

CTM Meeting Minutes  
7:00 PM  
February 7, 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 February 7, 2011 at 7:04 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, Dick Druffel, Bill Fant, Christian Huelsman, Karen Imbus, Malcolm Montgomery, Ben Pantoja, Jeff Rose, Pete Schneider, Jim Segers, and Mary Jo Vesper. The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

**Regular Reports:**

K. Imbus stated the desire to spend the bulk of the evening's meeting discussing the closure of Keller's IGA and to provide the community ample time for feedback and comments. Thus, standing reports were requested to be brief.

**Police Report:** Report given by Officer Lisa Johnson. Officer Johnson reiterated the necessary precautions around securing valuables – most notably for the community to ensure they are locking vehicles and homes. This is the first line of defense against thefts.

**Fire Report:** Report given by Kevin Campbell. The month of January saw 151 responses, which was slightly lower than the average of approximately 200 responses. The responses broke down into: 107 EMS runs, 10 actual fire responses, and 34 non-fire responses.

**Recreation Report:** Report given by Tom Reese of the Clifton Recreation Center (CRC). The CRC office is getting ready for summer camp which usually fills up by March 15<sup>th</sup> or so. If anyone knows of interested 6-12 year-old youth, please call the CRC office for more details and to register. Mr. Reese mentioned that the Ohio Parks & Recreation Conference (state-level) was being held in Cincinnati this week. There may be a fireworks display on Wednesday.

**Burnet Woods Trailside Museum Report:** No report provided.

**CCAC Report:** No report provided.

**Reviewed and Approved:**

**Secretary's Report:** A draft version of the minutes of the January 3, 2011, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment. J. Rose moved to approve the

minutes; P. Schneider seconded. The minutes of the January 3, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved with one abstention (J. Segers).

K. Imbus announced that Councilman Wendell Young was present for this evening's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for December 2010 shown at the January 2011 meeting had been slightly revised and circulated prior to the meeting for the Board for review and comment. B. Fant stated that some expenses incurred in early 2011 were actually carryovers from 2010 and were reallocated to appropriately account for 2010 actuals. Additionally, the report does not yet reflect an NSP check in the amount of \$4,750 that was recently received. With this included, the 2010 actual results would result in a net loss of \$4,044 vs. the \$8,794 shown in the report. This loss was mainly comprised of two elements: 1) an approximate \$2,000 loss on StreetScapes and 2) cost overruns in the production of the Chronicle. B. Fant moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; D. Druffel seconded. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved with one abstention (B. Fant).

### **Special CTM Reports:**

**Plaza Expenses:** B. Fant provided update on the latest quarterly meeting of the Clifton Community, LLC. The Clifton Community, LLC meetings are attended by two representatives from CTM and two residents from CBPA. The CBPA representatives have requested that CTM cover half of the operating expenses for the 2011 calendar year. Total 2011 expenses are estimated to be \$5,500. B. Fant included these in the latest version of the budget to avoid the requirement of two meetings for review prior to the expense. The Board will still vote on the actual expenditure. B. Fant stated that CBPA has stated that they do not have adequate funds to cover the entire operating costs due to a number of reasons, most notably that revenue from the parking lot continues to be lower than expected.

**Finalize Budget:** At the January 3, 2011, meeting, the 2011 budget approval was postponed until the February meeting to allow for B. Fant's input. B. Fant presented the proposed 2011 budget, which included three columns (2010 actual, 2010 budget, and 2011 proposed budget). B. Fant reviewed each line item for the Board. On the income side of the budget, he recommended (i) the continuation of Clifton Chronicle ad revenue of \$10,000, (ii) fundraising of \$2,000 in 2011 below the \$6,000 in 2010 to account for unforeseen events (such as rainy day for Memorial Day parade) and to take pressure off of movie night to produce a profit, (iii) interest income of \$154 in 2011 vs. the \$200 in the 2010 budget to account for lower rates, (iv) the continuation from 2010 of \$8,000 for membership dues, (v) NSP grant interest left constant at \$750, and (vi) a reduction for NSP to \$2,500 to reflect the latest update on what funds are expected to be this year. B. Fant noted that this income will appear to fall in the \$2,000-\$2,500 range for 2011, which is a considerable reduction from the \$7,500 in 2009 and \$5,000 in 2010 (\$5,000 reduction in 2 years). Overall 2011 budgeted income is \$4,000 lower than the 2010 budget.

