



CTM Meeting Agenda
June 4, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Clifton Recreation Center

In attendance: Mike Moran, Ron Becker, Ben Pantoja, Linda Ash, Jeff Rose, Brian Curwin, Erik Clark, Tom Dwyer, Buddy Goose, Bruce Bernard, Christian Huelsman

Absent: Pete Schneider, Mary Jo Vesper (arrived 7:45), Bob Blum, Linda Goldenhar

Review and approve:

Minutes from the April 2012, Meeting – Ron Becker; approved

Treasurer's Report & Budget Update – Tom Dwyer provided an overview of the major changes to the budget, which included:

Income from Chronicle, House Tour, the Membership drive, and Memorial Day parade totaling \$20,465.12 (May).

Expenses highlights included:

A change for the Woolper/Vine project (which was budgeted for last year but not spent. It wasn't budgeted for this year, though it should have been. So the budgeted reflect that change. There was a small loss on the Chronicle this issue and the Communication committee is working with Tom Lohre to work out a long-term solution for the Chronicle to break even.

There has been an increase in insurance costs due to a change in how the city is handling community council insurance.

New Income for year: \$13,000 ahead from start of year. Current balance is roughly \$93,000.

House Tour details:

Total Income: 422,843.56 (estimate with some outstanding ad revenue)

Total Expenses: \$6,837.59

Net Income: \$16,005.97 (73% of expected, likely due to weather and reduction of ad revenue)

A question was asked whether CTM is paying the property tax bill for 2012. It was reported that CTM had agreed to help pay for 2011 but not for this year.

Dwyer informed the board of an expected Ohio tax penalty liability due to the fact that CTM had not filed Ohio taxes for recent years by mistake.

Eric Clark made a motion to allow Dwyer to pay any fees/penalties up to but not exceeding \$1000 for failure to file Ohio taxes. A question was asked about whether there is a similar situation with Cincinnati city taxes. It would be looked into.

A question was asked about the long-term budgeting strategy given the lower than expected income from House Tour. There was discussion that there was no expected problem because the income from the previous record

House Tour was not spent down. With \$93,000 in bank, there is actually a surplus. There had been a discussion last year of creating an ad hoc committee to design a plan to spend the income on a focused, big-impact project. Ben Pantoja proposed that such ideas could be explored if the board decides to hold a meeting/retreat in July

Report approved.

Regular Reports

Police: Office Johnson reported successful arrests and prosecutions in graffiti cases. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will be working in Clifton in next weeks in preparation for World Choir Games. If interested in volunteering, people should contact her. Lisa.Johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Reported on a new Nixle Messaging Service being rolled out in Clifton to get text blasts on timely crime reports (for crime in District 5). Can sign up for the service by going to Nixle.com, search for Cincinnati Oh Police Department-District Five. Or text the word DTS5 to 888777.

A question was asked about what was being done regarding the drug dealing occurring from cars in Clifton. The community member asked what number should be called to ensure coordinated record keeping. Off. Johnson said the info will eventually get sent to her, but encouraged everyone to email her. She also reported that she and other officers will be on key streets in plain clothes. She is also trying to get cameras on the street to gain evidence to help get City council support.

Huelsman mentioned that other uptown neighborhoods have been working to create neighborhood block watch groups and encouraged people to form those in Clifton.

Recreation

Updated the current activities at the Rec Center. Encouraged anyone who sees people in the parking late after 9 pm. Encouraged citizens to let city council know that they value what the rec center provides our community.

Special CTM Reports/Guest Speakers

UC Trauma & Critical Care – Study Notification; Dr. Carey

Explained a trauma study that is being conducted which investigates the impact of using different blood/plasma ratios in trauma incidents. Patient selection will be randomized without giving consent because of nature of trauma. They will later be asked consent. If they refuse, the data from their situation will not be included. The study will be ongoing starting in July for 18 month (500 patients nationwide). If someone chooses not to be in the study ahead of time, they can contact them and they will be given a wristband to wear that will tell the trauma team not to include them in the study. To get wristband, contact Phone: (513) 558-6332 or email: PROPPR@uc.edu She also leaves handouts with more information on the study.

2012 Clifton House Tour – Wrap up Report Ben/Eric

B. Pantoja provided an update on the 2012 House Tour. Raise about \$16,000 that helps fund all other CTM activities that are not fundraisers. Sold 950 tickets during a serious rainstorm (versus 1100 with perfect weather in 2009).

Other benefits: Showcased one of Clifton's top assets: our homes. Provided a great experience for guests, volunteers, homeowners, and mother. Built up a pool of volunteers; added to the documentation of how to do this event for the future.

He also thanked the many people who contributed to the success of the event.

Gave an overview of some of the ideas for improvement for next time:

Included: max of 8 houses, bigger, better booties, plan impact of narrow streets on buses, more bathrooms (port-a-lets).

