

CTM Meeting Minutes  
7:00 PM  
November 14, 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 November 14, 2011 at 7:08 PM at the Clifton Recreation Center at 320 McAlpin Avenue, by Trustee Karen Imbus, who chaired the meeting.

Trustees in attendance for the meeting: Eric Clark, Brian Curwin, Dick Druffel, Bill Fant, Linda Goldenhar, 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.

**Reviewed and Approved:**

**Secretary's Report:** A draft version of the minutes of the October 3, 2011, regular meeting had been previously circulated to the Board for review and comment.

Motion: K. Imbus moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2011, regular meeting. M. Vesper seconded.

Vote Results: The minutes of the October 3, 2011, regular meeting were unanimously approved with two abstentions.

**Treasurer's Report:** The October Treasurer's report had been previously circulated to the board for review and comment. B. Fant walked through the items on the income statement. He stated that some additional Chronicle ad revenue will most likely still come in. The fundraising line was exceeded due to a donation received from Good Samaritan of \$5,000, which was not included in the budget. This year's membership dues were just short of the target. CTM's NSP request will be sent in at the end of the year with reimbursement in early 2012. B. Fant believes CTM may only receive \$2,300.

The beautification budget still has approximately \$2,800 remaining. The Clifton Chronicle will see a few thousand dollars of expense for the last issue of the year. CTM's membership development is slightly over budget due to a membership reminder mailing, which yielded positive results. All movie night and StreetScapes expenses are now in the book. The Lantern Walk will most likely see a few additional supplies and police expenses next month. The City Barn won \$500 from the city, which will be a pass through receipt.

CTM's cash balance has grown \$2,785 from year-end 2010. In 2010, the cash balance decreased \$4,094 from year-end 2009. In 2009, \$28,334 was carried over from the Clifton House Tour fundraiser. B. Fant stated that CTM has maintained a case surplus over the three years and has been a good steward of the funds.

Motion: B. Fant moved to approve the October Treasurer's report. K. Imbus seconded.  
Vote results: The October Treasurer's report was unanimously approved with one abstention.

B. Fant also reviewed the 2011 StreetScapes performance. The event saw \$11,500 of income and \$8,500 of expenses, including tent rental. The director's fee of \$5,000 still needs to be paid, so the event will see a shortfall of a little over \$2,000. B. Fant proposed moving \$2,300 from CTM's checking to StreetScapes in order to cover the necessary funding shortfall.

Motion: B. Fant moved to approve the transfer of \$2,300. B. Pantoja seconded.  
Vote Results: The funds transfer was unanimously approved.

### **Regular Reports:**

**Fire:** No report given.

**Police:** Report given by Officer Lisa Johnson. Officer Johnson brought right of entry forms to the meeting for residents to complete. The forms need notarized and the original must be given to the police. It provides the police the right to get on the property to deal with trespassers and other issues. Officer Johnson's address is [lisa.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:lisa.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov). She stated that there was a person in Clifton claiming to collect cans who was actually trespassing on private property; the department was able to make an arrest. There has also been a door-to-door magazine-selling scam. Another individual has been breaking into tool sheds and garages. Officer Johnson reminded the audience to lock homes, sheds, and vehicles for safety.

An audience member asked about the recent Jerusalem Restaurant explosion in Clifton Heights. Officer Johnson stated that the incident is still under investigation, but right now, there are conflicting stories. The explosion is believed not to be due to a gas leak. L. Goldenhar asked if the crime statistics report is still published. Officer Johnson stated that she would assemble an updated crime statistics sheet. Audience member Betsy Black asked about drug traffic on Evanswood, Cornell, and Bishop Streets. Officer Johnson stated that the department is aware of the issue and is currently doing undercover work. Audience member Tom Lohre asked about thefts from automobiles. Officer Johnson reminded the audience to take valuables out of sight in the car and lock them in the trunk. She also recommended that individuals remove personal info off from registration (if left in car) to prevent identity theft. M. Montgomery stated that empty backpacks are also attractive to thieves. C. Huelsman stated he was a recent victim and reminded people to be aware of your surroundings.

**Recreation:** No report given.

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

**CCAC:** No report given.

**Shop Local Campaign:** K. Imbus reported. Shop Local bags will be handed out at Holidays on Ludlow on 12/9. On 12/10, an entire day of shopping activities is planned.

**Holidays on Ludlow:** B. Pantoja reported. The event will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. It will feature carriage rides, cookie decorating, ornament making, pictures with Santa on the Clifton Plaza, Pet Hospital pictures with pets, and the Clifton Fairview school choir. The organizing committee would also like to have a brass band perform at the event for \$650 and has made the request to CTM. George Roden stated that all of the activities are coming together nicely. Last year, the Parks Department paid for the brass band, but they will not be able to pay this year. Mr. Roden said he believes the cost of the band is \$695, and would like a portion or all of this cost to be funded by CTM. He has also asked the Ludlow businesses for support. He believes the band helps contribute to the atmosphere of the evening. He stated that the carriage ride waiting line creates energy on the street, and he believes the exceptional weather last year created additional demand. Mr. Roden passed out a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer to help with the event. No questions from the audience.

K. Imbus said they've heard the request for additional funding, but the Board believes this is a CBPA event. P. Schneider asked how much CBPA has committed. Mr. Roden stated that he believes about \$1,000 is being committed by CBPA. Mr. Roden thinks the businesses are participating more each year.

M. Vesper asked people to join the Beautification committee on 11/19 to decorate Ludlow for the holidays. She stated that the bows being used are now four years old and that at least two thirds of the light strands are not working. She spoke to the zoo about what type of lights they use, and they recommended 20-gauge wire as the best for longer life. She researched these new lights online and had a quote in hand for \$1,100. The decorating uses 53 bows, but she stated they may try to get one more year of use out of them. The bows will need to be replaced next year. The proposed new lights are rated to have 200,000 hours of life. Including \$650 towards the cost of the brass band, the request would be near \$1,800 of the remaining \$2,800 from the beautification committee's budget. K. Imbus stated that committee was unaware of the condition of the lights until this week. She stated that the order would need to be placed tomorrow to get the lights by Saturday. K. Imbus believes some additional contributions may come from other organizations. L. Goldenhar asked about number of light posts. M. Vesper said there were 48 lamp posts. L. Goldenhar said historically one strand of lights, one strand of greenery, and one bow has been used per post. M. Vesper said a little over \$9 for strands and \$3 for adapters. L. Goldenhar recommended that CTM find a way to store them securely after the holiday season. K. Imbus said last year the lights required constant maintenance.

Motion: K. Imbus moved to support paying \$1,800 for both the new holiday lights and the brass band. M. Montgomery recommended that CTM get joint-funding from CBPA. P. Schneider said that he agreed and believes that CBPA should pay for part of these expenses: either the light strands or the brass band; he doesn't want CTM to be the business district's ATM. M. Montgomery recommended spreading events out along Ludlow to drive foot traffic along entire business district. Kip Eagen lined up a Clifton Trombone Choir in Burnet Woods,

which is funded by the Groesbeck Fund. E. Clark asked about prior years' expenses. Board stated just carriage rides and decorations maintenance. E. Clark in favor of spending for all items; understands argument to have businesses contribute. B. Curwin said lights are up for the entire holiday season; and he believes all should be funded. Audience member asked why there were two different musical events planned a block apart. Mr. Roden stated he just found out about the Trombone choir. L. Goldenhar believes the Board agrees on funding the new light strands and that the discussion is now just on funding the brass band. An audience member asked about why only one quote being provided for new lights. D. Druffel stated that M. Vesper and Adam Balz looked at several sites online to compare products and prices. M. Vesper stated that the chosen company also deals often with municipalities and has provided a 25% discount.

Motion: L. Goldenhar moved to spend \$1,130 to replace old lights. P. Schneider seconded.  
Vote Results: Passed unanimously.

Motion: B. Pantoja moved to support the brass band with \$350, only if needed. K. Imbus seconded.  
Vote Results: Passed unanimously.

**Lantern Walk Report:** B. Pantoja said attendance was down in 2011, which may have been due to the timing of a Bengals game. There will be some event cost for off-duty police. Chris Morsch headed up event. B. Pantoja stated that someone had been covering a few hundred dollars of even cost each year. Lanterns had been over-purchased in previous years, so not much additional supply costs this year. Ms. Morsch has led the event for three years and plans to lead the event for another year or two before passing it to someone else. D. Druffel asked if it was a conscious choice to have the event the week after Halloween. B. Pantoja said he did not know about timing. K. Imbus believed this was a normal time for the event. D. Druffel believes that Halloween may have had an impact. K. Imbus thanked Chris for her efforts.

**Movie Night Report:** Attendance was down this year; 170 tickets sold. Gene Sorkin took over chair this year. L. Goldenhar believes the event made \$2,400. Esquire donated \$600 for the movie rental fee, but CTM had to pay \$600 for popcorn and soda. Good Samaritan graciously donated \$2,500. Kids arrive dressed in costumes. The event went well. There was a great raffle which included donations from Clifton businesses.

**New Trustee Nominations:** L. Goldenhar reported. There are five nominees on the slate. Three in audience tonight: Linda Ash, Michael Moran, and Tom Dwyer. The election will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and run until 7:00pm. There are two other candidates: Bruce Bernard and Buddy Goose; bios will be on the CTM website. Clifton residents need to have current membership dues in order to vote.

**Board Members Retreat:** K. Imbus reported. She stated the event will be helpful to those new members joining in 2012. There are a large number of items to talk about from a governance standpoint. D. Druffel and L. Goldenhar can share institutional knowledge. The event will be for all current and future board members, most likely to be held on a Saturday

from 9am until 12pm. K. Imbus send a Doodle invite. The retreat may be moved to early January. M. Montgomery recommended moving the January CTM meeting to January 9<sup>th</sup>, which would allow the retreat group to meet on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Make a Difference Day Report:** C. Huelsman reported. Approximately 45 volunteers participated. There were three different cleanup areas with trash pickup, brush cleanup, and sidewalk edging. Approximately 35 bags of trash were collected. Volunteers were provided food afterward. Businesses contributed supplies and certificates. C. Huelsman thanked all who volunteered.

**Beautification Committee Report:** M. Vesper reported. CTM received a grant from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for improving the Vine/Woolpert gateway. The Beautification Committee has been working on the project diligently. The revocable easement issue requires more interaction with the city, as one of the street corners is owned by the city. The grant expires in March, and they may need to ask for an extension.

A perennial garden has been completed in the Clifton Plaza. Weeding is also finished. Some additional mulching will also be done. The Committee is also looking into an irrigation system. Committee has also kept up urns on street and flower urns on firehouse. The next beautification event is decorating Ludlow Avenue for the holidays this Saturday. Next year, the Committee will need to talk more about the Vine/Woolpert gateway. L. Goldenhar suggested a list-serv email for volunteers for decorating. K. Imbus said this would be done as well as directly emailing individuals who expressed an interest in helping the committee.

**Courage Coach Presentation:** Tom Lohre said Wyoming and St. Bernard have held this presentation. Non-profits are only charged \$1,000 for presentation or sometimes an at-the-door cost of \$10 per person is done instead. The event could be the second week of March and advertised in the Chronicle. B. Curwin stated the cost of the auditorium would still need to be covered. K. Imbus said her daughters had attended previous events and came away very empowered. K. Imbus stated that supporting this event is a slightly grey area for CTM. The Board may hold off on discussions until spring. She believes CTM could help advertise. B. Fant stated that CTM's mission and vision needs to be reviewed at the CTM retreat and the decision on this event could be made after the retreat. Mr. Lohre stated that Officer Johnson originated the idea.

**Meet Police Chief James Craig:** K. Imbus stated that the new police chief will have a meet and greet event on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:00pm. He is eager to meet residents and talk about Uptown. K. Imbus cordially invited the entire community.

**Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Gateway Beautification Award:** K. Imbus stated that B. Fant already mentioned award. She asked if anyone in the audience was involved. The group won first place for the community gateway award. Second year they won this award. They will use the prize money on trees and shrubs.

**Far-I-Rome Productions Spring Event:** Rome Ntukogu presented. His organization runs events such as the Clifton Heights festival and others. He is also a resident of Uptown. He would like to find more ways to partner or get involved with CTM. His organization handles marketing, design, and other related activities. Website: [www.fariromeproductions.com](http://www.fariromeproductions.com), phone: 614-282-9452; and email: [rome@fariromeproductions.com](mailto:rome@fariromeproductions.com).

**Zoning Issue:** The issue was referred to the planning department. The planning commission reviewed the request and decided not to change anything. It is currently a 14 day review period, but it could potentially expand to 30 days. HUD gave \$2.4 million matching grant to redo code. M. Montgomery's recommendation to the board is that this is something CTM will want to participate in (the rewrite of the code). Many major decisions may be based off of this code (e.g. what types of businesses are allowed in business districts, what can be built next door to homes). No action to be taken now, but he wanted to keep the Board involved.

**Mayor's Recycling Challenge Follow-Up:** C. Huelsman reported. He gave a brief presentation last month. The challenge involves a number of initiatives to increase recycling participation. He is also giving presentations to other councils. He reiterated a need for someone from the community to complete CTM's form. Deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. M. Montgomery stated he would follow up with C. Huelsman.

**2012 Clifton House Tour:** E. Clark said the committee is strong, but they are two volunteers short (volunteer coordinator and ticket sales coordinator). Homes for tour almost set.

**Clifton Chronicle Update:** Tom Lohre presented. The Chronicle reaches all households in Clifton. He recommended that everyone submit stories due to additional room in the extended online version. Kathleen Bowers is the new photographer and has been performing wonderfully. Extra printouts will be paid for by Uptown and included in Shop Local bags.

**Issues and Candidates' Forum Report:** K. Imbus stated that the event was on October 19<sup>th</sup> with 150 in attendance. It was a long night but well attended. Most council members attended. Opinions were voiced. She thanked M. Montgomery for his audio/video support.

#### **Audience Q&A:**

Audience member invited everyone to help the U.C. BearCAT group. They are collecting canned goods on 11/19 to provide Thanksgiving dines to local families in need. Email: [bearcatambassadors@gmail.com](mailto:bearcatambassadors@gmail.com). A holiday lighting contest will also be held with prizes awarded. Participation deadline is 12/1 with voting to take place 12/4-12/9.

Announcements: Next meeting is December 5, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Rec. Center.

Meeting Adjourned 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Rose, Secretary