On the expense side of the budget, he recommended (i) the continuation of \$5,000 for beautification expenses, (ii) an increase of Clifton Chronicle expenses to \$10,000 (vs. \$9,500

budgeted in 2010) to bring closer to actuals in 2010 (\$13,315) and stated that the Communications Committee is working diligently to align Chronicle income and expenses as much as possible, (iii) raising communication expenses to \$1,500 to allow for the purchase of a cabinet to house audio/visual equipment at the CRC, (iv) reduction of insurance expenses to \$1,200 in 2011 (vs. \$2,000 in 2010) to cover officers' insurance since the city will cover other insurance expenses, (v) reduction of office expenses to \$750 (vs. \$1,600 in 2010), which is more in line with historical actual results, (vi) and an increase for special events expense to \$4,250 (vs. \$4,000 in 2010). The special events expenses have been broken out by event for better clarification. The 2011 proposed budget shows a projected loss of \$3,796 for the 2011 calendar year. B. Fant moved to approve the 2011 proposed budget. Motion passed with one opposed (E. Clark) and one abstention (B. Fant).

**Keller's IGA:** K. Imbus stated that she would provide an update on the situation with Keller's and what CTM has done to date.

**Transportation from Keller's IGA:** P. Schneider provided a brief overview on efforts to provide a transportation service from Keller's IGA to other nearby grocery stores during the period that Keller's IGA is closed. One individual has been working with Scarlet Oaks to provide transportation for seniors. P. Schneider also reached out to providers to secure a flat rate for transportation to select grocery stores. He felt that providing this service was in the best interest of the Clifton community.

**Keller's IGA:** K. Imbus opened up the Keller's IGA discussion by providing a recap of what has happened to date. She stated that Keller's closed on January 6<sup>th</sup>, providing a terrible shock to the Clifton community. She personally had gone to Keller's on a regular basis and stated that most everyone knew now why the store was closed. She stated that we're all very sorry that this is the case.

The trustees of Clifton Town Meeting took several actions shortly after learning that Keller's was not re-opening in the near term. The first calls were made to the City Manager and the interim Director of Community Development. These contacts understood how vital the store was to the community, both commercially and residentially. However, CTM was told that one of the major impediments to public funding is that loans cannot be made from public funding sources for businesses that are in arrears on their taxes. CTM also spoke with a number of elected officials. After speaking with Senator Kearney, a letter was sent to his attention on 1/14. He went to law school at the University of Cincinnati and both he and his mother-in-law have shopped at Keller's. He understood the importance of the grocery store. CTM also worked with Uptown Consortium (a collaborative of the large institutional players in Clifton – e.g. hospitals, U.C., zoo, etc.), which has expertise in financing, grant writing, etc. They were very responsive to requests for help. CTM also met with CBEC (comprised of a group of stakeholders in Clifton – Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC), Cincinnati State, Clifton Business Professionals Association (CBPA), etc.) and supplied the letter sent to Senator Kearney on 1/14 as a starting point for these organizations to write their own letters.. CTM also met with the owners of Keller's IGA several times during this process, and they were very forthcoming about the situation and explained why problems over the past few years had transpired. CTM

met with Presidents of the other Uptown communities (Avondale, Corryville, Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview, and Mt. Auburn) to send letters in support. Only two grocery stores have been servicing the five communities of Uptown. With the loss of Keller's IGA and the scheduled demolition of the Corryville Kroger next month, Uptown will be without a grocery store for 12-18 months if Keller's IGA is not reopened. On 1/20, City Manager Milton Dohoney sent a very well written letter to the State of Ohio. He received a response on 1/26 from the Dept. of Taxation stating they were unwilling to allow Keller's to reopen and/or work out a re-payment plan.

