

CTM Meeting Minutes  
7:00 PM  
April 4, 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 April 4, 2011 at 7:03 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center at 320 McAlpin Avenue, by Trustee Karen Imbus, who chaired the meeting.

Trustees in attendance for the meeting: Brian Curwin, Dick Druffel, Linda Goldenhar, Christian Huelsman, Karen Imbus, Malcolm Montgomery, Jeff Rose, Jim Segers, Mary Jo Vesper, and Michael Willing. The presence of a quorum is duly noted.

Steve Dolata, Legislative Aide for Cincinnati Councilwoman Amy Murray, announced his attendance. He recounted the difficulties with the budget this year and stated that many tough decisions had to be made. He mentioned shifting the fiscal period of the city budget to a July-June timeframe.

Chris Seelbach announced that he was running for city council. He stated that Clifton is one of his favorite Cincinnati neighborhoods, and he was interested to hear more about our current issues. He mentioned that this is the first time since 1969 that a Republican majority was on city council, and he desires to bring more progressive ideas back. He supports the idea of a July-June budget instead of calendar year. He encouraged audience members to visit his website at [www.seelbachforcouncil.com](http://www.seelbachforcouncil.com).

Brian Lee announced he is running for Judge in the Hamilton County Municipal Court 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District. He mentioned that he has been involved in the community council for Westwood. While on council there, he started the Good Guy Loitering program, which helped his neighborhood reclaim street corners. The program has since expanded to Bond Hill, Madisonville, Pleasant Ridge, Roselawn, Walnut Hills, and Westwood. He passed out a brochure with his qualifications and invited people to visit his website at [www.electleejudge.com](http://www.electleejudge.com). He passed out a petition to get his name on the ballot.

**Reviewed and Approved:**

**Secretary's Report:** A draft version of the minutes of the March 7, 2011, meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment.

Motion: J. Rose moved to approve the minutes with minor edits from B. Blum; D. Druffel seconded.

Vote Results: The minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved with two abstentions (B. Curwin and M. Montgomery).

**Treasurer's Report:** B. Fant reviewed the March income statement and balance sheet.

Motion: B. Fant moved to approve the treasurer's report. B. Curwin seconded.

Vote Results: The report passed unanimously with one abstention (B. Fant).

Motion: B. Fant moved to approve the payment of several expenses, including fall plantings of \$35, bumper stickers for the membership drive of \$333, and postage and envelopes for the membership drive of \$118. B. Curwin seconded.

Vote Results: The motion passed unanimously.

### **Regular Reports:**

**Fire Report:** Report given by Captain Kevin Campbell. For the first three months of 2011, 450 responses have been made, which is approximately 80 less than last year at this point. In March, 148 responses were handled, comprised of 132 EMS responses, and 16 fire. Two of the fire responses were structure fires, and one was an extra alarm. The department now has a new fire chief, and he plans to attend a CTM meeting to introduce himself. Mr. Campbell stated that he has a great deal of experience and is very knowledgeable. The new fire chief is already making a number of changes, including Advanced Life Support (ALS) availability at 10 locations (with transportation units) now instead of only four previously. All stations are also staffed with paramedics. ALS offers emergency equipment for people being transported to hospitals. He encouraged residents to stop by to visit the station and chat with firemen anytime. The city now boasts ALS service within 4-6 minutes of all residents. ALS offers additional benefits beyond the basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

**Police Report:** Report given by Captain Dave Bailey. Captain Bailey stated that the crime statistics continue to see thefts from autos as one of the main items. He encouraged residents to store items in their car out of sight in the trunk or glove box. He also encouraged residents to continue turning on their porch lights at night. To date in 2011, crime in Clifton is down vs. 2010. The community has experienced some prostitution issues on the lower end of Clifton. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the city will be holding a meeting on the liquor objective issue for Boneyard Café on Jefferson. The police plan to speak out against the liquor license. A resident expressed his concern with the establishment and stated that he has been affected almost every night by loud patrons exiting the café around 3am. He stated that there is another bar on street, and he has never experienced problems with it. Captain Bailey said Boneyard had planned to voluntarily close down, however that did not occur. If the police receive nothing in writing from the establishment by tomorrow, they will object. He encouraged residents to reach out to him at any time with issues via email at david.bailey@cincinnati-oh.gov or phone at 513-569-8504.

