

CTM Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM
January 3, 2011
Clifton Recreation Center

Meeting Called to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clifton Town Meeting was called to order on January 3, 2011 at 7:07 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center at 320 McAlpin Avenue, by Trustee Karen Imbus, who chaired the meeting.

Trustees in attendance for the meeting: Bob Blum, Eric Clark, Brian Curwin, Linda Goldenhar, Christian Huelsman, Karen Imbus, Malcolm Montgomery, Ben Pantoja, Jeff Rose, Pete Schneider, Mary Jo Vesper. The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

Resolution to Elect New Officers for 2011 – M. Montgomery moved to elect the CTM Board proposed slate of candidates as officers (Karen Imbus, President; Pete Schneider, Vice-President; Mary Jo Vesper, Vice-President; Bill Fant, Treasurer; and Jeff Rose, Secretary). L. Goldenhar seconded. Each candidate briefly introduced themselves (B. Fant absent). Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed and Approved:

Secretary's Report: A draft version of the minutes of the December 6, 2010, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. K. Imbus moved to approve the minutes; L. Goldenhar seconded. Bob Blum mentioned that he was present at the meeting and needed to be added to the list of Trustees in attendance. The minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved, with one abstention (M. Montgomery).

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for December 2010 had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. K. Imbus moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; P. Schneider seconded. A small amount of discussion ensued regarding moving the 2011 budget approval to the February 2011 meeting due to B. Fant's absence. M. Montgomery asked whether any January expenditures would be held up due to the 2011 budget approval being delayed. K. Imbus mentioned that the only sizeable item would be the tax bill, and this was previously approved by the Board during the December meeting. Delaying 2011 budget approval to the February 2011 meeting was agreed upon, and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved with one abstention (B. Blum).

Regular Reports:

Police Report: Report given by Officer Lisa Johnson. Officer Johnson brought in copies of an informational packet regarding protecting yourself against home burglary. She also mentioned that State Farm has created a helpful checklist to inventory the items in and around your home (e.g. air conditioner with model and serial number, electronics, etc.). This

list can then be used to help identify stolen items. Officer Johnson planned to send the link to CTM for distribution via the listserv. Audience member Daniel Ames mentioned that that social security numbers used to be a great way to mark an individual's property; however, with the prevalence of identity theft today, it's no longer the best method. He inquired Officer Johnson for an alternative. She mentioned that U.C. has been utilizing a special marker to mark property that can only be seen under UV light. E. Clark mentioned that these markers can be purchased in toy shops.

Officer Johnson mentioned that a new graffiti artist has been hitting Clifton and nearby neighborhoods. The police department is already looking on Facebook and other sites to locate the individual. The department also knows the individual who "tagged" the Clifton Natural Foods and is in the process of tracking his whereabouts. The department has now developed a database of taggers to better track sightings and "tags".

One other issue that has been brought to the District's attention is La Poste's valet parking in which the restaurant is currently using United Methodist's parking lot for valet cars. The lot holds 20 cars, and the restaurant usually does not have more than 20 valet cars at any one time. The restaurant was previously covering parking meters illegally and is now utilizing the nearby "Loading Zone" for valet pick-up. The Loading Zone is for general Ludlow business use until 5pm, after which it can be used for valet. There is some discussion around reducing the increased curb size (created during the Ludlow revitalization) to allow delivery trucks to better make the turn onto Telford Street. Audience member Jack Brand stated that he wasn't sure where La Poste was currently parking cars. Officer Johnson mentioned that La Poste filed paperwork with traffic engineering to use United Methodist's lot and that the restaurant may have one other lot for overflow. Officer Johnson mentioned that Paul Meyer will be missed at the department, but he will still be seen around the community. She asked that residents email her to let her know when residents will be out of town so that the department can keep an eye out for suspicious activity. Her email address is: Lisa.Johnson@cincinnati.oh.gov. An audience member asked for clarification on whether all residents should notify the police. Officer Johnson confirmed. The audience member replied that it is a great service for the community. Officer Johnson mentioned that theft from autos was up last month. The department has created laminated reminders for residents and visitors to "Lock your junk in your trunk" and will be posting them at participating businesses this month.

M. Montgomery brought up the celebration for Paul Meyer at the Proud Rooster on December 28th. M. Montgomery stated that Paul Meyer expressed his thanks to the residents.