In addition to all of the actions taken by CTM, many Clifton residents also reached out with various forms of help, including money, expertise, etc. CTM had to sort through all of these responses and requests to determine the appropriate role of CTM for Keller's. A draft copy of a resolution on CTM's stance on Keller's IGA was submitted to Board for review via email on Friday (1/4). CTM wants to do whatever it can, but realizes that there are things they can and cannot do. K. Imbus proceeded to read the resolution in full. Audience member, Lynn Wasnak, said she understood that CTM money cannot directly fund Keller's, but she inquired as to why funds would be used for transportation to other grocery stores outside of Clifton. K. Imbus replied by stating that the community has many residents without their own form of transportation, including seniors. Several residents had reached out to CTM with requests for a transportation option for those in need. Ms. Wasnak asked if a fee would be charged to those residents using the transportation. K. Imbus stated that the transportation option was not fully thought through yet and no final decisions had been made. Audience member, Natalie, asked for more transparency around the resolution's language. E. Clark asked for further explanation and stated that there may be several ways for that to be interpreted. K. Imbus stated that CTM will communicate regularly and clearly about what CTM's efforts are and would not withhold any information. Audience member, Lisa mentioned that using "open and clear" in place of transparent, might help to communicate CTM's stance. P. Schenider stated that "transparency" would cover all actions by CTM and show CTM's 100% impartiality to the situation and that CTM has the best interests of the community as a whole in mind. D. Druffel suggested that CTM communicate any steps they take in order to be transparent. K. Imbus expressed concern over communicating every step, since CTM had well over 100 discussions with various individuals and groups before this evening's meeting. It would be impractical to communicate every phone call and conversation to Clifton residents. D. Druffel said he did not disagree, and added that CTM should continue to discuss its actions. K. Imbus revised the resolution to include "along with intentions". B. Pantoja asked about clarification around CTM not taking the lead on financial support. He stated that CTM has acted in a lead role to date with elected officials, etc. K. Imbus responded stating that not taking a lead financial role is correct since CTM is not in a position to review financials or provide financial advice. CTM has taken some leads to date, but most of those items fell within the scope of a community council. The next steps within the process are beyond what a community council can do, including a full blown political campaign, petitions, etc. This is where the community and its members will need to step in. CTM does not have the expertise or desire to direct residents regarding the financial viability of the store. An audience member stated that CTM is a non-profit organization without a specific tie into the store, but that many other organizations have a real attachment to the future success of the store, including IGA, the

Keller's organization, banks, etc. If months go by before the store reopens, CTM does not necessarily have the resources to support the cause for that long. K. Imbus reiterated that defining CTM's role is the main purpose of the resolution. Audience member Lynn Wasnak, asked if CTM could be the conduit of communications for the various alternatives if the community doesn't have a clearinghouse for this information. K. Imbus stated that this evening's meeting was one of those conduits, and she stated that presentations this evening would be captured in the CTM meeting minutes that will be distributed to the community. Ms. Wasnak asked about what other options were available beyond the reopening of Kellers. Could a summary be provided so that individuals know? K. Imbus stated that these must be provided at the meeting to be communicated. An audience stated that walkability was a good point in the resolution and letters. The audience member stated that Corryville is not necessarily the only grocery store nearby (there is also one on Kenard). He stated that over past the past 17 years that he has lived in Clifton, he has driven to a number of other stores. He suggested that perhaps too much focus was being given to the Corryville store and that Clifton's argument may be weakened if elected officials drive by the store on Kenard when visiting Clifton. K. Imbus stated that while this is true and there are many other stores to shop at, CTM is technically correct that there is only other grocery in Uptown. It is imperative for others to understand the importance of grocery stores in Uptown. The entire CTM Board agrees that having a grocery store as an anchor business in Clifton is necessary. She stated that neither of the Kroger stores (on Kenard or in Corryville) were walkable. While she understands that elected officials may see the Kroger on Kenard, they would understand that it is not walkable. K. Imbus stated that the draft letter to Governor Kasish can be revised with this focus. D. Druffel motioned for the resolution to be passed with the changes as discussed. P. Scheider seconded. Resolution passed unanimously.

K. Imbus stated that Marilyn Hyland asked for a resolution to be passed in support of writing a letter to Governor Kasich. Audience member Carolyn Miller suggested that a grocery store's walkability in Clifton was important to all residents (not just the elderly and students). K. Imbus revised the second point of the letter to reflect this. B. Curwin stated that in the fourth point, we could use language from the resolution just passed. K. Imbus stated we would do so. Audience member, Tim Bushnell stated that it might be useful to mention that there is no direct bus route to the bottom of the hill in Clifton. K. Imbus stated that she didn't think this was necessary to include in letter due to distance. Audience member Ron Becker recommended one small word change "in" Cincinnati. Audience member Jason Manny said it is important to point out that Clifton is a very livable community. Mr. Manny stated that it's one of, if not the only neighborhood in Cincinnati that is completely walkable due to the sheer variety of businesses. He requested that more emphasis be added about this point. K. Imbus stated that she would add to the fourth point to reflect this. K. Imbus stated we needed to move onto the presentations. M. Montgomery asked whether petitions from audience members needed to be distributed. K. Imbus stated this would be done after presentations. D. Druffel motioned that CTM pass a resolution to give the CTM President the authority to modify the letter as discussed to send to Kasich. P. Schneider seconded. Passed unanimously.

K. Imbus stated that she had some good news to report. CTM has been developing its relationship with Uptown Consortium for quite some time, and that CTM recently received

notice that the group is working to create a business retention program which consists of three components. They want to make Clifton the pilot neighborhood and a presentation will be made at the next CTM meeting. Uptown Consortium will identify ten businesses per month to determine their needs and offer any expertise/assistance that they can by providing various resources, info on business plans, financing options, etc. The group is very focused on this issue with their first goal being business retention.

K. Imbus asked Marilyn Hyland to give her presentation. Ms. Hyland introduced herself and stated that she grew up in Clifton and wants the grocery store to stay. The store has been in business since 1939. She said Clifton needs to keep what it has since it's such a great store. She mentioned that a number of people had begun to talk a few weeks ago to determine how they could help the store. Out of those discussions, the "Friends of Keller" program was developed. A meeting was held on Saturday, 1/5, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Clifton with 150 people in attendance. She stated that Governor Kasich's motto has been "Ohio Open for Business". The new tax commissioner is his appointee. Kasich started office on 1/6. The goal is to get Keller's IGA reopened and get as many petitions as possible signed. Clifton wants its heart back. She thought this message was appropriate given the upcoming holiday, Valentine's Day. The group's hope is to have a meeting next week with Kasich. She stated that the store could be reopened within 2 days after they got their vendor license back in place. She knows that many are already, and have been continually, helping. She stated that co-owner, John Vierling, would discuss more this evening. She had petitions for audience members to sign if wanted. She said these needed to be turned into Ace Hardware by Thursday.