**Recreation Report:** Report given by Tom Reese, manager of Clifton CRC. Mr. Reese stated that the wrought iron fence and cement wall in the parking lot have been fixed. Damage had been caused by downed tree limbs. He also spoke of general improvements to the Recreation Center, including replacement windows (via funds from the capital budget), and a new A/C system. He mentioned that summer camp registration is now open for participants that are 6-

12 years old. The Center also has a fencing class on Monday nights, and they will be hosting their annual tournament on April 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated the tournament is open to all fencers and is free for anyone to attend. Registration for participants in the competition is \$30. Finally, Mr. Reese stated that parking in the CRC parking lot is open to anyone (public parking), so if anyone is experiencing any issues with double parking or other problems, please contact the CRC staff, and they can work toward a resolution.

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

**CCAC:** No report.

**Special CTM Reports:**

Betsy Ambrosius from Scarlett Oaks spoke about their upcoming fundraiser to celebrate National Nursing Home week. This is their first annual fundraiser for NH week, and it will include food, beverages, entertainment, and a silent auction. The event will be held on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm at Scarlett Oaks Retirement Community, located at 440 Lafayette Avenue. Admission is \$5 or 5 canned goods that will be donated to St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

Julie made an announcement for the first annual Cincinnati Wellness Day to be hosted in the Annunciation Elementary School gymnasium at 3545 Clifton Avenue. The event will be held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm-3pm. They will have a number of tables with organizations presenting wellness related items. There will also be a number of events and activities. The event will honor a number of "Community Champions" for their service to the community.

**Citizens for Civic Renewal:** No report.

**Gaslight Groceries Community Service Project:** Andy George was not present, but K. Imbus outlined groceries community service project to help anyone affected by Keller's closing. She stated that details are available on CTM's website.

**Keller's Update:** Brief update provided by K. Imbus. She stated that she spoke with Mr. Vierling recently, and he stated that the owners are in ongoing negotiations with another grocery store to purchase Keller's. The outcome of those negotiations is not yet known.

**Update on Resident-only Parking Permit:** Report given by D. Druffel. Mr. Druffel stated that the parking permit program around Cincinnati State was still progressing. John Childress from the City was present last month. Mr. Druffel had hoped to have more progress by now, but he stated they're working on the petitions. Old Ludlow had completed a previous petition, so they're ready for the program. However, they have not petitioned the Clifton Hills streets yet. Audience member Don Miller stated that he had asked Mr. Childress for an update, and Mr. Childress planned to have the petition ready for review on April 6<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Miller. They would circulate petitions to Clifton residents immediately thereafter. Mr. Miller said that he may need help taking the petitions around to residents' homes. A few audience members then

asked general questions about the program. One audience member inquired about the first 50-100 feet of Clifton Terrace where parking could take place and was told that it was a grey area and parking was allowed. Another audience member stated that she lived on a street that did not allow parking, but she wants to be included in the parking permit program to ensure she can park near her home. D. Druffel said that that should be allowed and the program will roll out at the same time for all streets. Another audience member (who did not attend the last CTM meeting) asked about guest parking and what had been decided. Mr. Druffel stated that all residents will be allowed one guest parking permit for \$30 per year.

**Beautification Committee Report on Spring Planting:** M. Vesper provided report. She said that CTM did one planting last year but plans to do two plantings this year. They plan to prepare eight planters this Saturday by removing old plants and refreshing the soil. Half of the planters will get pansies. The summer plantings will happen Mother's Day weekend. Audience member Jack Brand recommended that CTM coordinate with CBPA through Scott to delineate who's doing what. CBPA plans to do mulching this year and whatever else is needed. Audience member Daniel Ames said that Christmas decorations last year were great, but he mentioned that there are still some white beads still on trees.

**Dunore and Bowdle Parks Trash Cans Update:** K. Imbus provided background on the trashcans being removed from the parks. M. Vesper looked into the situation. She stated that some residents even mentioned putting out their own bins. She said the removal of the bins is part of the "Leave No Trace" program nationwide. She stated that the bins should have been left in the parks until the signs were posted. To effectively transition, park workers will pick-up trash three times per week. The trash pick-up will eventually phase out when signs are posted. Almost all parks are being phased into the program. An audience member said that she had put out her own receptacle and that it fills up. M. Vesper recommended not placing trash receptacles in the parks. M. Vesper will report back to Park Board that significant trash is still piling up in the parks. K. Imbus stated that CTM had previously encouraged residents to put a trash receptacle in place, but she said that we should let the program play out. If residents are picking up trash and putting trash receptacles out, then the Park Board may not see the amount of trash present. K. Imbus thanked M. Vesper for her hard work.

**Great American Clean-Up:** C. Huelsman talked about the Great American Clean-Up. He showed a mockup of the routes for this year's cleanup – focusing on high traffic areas. He wants to focus on other side streets later this year. He mentioned that trash accumulation on Clifton from I-75 to Greendale had heavy trash. He's searching for additional volunteers on 4/16 from 9:30am-12:00pm. Two Girl Scout troops have volunteered this year. They're looking for team captains to keep volunteers safe. He circulated a sign-up sheet. M. Vesper stated that this has not been an ongoing/regular event and thanked C. Huelsman for organizing. C. Huelsman also asked for 2-3 businesses to also volunteer to help. He stated that anyone can show up the day of the event, but he would prefer for volunteers to provide advance notice. They're meeting at Clifton plaza this year for the central meeting spot. Refreshments and food will be provided.

**Proposed Expansion of Rumpke Landfill:** No report.

**parProjects:** Jonathan Sears spoke about an upcoming kinetics exhibit called parProjects. Chris will be curating. parProjects organizes art venues to educate and get communities involved. More info can be found at their website at [www.parProjects.com](http://www.parProjects.com) or by contacting Jonathan at [parProjects1@gmail.com](mailto:parProjects1@gmail.com) or 301-404-1616. The next event, "Movement", will be held at CCAC. Sponsors will be recognized in advertising materials. All artwork will have some facet of movement. There will also be performances – dancing, etc. They have 15 artists registered so far, comprised of local, regional, and national artists. Starting June 20<sup>th</sup>, 10-15 shipping containers will be placed throughout the community as part of a larger Art & Education Center. The grand opening of the containers will be on June 25<sup>th</sup>. They hope to draw people to Clifton with the event, and they are currently seeking volunteers. Interested volunteers should contact Jonathan. The Arts & Education Center will be built in front of the old Can Building in Northside. Tom Bible is the engineer for the project, and they will be meeting with the City to discuss specifics. The project will remain for one year unless the City decides to extend its life.

**Plaza Committee Meeting Update:** D. Druffel and B. Fant attended a Plaza Committee meeting on 3/15/11. At the meeting, they discussed the status of the LLC bank account, which was low on funds. D. Druffel reminded the audience and Board that CTM and CBPA put in equal funds. Both parties agreed at the meeting to put an additional \$3,500 each into the account. CTM has already budgeted \$6,500 for 2011, so this \$3,500 would simply come out of that budgeted amount. However, given the size of the amount, D. Druffel and B. Fant wanted to have a formal resolution for the transfer of funds to the account and to get the Board's endorsement. D. Druffel stated that the funds would be used to pay property taxes in July and for general maintenance items.

Motion: D. Druffel moved to advance \$3,500 to Clifton Community, LLC as CTM's equal contribution. B. Fant seconded. K. Imbus asked if CBPA would match the funds immediately. D. Druffel said that he and B. Fant would confirm before transferring any funds. Audience member Carolyn Miller asked if the 2011 property tax would be reduced from last year. D. Druffel stated that we must wait three years between appeals, which would mean 2012 is when we can appeal next. L. Goldenar asked about how the low level of funds in the account occurred. B. Fant clarified by stating that the parties knew the account was very low. D. Druffel said that in the past, CTM tried to put the minimum amount of funds in the account to just cover costs (mainly property taxes). Going forward, however, they plan to deposit additional funds to provide a buffer.

Vote Results: The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

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

Audience member Betsy Black asked about the location of the next meeting due to elections. K. Imbus and J. Rose stated that the location was unknown but that they would look into it and send out an announcement via the listserv.

Announcements: Next Meeting May 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Rose, Secretary