Audience member Lisa Storie, the owner of Sitwell's Coffee House, expressed concern over the previously discussed La Poste valet parking. She stated that she had brought the issue to various bureaus, the valet parking board, and police, and she still sees the issue as unresolved. Ms. Storie stated that she has been in the community for 15 years and has a business to run. The valet parking board told her that La Poste had initially filed for a lot downtown. Audience member Jack Brand stated that the valet parking board ensures that a lot can accommodate the number of cars for a business; Tower Place (downtown) was on the original application

but was most likely an incorrect filing by the valet company. This has since been corrected to identify United Methodist as the valet lot. He mentioned that anyone can park in public parking spaces. The only issue would arise if La Poste was indeed parking valeted cars on streets and not utilizing the approved valet lot (the valet approval is contingent on the restaurant using that lot). Jack Brand mentioned that overall the valet is a plus to the community, as it means fewer cars in the Clifton merchant's lot and on the street. The patrons eating at La Poste should also provide additional patrons for the Clifton businesses. L. L. Goldenhar stated her belief that this is a CBPA and police issue; not a CTM issue. P. Schneider stated that he is 75% in agreement with Linda, but recognized the issue. He requested that Ms. Storie meet with the CTM Clifton Parking Committee offline to determine what role CTM can play to help solve this issue with the community's best interests at heart. We could then table the discussion to a later date. Ms. Storie reiterated that her livelihood is in the business and that employees are having an issue with parking. She stated that La Poste has been dishonest with their use of valet and has illegally blocked public parking meters. Ms. Storie stated that she has been going through every avenue to get this resolved and is looking to CTM for help. Officer Johnson provided additional counterpoints and stated she's been following up on the situation; the only complaints appear to be coming from Ms. Storie. Officer Johnson stated that the opening of a new coffee shop created same problem for Ms. Storie before La Poste.

Recreation Report: Report given by Tom Reese of the Clifton Recreation Center (CRC). The budget news was actually acceptable; Mr. Reese state that some recreation colleagues will be transferred to different locations and that some recreation locations will be closed. Nearby examples include: (i) Camp Washington to be closed (lost pool) and (ii) Mt. Auburn to be closed (only heated pool nearby). Mr. Reese recommended using Mt. Auburn's pool to try to keep the location open (based on attendance figures). If the pool is kept, a wall would most likely need to be built to separate it from the school section of the building. He stated that Corryville Center will inherit some programs from nearby locations. Updated CRC program guides will be published soon. Natorp's came back with an estimate on landscaping to hide the large green box on the CRC's property. Mr. Reese asked for timing of CTM's beautification funding and stated that the CRC will match dollar-for-dollar whatever funds CTM is able to donate. It would be a spring planting and thus funding was not immediately urgent. He stated that the CRC's ventilation system was being improved. Mr. Reese confirmed that the CRC's recent upgrades were funded from the budgeted capital fund and not from the recreation operating budget, meaning no employee compensation was foregone to upgrade the CRC. L. Goldenhar asked about the location of the Mt. Auburn Center, and Mr. Reese provided nearby landmarks.

Fire Report: Mr. Reese (CRC) asked if there were any fire department updates, K. Imbus replied that no bad news had been provided to the Board since the December update.

Burnet Woods Trailside Museum Report: No report provided.

CCAC Report: No report provided.

Special CTM Reports:

Conflict of Interest Policy – K. Imbus spoke about the COI policy, stating that much of the work on crafting the document was completed in 2010. All trustees were asked to sign the annual COI and submit the signed copy to the Secretary.

CTM Committees and Liaisons for 2011 – K. Imbus asked each committee to create goals for 2011 and email them to J. Rose. L. Goldenhar expressed concern for the Events Committee in (a) supervising events by working with event committee heads vs. (b) planning every event. B. Pantoja mentioned that the Events Committee would help the heads in planning by providing Excel sheets, binders, notes, etc. (e.g. receipt processing, getting licenses set up, etc. with one liaison per event). B. Pantoja will update committee summary and send to J. Rose. B. Blum recommended that the Events Committee should provide a chair for each event; L. Goldenhar disagreed. B. Pantoja stated that finding chairs would most likely be an acceptable solution, and K. Imbus suggested that an open event chair could be brought before the full Board. B. Blum restated that someone from the Events Committee should be the managing chair. R. Becker mentioned that there should be middle ground between L. Goldenhar and B. Blum; if no one from the community wants to run the event, then the event just doesn't help. R. Becker also suggested "coordinate" as action verb for Committee's responsibility. Each ad-hoc committee for an event has some flexibility for event details. E. Clark and B. Curwin agreed. K. Imbus asked committee chairs to write 2011 goal(s) and regular responsibilities. Audience member, George Roden stated that certain community events should happen every year and expressed the belief that the Events Committee should ensure that these events happen. L. Goldenhar said that first year for Committee was to document how events take place (what needs to be done when). 2011 will be a continuation of this to ensure continuity. M. Vesper asked if documentation complete, L. Goldenhar said that it is close. R. Becker from audience spoke about Events Committee changing over time. Historically, Events Committee might have taken ownership, but going forward, this needs to be defined. B. Blum mentioned that Events Committee could suggest new community events for slow periods of the year. K. Imbus recommended that the committee provide advance notice if an event was expected not to happen due to lack of community involvement. M. Montgomery asked about accountability of event. E. Clark stated that if an event was CTM-branded or CTM-funded, then the Events Committee would report to the full Board. B. Pantoja mentioned Memorial Day Parade as an example – Adam Balz reported to B. Pantoja to capture data. B. Pantoja would then report to Events Committee. K. Imbus asked for volunteers and Board to participate in committees. Communication, Membership, & Marketing Committee – K. Imbus stated that the website looks good; members confirmed.

Housing & Zoning Committee – M. Montgomery's last year on CTM Board; he plans to reach out to get a co-chair for the committee that was a non-CTM board member (preferably an architect); stated that it would be helpful to have a trustee to take Malcolm's position in 2012 (perhaps 3 trustees?). M. Montgomery mentioned several parties involved with the committee – Dan Montgomery (architect), Lester (architect), Steve Slack (contractor), Nestor Melnyk (architect), Jack Brand (developer), Ted Johansen (architect co-chair), Mary Jo Vesper, Michael Willing, etc. Committee needs help to keep tabs on City permits and announcements affecting Clifton, involving going to a website weekly to scan and report activities in the 45220

zip code, etc. Stated there were many roles for people without specific zoning expertise and/or limited time.

Beautification Committee – M. Vesper spoke about historical tasks (spring plantings, holiday decorations, etc.) and some interest in helping to target beautification efforts in Clifton to maximize results. K. Imbus mentioned a number of folks who have been reliable to help with hard work of implementing tasks.

Clifton Green Committee – C. Huelsman stated that the committee has been working on a number of items to increase awareness of “green” items for Clifton. A suitable recycling location was not able to be found in 2010 for a number of reasons: no property owner willing to use land for recyclables drop off, access, space, etc. The committee is working on a number of other projects including working with Events Committee to showcase Clifton as green.

Clifton Parking Committee – E. Clark spoke about evolution of issues – C. State, then Clifton Mosque, now La Poste valet parking. M. Montgomery mentioned improving parking around the business district as a potential 2011 goal. P. Schneider spoke about broadening 2011 goal to improve quality of life for both residents and businesses. B. Blum stated that this committee should not be a standing committee, but rather an ad-hoc committee. Board confirmed that it would be an ad-hoc committee. C. Huelsman mentioned that it should be a permanent committee for items such as events, utility work, etc. L. Goldenhar mentioned that due to reduced size of the 2011 Board and the number of other committees, it shouldn't be a standing committee. K. Imbus agreed. B. Blum mentioned that it should be a 2011 ad-hoc committee with a one-year goal. E. Clark mentioned that it was currently too early to tell what the committee's future would be and suggested reassessing at year-end. K. Imbus moved, E. Clark seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Liaison positions reviewed by K. Imbus. Various liaisons spoke about the various positions. L. Goldenhar and M. Vesper working together for M. Vesper to take over Good Samaritan liaison position in 2012 since L. Goldenhar will reach term limit at end of 2011. E. Clark started with UPCD, which got him involved with the CTM Board. E. Clark participates in UPCD (economic committee) and is the green sub-committee chair. L. Goldenhar asked about 2012 CTM Board nominations; K. Imbus and B. Blum stated that this was the Executive Committee's responsibility. M. Montgomery volunteered for and was appointed by the Chair to the liaison position for public safety.