John Vierling, co-owner of Keller's IGA, spoke next. Mr. Vierling stated that his grandfather started the store downtown by Findlay Market. The store moved to its current location on Ludlow Avenue in 1939. Since then, they've gone through three expansions. It has been a good run for his family for many years. It has provided a decent living for them and for their employees, many of which live in Clifton. The store's owners (Mr. Vierling and Mr. Dugger) have over 90 years of combined experience running the store. Over the past 10 years or so, they've noticed many changes in the industry, most notably the increase of aggressive competition. One of those competitors is the largest grocery store company in the country with headquarters in downtown Cincinnati. He has personally seen the demise of many other grocery stores due to the presence of this company. They are still putting up many more stores. The gross profit in those stores and other mass merchandisers can be made on other non-grocery items, which allows the competitors to slash grocery prices. Keller's IGA does not have those things to sell and tries to be competitive at slim margins. However the aging building has now become an issue, as the store was built in the 1920's. Maintenance costs for the store are high and the store looks shop worn. However, when you don't make much money, you can't do much in the way of renovations/improvements. The owners want to demolish the store and rebuild, but they don't have the funds. They sometimes sell groceries at a loss to remain competitive. The scarce dollars remaining after operating costs are used for things such as rebuilding inventory, etc. Unfortunately, Keller's IGA got behind on their sales tax payments. They fully understand that they owe the taxes. However, if the bill is forwarded to the attorney general, then an instant 50% fine is applied to any amounts past

due. To date, Keller's IGA has received \$80,000 to \$90,000 in penalties. They're requesting amnesty from Governor Kasich on these fines. They have made good faith efforts in the form of payments towards the amounts due, including \$56,000 in December alone. They thought they had a repayment with the State; however, the tax department went out around this agreement and requested payment in-full by year-end. Now the store is closed, meaning 50 employees, who are represented by the UFCW, are collecting \$50,000 in unemployment compensation per month. These unemployment benefits are more than Keller IGA's average tax bill of \$13,000. The owners of Keller's IGA have been working with UFCW to determine what could be done going forward to make a profit. Current employees have given almost all that they can. Mr. Vierling looked at the store's labor statistics, which were averaging 1,800 hours/week previously. These hours have been cut 30% to 1,300 hours/week now, adding approximately \$9,000,00 to the bottom line. They can't ask for much more from their employees.

What have they done since the store closed? They've spoken with Dick Wyling who is well connected in Columbus. They also met with officials in Columbus to try to resolve the issue to no avail. They met with their accounting firm to develop revised Pro Forma financials. They took a sharp pencil to all expenses they're facing. The union was able to provide strong cooperation to bring down wage expenses from 13.5% of revenue to 8.2% of revenue. This 5% reduction would allow for an increase of \$30,000-\$35,000 in profit per month, which would turn their current run-rate loss of \$15,000 per month into a run-rate profit of approximately \$25,000 per month. Keller's IGA has also found other areas for expense reduction including reducing the recurrence of Rumpke trash pick-ups, cuts in owner compensation, etc. Mr. Vierling is confident that going forward the store could both run a profit and complete tasks they've wanted to for a long time, most importantly paying taxes. There is currently a Clifton resident who has pledged \$100,000 to the store if the Governor allows them to reopen. Most of this money would be used to restock inventory. The amount of inventory given away has crept up to \$70,000 so far. Most of this has been given to the free store (Mr. Vierling stated they have worn out the free store's trucks with the number of pick-ups). He stated the store could retool fairly quickly to get back in business. One of the top priorities would be to replace a large part of the floor (which is one of the worst things that shows and is very frustrating). The roofing company, HKC Roofing, has offered to fix Keller's roof for free (after the meeting on Saturday). Employees of the company walked around today (1/7) on the roof to find leaky spots. The offer of help was a pleasant surprise. If the store can get back open, they also plan to have a nice seafood shop (leased if needed by someone who knows what they're doing with seafood). Knows that straight groceries are a stretch for profitability right now. Their goal is to offer more products around the Fresh Markets / Trader Joe's line in the store. They want to run a leaner store with more focus on specialty products including organic and vegan in addition to the normal boxed and canned groceries. One of the first priorities would be to refresh the interior. The store is also looking to create a customer advisory board comprised of volunteers that would meet every one to two months. This board could provide advice and make it easier to determine what products to stock on the store's shelves. They would like the Governor to intervene on Keller's behalf. Mr. Vierling wants Keller's IGA to be the neighborhood grocery store for a long time.