Other ideas:

Publicize the houses in advance if owner is comfortable. Discussion ensued what had been done in past and what would be wise.

Communications Committee Update, Jeff Rose

Rose gave an update on the Chronicle. Thanked Vicky's handling of the most recent issue.

Report submitted by Tom Lohre:

The Chronicle lost money last issue.

To prevent this from happening again we are going to:

- Reduce issues printed from 5,700 to 5,200
- Print eight pages instead of twelve pages
- Run 2/3's ads
- Include 200 word major stories, 100 word secondary stories, 50 word summaries and list of stories not in the printed issue. Our goal is to provide an exciting read in the printed version, extensive on-line edition, and informative Plaza Box News in the back of the on-line version also posted at Clifton Plaza, Proud Rooster, Dan's Clifton Barber, Recreation Center, US Bank, Werner Optical and Arts Center.

The deadline for stories and advertising is August 1. It cost money not getting your story in on time. The transition to a paid "Do it All" person is going smoothly. Vicki will be handling make-up and stories this issue and I will provide advertising. Look forward to a complete transition with the winter issue. I will stay on as the community liaison to Vicki Black, vblack1@cinci.rr.com, 513-680-7226.

A question was asked about the plan for linking Chronicle webpages through tomlohre.com and Rose reported that that will be changed.

Beautification Committee Mary Jo Vesper

Firehouse plantings were completed on Sunday, June 3. There was a problem with the watering system and efforts are being made to correct the situation. CTM and CBPA collaborated on the urns on Ludlow and are working with Julie on a plan.

Vine and Woolper planting is currently scheduled for Wed June 6. Volunteers have agreed to help make the planting possible. Recognized the contributions from the many organizations and volunteers who helped.

Black asked whether the library wall baskets would be given flowers. Because of the expense of the Vine/Woolper, there may not be funds. There will be a committee meeting to decide on what could be done.

A question was asked about who should be watering the pansies on Ludlow and raised the importance of ensuring that they get watered. There is concern about the watering of the urn on Middleton. There was discussion of moving it to the library or the firehouse. Bernard asked if the flier boxes by the library could be moved. The committee would look into.

Goose spoke strongly into the importance that all of us take ownership of the community amenities and encouraged all of us to help out by going into a business and asked for water.

Memorial Day Parade: The event was a success, including in the approach to selling food (vs. food trucks). Turn out was lighter than expected. More info could be sent out via the list serve. Dwyer acknowledged the hard work of Adam Baltz and his tremendous contribution to the event. MaryJo echoed the huge debt Clifton owes to Adam Baltz.

Music in Burnet Woods – Announcement Ben Pantoja

Original proposal for music on the trails was not approved by Park Board. That raises the question of what will be done with the Groesbeck fund money dedicated to music in Burnet Woods. Kip Egan assumed that the letter he received from the Park Board implied that other community groups might have been interested in proposing uses for Groesbeck funds. Egan and Schneider discussed the options for the concert at Digg's Plaza. There is a plan to expand the Streetscapes event to close off Ludlow and have musical stages at each end, making the previous approach of having Streetscapes-related music concert at Digg's Plaza on that day inappropriate. The big question is whether that expanded plan comes together. Montgomery asked whether there was a later date when Egan could organize music for Digg's Plaza if the expanded event doesn't come together.

When asked about the Groesback money that is left over, the park Board might consider rolling the money over for future years and doing a larger musical event in Burnet Woods. MayJo Vesper reminded everyone that the Groesback fund stipulates that the funds were for the benefit of Clifton (not Burnet Woods in general).

Bruce Bernard asked whether the CTM Board would like to write a letter to the Park Board on this issue. Clark raised the concern of such a letter not being a "poke in the eye" of the Park Board. Subsequent discussion stated that MaryJo Vesper would look into the actual wording but not write a letter yet.

Motion that CTM's July meeting be cancelled. Motion approved with one abstention.

Community Q & A

A question was asked about the current state of the IGC store.

CTM had no new information confirmed about where it stands.

Another audience member raised concern about what the impact would be if the building deteriorated.

Clark stated that he and Pete Schneider have not lost confidence that things are moving forward. Once he loses confidence in that, CTM would get involved.

A community member informed the board that the sign identifying you are entering Clifton that was posted on north end of Clifton Ave. He asked how that sign could be replaced. Bernard reported that the signs were paid for by CTM in late 90s. Bernard and Vesper will look into the issue.

Fundraiser fashion show for Northside project will take place June 23.

Bernard requested raising the issue of CTM supporting community gardens on the Clifton-Fairview school lot. Pantoja suggested this idea could be added to the discussion of a Board goal-setting meeting.

Montgomery mentioned that several issues that had been raised at the last retreat and were put on hold until after the house tour (i.e., bylaws and boundaries). He recommended that movement be take immediately so progress can be made sooner rather than later. Clark, as chair of the boundaries committee, will call a meeting soon (members: Clark, Moran, Huelsman, Montgomery). