

CTM Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2010
Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Trustees in attendance: Ron Becker, Dick Druffel, Mike Elovitz, Bill Fant, Malcolm Montgomery, Mary Jo Vesper, Linda Goldenhar, Jeff Rose, Karen Imbus, Jim Segars, Mark Smith, Brian Curwin, Pete Schneider, Eric Clark. Michael Willing, Christian Huelsman

Secretary's report: minutes from October meeting approved with 3 abstentions (Malcom M. Brian Curwin, R Becker)

Treasurer's Report: Bill Fant reviewed the income and expenses for the last month. Moved with one abstention (Bill Fant).

Regular Reports:

Police: Report submitted by Det. Meyer: Thefts from autos were down a little this month. A twelve year old from the Wolper & Vine area was arrested for breaking into cars behind 3407 Clifton. Burglaries were very low with an arrest of an individual at Whitfield and Dixmyth for breaking into a vacant building owned by Good Sam Hospital. There were two aggravated robberies on Telford. So far Dist.5 has made one arrest of an individual from Walnut Hills who was involved in one of the robberies. In the other one, 3 male whites and 3 male blacks were standing on the street just north of Shiloh. As the victims entered a driveway to park in the lot behind the building one male white and one male black went to the rear lot and robbed the victims at gunpoint. Suspects were last seen running south on Telford towards Ludlow. Nothing outstanding or unusual about the physical descriptions. Crime is down about 15% comparing 2010 with 2009.

Fire: 190 responses for October. 123 EMS runs, 47 non-fire responses (downed wires, etc); 20 fire responses—1 structure fire. Reported that Clifton firehouse seems to be at the top of the chief's lists for closure given the budget crisis. The speaker was frustrated that the fire department has not presented information about research done to make strategic choices for closures, etc. Mike Elovitz asked about whether there has been any separation in the discussions between the city and fire department about funding choices between fire and EMS services. The speaker had not heard any details from the department leadership and encouraged the board to ask the fire chief to come to a CTM meeting and/or request information from fire administration. Kip Egan recommended that the CTM Board be proactive in connecting with fire administration to get information and/or express concerns.

D. Druffel suggested that the CTM Board writer a letter of support for the Clifton Fire House. That the president be given the authority to write such a letter. He would send it to the board within a few days for feedback. Kip Egan recommended that the letter include a request that the fire administrator attend a CTM meeting. Passed with 2 abstentions (Erik Clark).

Mark Smith encouraged CTM be extremely vocal and assertive in expressing the importance of fire and police service to the community. Karen Imbus suggested encouraging community members to

write letters, call, etc. Dick Druffel and Mark Smith agreed to serve as CTM Board representatives for the effort. An audience member encouraged people to attend budget meetings and go in person to talk to city representatives.

Cincinnati Recreation Center Report: Tom Reese: In the face of impending budget cuts, CCAC and CRC have worked with a advocates who have helped let city officials know about the importance of different entities to them and their communities. Underscored the fact that having advocates showing up at city hall does matter.

Invites people to attend 6-8:30 open house at CRC for a sampler of courses and activities offered at the center.

CCAC: Reprised the history of the efforts behind the renovation of the CCAC project. After phase one, the building is ADA accessible and up to fire code. Stressed the need to raise more money to continue the renovations and operating costs and asked all present to consider supporting the Center.

Special CTM Reports

Clifton Mosque Parking/Traffic Issues – George Roden: Reported that some people attending the mosque on Friday have been ignoring street parking regulations on Friday evenings which have caused some traffic problems. This problem is only one of a number of traffic and parking issues in Clifton and he would like to let the mosque help with solving any problems.

Mosque representative: Is aware of the challenges. Have hired a police officer to manage traffic. Their Friday services are Friday afternoons (either 12:50-1:30 or 1:50-2:30). They support the police giving tickets and are happy to work with police and community to educate the mosque attendees to help solve the solution. Their website does include language asking attendees not to block driveways, etc. Police officer Lisa Johnson stated that she would assess the situation, begin handing out warnings and then assess tickets in line with the same approach as the police have developed to deal with UC etc. She underscored the importance of calling the police to deal with traffic and parking issues. The mosque is exploring the possibility of building a garage to support expected growth.

Office to Clifton mosque: 221-4003. www.cliftonmosque.org

CTM Elections – Mike –Ben Pantojas , Bill Fant, and Erik Clark elected to the CTM Board

Cincinnati State Parking Committee Update –Pete Schneider. Good news: as of Nov 18th, the parking lot construction will be completed, opening up 300 spaces. That will not solve all of the long-term parking situation. The committee will work with city and Cincinnati State officials to explore long-term solutions. CTM did send a letter requesting information on CS short and long term parking plans but CS have not yet responded. An audience member reiterated his perceptions of the real dangers to pedestrians because of the nature of traffic and lighting on Clifton Hiss/Terrace/Crescent.

CTM Events and Movie Committee Report – Linda: This past Sunday (10/24) was CTM’s 3rd annual movie night event: Wizard of Oz sing-a-long-version. Sold 134 adult/70 children’s tickets. When combined with underwriting support and ticket sales, we raised \$2,486.51. The event was a great community event for children and adults and the board would like to thank Linda and the great work of the volunteers (Gene, Mauren, Kelly, and Barb).

George Roden made an announcement regarding the annual carriage rides on December Friday 12/10 6-9 pm. Asked for volunteers to help with the event that evening.

Bill Fant made motion to spend \$750 to cover costs of carriage rides. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Streetscapes Financials – Kip/Bill Reported on final numbers connected to Streetscapes festival. Currently, the event is about \$3,056 over income generated. \$2,000 may yet come from NSP funds. In discussing the event next year, we will need to discuss what amount CTM wants to contribute to the event on an annual basis.

Jim Segars will provide information on the inventory of remaining T-shirts.

Bill Fant provided a survey of the remaining financials of the CTM budget the summary of which was that we expect to be in a surplus, mainly due to savings gained from various locations and funds raised from membership drive and movie night.

Linda Goldenhar asked: given the financial strength of CTM’s accounts, how can the board think through how to effectively spend some of its reserves to benefit the community. Dick Druffel encouraged committees to ponder how they could recommend programs/activities that could benefit the community toward which some of the available funds could go to. Erik Clark recommended brainstorming ideas that would then be reviewed and prioritized.

George Roden recommended that Clifton could serve as a pilot community in the city’s new efforts to develop newspaper condo kiosks for sidewalk newspapers boxes.

Kip Eggan recommended partnering with Clifton Fund to pool funds to make a bigger impact.

Erik Clark mentioned the idea of a walking/biking trail.

Tom Lohre mentioned Bearcat Cash publisher’s openness to include Clifton info into the publication.

CTM Committee Goals and budget updates –

Events: New co-chair will be Ben. Goals: To work with others to continue to document the expenses, income, supplies, etc that are required to get different events done so the wheel doesn’t have to be invented each year. Underscored the view that the events committee role was not to run events but facilitate planning. Next step for the committee will be go gather the documents on each of the events for 2010.

Communications: Ron updated on expected priorities for 2011 which will include: redesigning the CTM website, executive the bumpersticker campaign, and conduct survey on Chronicle usage.

Beautification: summarized accomplishments of the committee in overseeing various plantings and the upcoming holiday decorations. Also summarized their 2nd goal: explore a neighborhood-wide beautification effort that would focus on bigger, more impactful projects. Have just begun to develop that plan. In going forward, they hope to collaborate with CBPA and Clifton Fund more effectively for wow-effect projects. A recommendation was made to coordinate with CBPA

Green Committee: 2 goals. 1. Develop plan for multi-unit dweller recycling. Began investigating how recycling could be improved. Conducted survey of apt dwellers and businesses but didn't find adequate options for immediate action. However, would like to continue exploring options. 2. Develop a green assets inventory for the community. This will be a longer-term endeavor that will continue in 2011. Are exploring a community festival that honors sustainable initiatives in Clifton and advances educational goals. In April, we participated in Keep Cincinnati Beautiful clean up day and encourage continued participation. Would recommend finding in 2011 for that event and the festival.

Executive committee: updated bylaws.

Plaza Construction committee: plaza completed, still completing paper work.

Housing and Zoning: Goals: 1. create a set of policies and procedures for how to assess housing and zone issues pertinent to Clifton. Have made progress on certain elements of this issue but limited because of time spent on #2. 2. Explore and advice board on zone-based codes. Spent 200 hours on this task. 3. Representing Clifton community in city zoning issues.

Asks the CTM board to endorse a letter stating opposition to city's proposed changes to zoning variance policies and procedures. Straw poll of support for letter passed with one abstention (Curwin).

A resident of the community applied for a variance that the committee decided should be brought to the attention of the board. Variance is to widen the driveway at the street to provide front yard parking, which is a significant change. The committee felt that the specifics of the case were thorny enough that they would like to get more feedback from the board. Resolution: CTM does not oppose the variance given the specificity of the unique topography and the unique safety issue of this location. We would not want this to set a precedent. 8 for 2 opposed, 3 abstentions.

Announcements: Next Meeting December 6, 2010 at the Clifton Recreation Center