Marilyn Hyland thanked the CTM Board for passing the resolution for the letter to Governor Kasich. She stated that she worked for six years on the Esquire project and now wants Keller's IGA to reopen within two weeks.

Cincinnati Councilman Wendell Young stated that he was introducing a resolution to Cincinnati's City Council in the same manner as CTM. Councilman Young stated that he is willing to travel to Columbus with Ms. Hyland. Councilman Young stated that he was not just jumping on issue, but that he had known and was working on the issue for some time now. The community of Bond Hill is in a similar state since they just lost their Kroger store. From working with Bond Hill, he understands how important a grocery store is to the fabric of a community. Bond Hill residents expressed many of the same items of importance as Clifton. Many independent or local stores are hurt by individual motives to save the most, people in the city will travel to suburbs to get food for cheaper prices. Councilman Young has realized that food deserts can be created almost anywhere within a city and are not just concentrated in low income areas. Elected officials may not understand that punishing a grocery store may inconvenience an entire population of people and hurts the perception of the store. He would like to see Governor Kasich travel to Clifton to see what the closure of Keller's IGA means to the community. He thanked all of the parties involved in helping so far and said that there are many in City Council that are also willing to help and that clearly understand the issue.

Ms. Hyland stated that there was currently an intense petition drive ongoing. Residents can pick up a petition at the Ace Hardware store. She also mentioned that a fund has been opened at Columbia Savings and Loan to allow the community to donate money. There is also a website up and running [www.friendsofkellers.com](http://www.friendsofkellers.com) with more information and a link to donate. Donations may either be just pure giving to the cause or may be donated in exchange for certificates good for future purchases of groceries. Since the fund is set aside in Escrow, it would not be given over to Keller's IGA until the store reopens. Adam Hyland passed out sheets with more information, including the website above, email: [friendsofkellers@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkellers@gmail.com), phone: Marilyn Hyland 513-284-4192, Facebook: Keller's IGA, Twitter: savekellersIGA, YouTube: savekellersIGA. Adam mentioned that the petition can also be downloaded from the website. Ms. Hyland stated that if people are interested in going to Columbus with them next week, to please reach out to her. She reiterated that after an agreement is reached, Keller's IGA can reopen in two days.

Audience member Daniel Lewis stated that he is a trustee for the CUF association and has written letters to several elected officials and said he was happy to provide support in any way possible. K. Imbus thanked him for his gesture. Audience member Cindy Lewis asked about how the food certificates would work for those who donated money. If the store did not reopen, would they get their money back? Mr. Vierling responded, stating that the money is earmarked only to be used after the store reopened. However, he asked residents not to use all of the certificates in their first week after reopening. Rudy Douath stated that new/different ideas might result in a positive outcome for the community. She specifically asked about Jungle Jim's taking over the location. Mr. Vierling stated that Jungle Jim's operations are much larger than the 29,000 sq. ft. that Keller's IGA has on Ludlow, and he stated that Jungle Jim's is occupied right now with the opening of their new Eastgate store.

Mr. Vierling is just hoping that Keller's IGA can reopen. Kip Eagen asked a two part question: 1) is anyone on the Friends of Keller's IGA committee aware of the success rate with the Governor on tax fine amnesty? Ms. Hyland stated that they simply want a 12 month repayment plan and removal of penalties. She said Governor Kasich wants to streamline how business is done in Ohio, and that if Jobs Ohio and the Department of Development are brought together with the tax commissioner, then this process could be fast tracked. Mr. Eagen then asked 2) is there a fallback plan if the meeting with the Governor did not work? Ms. Hyland said that it should happen. She said it didn't make sense to put 50 employees out of work. If the Governor does say "no"; however, she said we are a resourceful community and can find other routes. Mr. Vierling stated that there are other options – other operators have expressed desire for the property as an option B, but due to confidentiality, he cannot disclose who those parties are. They also have some legal options as plans C and D, but none of those are enjoyable options. Kip stated that people in room were generally behind plans A and B, as they would like to see Mr. Vierling still involved.