Cincinnati State Parking – P. Schneider stated that a letter was sent; requested to begin program; not much action over holidays. No further updates.

Holidays on Ludlow – B. Pantoja stated that the event went well with increased merchant participation this year (e.g. Servatii's did cookie decoration for children, the Esquire handed out free popcorn and refreshments, the new veterinarian participated, etc. Commended J. Segers, M. Montgomery, K. Eagan, D. Druffel, G. Roden, M. Vesper, and L. Goldenhar for volunteering. Carriage rides ran beyond 9pm this year. George Roden thanked all folks for support, Betsy Black for being a backup. He stated that carriage rides will need to be monitored closer in 2011. B. Curwin spoke about potentially adding a second carriage in 2011. Mr. Roden said that the company used for Holidays on Ludlow can run at least three carriages. B. Blum mentioned including in proposed 2011 budget next month if two carriages are requested. George mentioned some concern over adding carriages and that a waiting line

generates buzz in the business district. Some of that excitement would be lost with two carriages (the event lost some excitement in 2010 due to moving some entertainment across the street); Mr. Roden is fine with only one carriage. B. Pantoja brought up the idea of holding the event on Saturday instead of a Friday. J. Brand said CBPA has not had discussions yet on Friday vs. Saturday. M. Montgomery stated that music not heard very well in 2010 and asked if there was a way to spread out activity along street to give crowd exposure to other merchants. George said 7th or 8th year of carriage rides. Jenny Burton started event during holidays to get businesses involved. This is essentially a business event that CTM supports by providing carriage rides. Servatii's cookie event was the type of energy needed to get businesses excited. L. Goldenhar mentioned having CBPA discuss earlier in year to get more involvement. K. Imbus mentioned advertising with CBEC. B. Curwin said having two budgeted carriage rides would allow for use of only one if necessary. Mr. Roden will find out how much two would cost or longer period on a Saturday.

B. Blum asked about business district health – recent closings and new openings; Servatii's closing. J. Brand said that Servatii's is a satellite business and doesn't know why they chose to close. Brutopia was started by six Clifton residents, but it didn't work out. Market opened in the frame shop (Bearcat Trading). There is some activity, but different reasons for closures. M. Montgomery asked about if library move would cause a decrease in foot traffic. J. Brand said most businesses believe that a new business in the current library's location would increase foot traffic more than the library (depending on the business). M. Montgomery said city consultants think it may hurt businesses.

Community Q&A:

Audience member Daniel Ames stated that he has lived in Clifton all his life and saw on the news that one of the community services scheduled for elimination is city pickup of yard waste. He mentioned potentially setting up a program in Clifton. C. Huelsman mentioned that the Clifton Green Committee would look into. E. Clark mentioned that Uptown Consortium working with zoo to setup service for the Uptown communities. B. Curwin mentioned that Hamilton County has locations where residents can drop off yard waste.

Jack Brand – merchant's parking lot has a new payment system that has experienced a few glitches, but that the issues are getting ironed out. They are potentially adding signage to direct people for parking. Nearby apartment residents were taking spaces from 6pm until early morning, when they left before an attendant was on duty. A call box is to be installed for issues. New system is a learning experience. The parking lot has the same system that is installed at Kingsgate and Hoxworth. It should allow for increased parking. J. Brand could write article for Chronicle and put something on CTM website announcing new parking system. The payment box doesn't currently tell the user to put the "chaser ticket" through the box after initial ticket (most likely the current system's largest problem). It does take credit cards. Pricing is \$2 for first hour, then \$1 an hour after that, capped at \$4. Merchants can modify their own chaser tickets for how many hours are free. Lot has only been breakeven to date; hopes that new system will help generate profit. The parking is subsidized by merchants.

Audience member Betsy Black mentioned that in the past someone on the Board has written a CTM article for the Chronicle each quarter. K. Imbus stated said she would write article (2/1/11 deadline). L. Goldenhar mentioned that listserv is a great way to recruit volunteers.

Announcements: Next Meeting February 7, 2011 at Clifton Recreation Center

Meeting Adjourned 9:13

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Rose, Secretary