boards and signage will be installed by June 1. Flags will be flying shortly.

Plaza Opening Ceremony: The ceremony was originally intended for the benefit of the community, but the Plaza committee recognizes the importance of thanking donors and political supporters and creating a buzz for the community. In working with the City and the Uptown Consortium on the opening ceremony, Dick learned that the City doesn't typically work on the weekends. As such, he is proposing two events: 1) the official ribbon cutting ceremony designed to generate publicity and strengthen political connections. Ideally, the event will held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning to be covered on the noon and evening news; and 2) an event for the community on Friday evening or Saturday after the official ribbon-cutting event. Dick envisions something for the children like circus performance or a juggler followed by a band and maybe a donation of ice cream tubs from Graeter's and UDF. There was a discussion about whether to couple the opening ceremonies with something else or have it be a stand-alone event. The consensus was that this is a major capital improvement which is deserving of its own event. Dick requested a volunteer to head up the community effort. Tom Lohre suggested doing a story in the Chronicle on the official ribbon cutting ceremony. Dick will put out an email to the Board to lock down a date and get volunteers for the community side party.

Dick reported there have been clever ideas for usage of the Plaza, but the LLC committee hasn't been able to fully consider them yet. Issues to be addressed include how to populate activities for the Plaza. A film showing has been proposed, as has a piano. Tom Lohre reported that Bob wants to decorate a piano and put it on the Plaza and have it remain there for as long as it functions. A musician has said he would like to play now and then. Gene would like to do a silent film night with piano. We need to consider whether to charge a usage fee in order to make the Plaza revenue neutral. Adjacent property owners have asked that we not have things go past 10:00

p.m. on the plaza. Bob suggested CCAC may want to coordinate plaza activities. George Bishop suggested talking with DCI, which has done programming for Fountain Square, to ask them to advise regarding uses.

Form-Based Codes: Malcolm will make a report soon. Roxanne Qualls spoke with the FBC committee again. She believes Form-Based Codes are an important part of getting the City back into the planning and development business.

Great American Clean-Up: Mary Jo reported that the Great American Clean-Up was held on the official rain date of May 1. There were 11 volunteers, 8 of whom were UC students. The effort collected 20 tires, 14 bags of trash, and 2 bags of recyclables. Clifton Green Committee would like to make this event occur on a regular basis in Clifton.

CTM Conflict of Interest Policy: Bob Blum has provided a short-form conflict of interest policy statement that Dick will distribute for comment.

Clifton Chronicle: Tom Lohre reported that stories from the Chronicle are posted on Cincinnati.com to promote an electronic presence. Clifton Performance Theatre will get a column in the Chronicle.

Announcements: Tom Lohre announced that requests are being made for submission for a juried art show which will occur at the CCAC.

MoBo Bicycle Cooperative: Jess Ling, a Wood Avenue resident and volunteer at MoBo Bicycle Coop in Northside, invites Clifton to use their resource. The coop is located at 1415 Knowlton Street in Northside. It is open three evenings per week, one night of which is for women. It will hold a fundraiser on Saturday from 10 – 4, selling bikes that volunteers have tuned, priced from \$20 to \$100. The fundraiser is for the coop's children's programs and operational costs.

Community member Hariett Moster inquired whether the peeling yellow bench on Telford, next to Pangaea could be scraped and painted. Karen Imbus will contact Lisa at Sitwell's regarding the bench.