### **Community Q&A:**

Audience member Robin Henderson said that she came to CTM about 10 years ago when they first started the Northside Farmer's market. The market is indoor during the winter. She understands that Clifton is suffering due to the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables and said that the market is open on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 7:30 PM. They have 12-15 vendors in the North Presbyterian Church at 4222 Hamilton Avenue across from the library. She stated that Northside residents are suffering from the closure of Keller's IGA as well. She hopes Clifton residents will patronize the market in the short term while Keller's works to reopen. She stated they are simply willing to be of service as needed and are not intending to replace Keller's IGA since they are only open one day per week.

Audience member Josephine Keenan stated that she was here with her husband Frank and neighbors on either side of their residence on Ludlow Avenue. She has lived at 841 Ludlow Avenue since 1972. They are dealing with extreme parking problems and are desperate to be included in the resident only parking that has been proposed nearby. She spoke with John Childress from the City of Cincinnati and was told that Ludlow was excluded due to the street having a thoroughfare designation. However, Ms. Keenan stated said that she considers the street to be residential and gaslight. She stated that safety was a primary issue, as students do not pay attention to cars backing out of driveways. They also throw trash on the ground. She and her husband both don't fasten their seat belts until they're almost out of their driveway to avoid hitting students. She stated that property values have plummeted due to the increasing size of Cincinnati State and the lack of available parking nearby. In fact, she said that a car was partially blocking their driveway today, and she had to call the police to get it towed. Two other cars were ticketed for parking in front of a fire hydrant. Another audience member, one of Ms. Keenan's neighbors, stated that she had lived here for 38 years, and she had her first auto accident in that driveway. Since cars park so close, it's very hard to see pulling out of her driveway. She got hit by a vehicle driving on Ludlow and got a ticket. She reiterated the concern over plummeting property values and said she has called Cincinnati State several times without a resolution. Audience member Sharri Rammelsborg stated that she was

witness to the Keenan's driveway being  $\frac{3}{4}$  blocked. If the Keenans had an emergency, they wouldn't have been able to get out of their driveway. Ms. Rammelsborg calls the police at least once a day to have cars towed and ticketed for blocking fire hydrant. She said that one of her neighbors left for two days and had to call the police to unblock his driveway. She says that she pays over \$400 per month in property taxes and should be able to park near her home. She reiterated the call to please include a portion of Ludlow Avenue in the residential parking program. She stated that she has also gone to Roxanne Qualls without luck. P. Schneider stated before going any further, that he wanted the neighbors to get together with the CTM Parking Committee members to resolve. He said that the committee has worked with Officer Lisa Johnson and Cincinnati State to put together the resident parking plan. He can't guarantee that CTM can resolve anything, but the committee can bring the issue to the City's attention. John Childress is the main contact for the program to be put into place. However, there are limits to what the City can allow to happen. CTM previously passed a resolution to support the resident only parking program. He stated that rather than continuing discussions tonight, all parties need to have a dialogue with the committee.

Audience member Carolyn Miller stated that the metro bus system has a new plan with Cincinnati State that has a discounted or free card for students. She asked if Cincinnati State was pushing this program. P. Schneider stated that the fare is cheap at 75 cents or so. Cincinnati State is willing to do whatever they can; however, their jurisdiction ends at the sidewalk. They're working to be a good neighbor and the Parking Committee has found them to be very open and receptive to help. They stepped forward and offered to help as much as possible.

Audience member Ginny Berten stated that the problem may lie with Cincinnati State's parking rates. They were previously charging \$5 for cars to park, but when they dropped the price to \$2, it solved the parking problem before. E. Clark stated that that is no longer the cause, as the garage is now full and lowering the price would not help. Ms. Berten said that she understands. Ms. Berten brought up a second issue stating that Clifton needs to ensure that the donated Groesbeck money for Burnet Woods continues to be utilized solely for the benefit of Burnet Woods. She stated that the Groesbecks did not want the funds to go to any other park except Burnet Woods. She said that CTM should name people to watch the funds. M. Vesper stated that CTM does have two Parks liaisons, herself and Steve Slack. M. Vesper said she would look into the issue with Mr. Slack. Audience member Kip Eagen said that he has been in contact with the Parks Committee and Steve Slack last year to monitor the use of these funds.

C. Huelsman spoke about the Clifton Green Committee. He stated that last year was the first year for the committee. The committee spearheaded the Great American cleanup event in Clifton. They tried to engage as many residents and U.C. students as possible. However, last year's weather tempered turnout for the event somewhat. This year, he said that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will assist in picking up electronics and recyclables. The committee's main request is for volunteers, and he asked for volunteers to let him know after the meeting. He specifically requested more help from Clifton residents. Last year, they had 10 volunteers, which were comprised of eight students and two Clifton residents (both of which were CTM

trustees). He said the date for 2011 is most likely going to be Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Clifton needs to register soon with the estimated number of volunteers to gauge supply needs.

B. Fant stated that CTM is working toward a grocery transportation option. The Senior Center's shuttle has an age requirement of 60+. However, the bylaws require two readings to approve expenses over \$500. He suggested that \$2,000 be moved from beautification to pay for transportation. B. Blum asked what the \$2,000 would cover. B. Fant said more would be known when explored. M. Montgomery asked if there would be a second meeting to approve the actual expenditure. E. Clark stated that this process would avoid the normal process. K. Imbus stated we should still have the funds to do what we want to do in 2011 for beautification even with transportation taken out. D. Druffel stated that it wasn't necessarily a shift of funds, but an option for flexibility in CTM's budget. By including the expense in the budget, it would allow the transportation to start up quickly, and it wasn't necessarily taking money from beautification. K. Imbus stated that we could amend at next meeting. E. Clark said this is different than what was proposed. B. Fant stated he was also OK with adding the expenses as a new line item. The Board could have an emergency meeting to approve the use of the funds. E. Clark stated he doesn't understand the need quite yet. Says other grocery stores are still open and that Clifton has other options. B. Curwin stated that this process still allows for a vote. E. Clark stated he was not ready to approve without more clarification. M. Montgomery said his understanding was that a budgeted item allows unchecked spending against the account. B. Fant stated that this does allow CTM to spend against the account, but that we would still have a meeting with a proposal to approve the actual expense. M. Vesper asked how we came to the transportation request. B. Fant said that CTM received a number of requests from the community and Senior Center. Dan the Barber also said that 5-6 people nearby have requested the service. B. Fant said that a zone rate could be put in place with taxi services. M. Montgomery stated he was in support of the issue and says that CTM is in a position to help. Audience member Irene Wander stated that she is the Executive Director of the Clifton Senior Center, and she said that handicapped individuals under 60 years old may also use the center's transportation. B. Fant again stated that inclusion of the expense in the 2011 budget allowed for CTM to avoid the required two meetings to approve the expense. He reiterated that CTM still needs to have a meeting to approve the actual expense. B. Fant stated that CTM currently has almost \$100,000 in assets. K. Imbus reminded the board and the audience that CTM normally runs a deficit in the years without the house tour, since it is the main fundraiser. B. Fant motioned for the inclusion of the expense a new line item in the 2011 budget. D. Druffel seconded. Motion passed (B. Blum abstained, E. Clark against).

K. Imbus asked the audience for support in the production of the Clifton Chronicle alongside Tom Lohre's efforts.

Announcements: Next Meeting March 7, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center

Meeting Adjourned 9:13 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Rose, Secretary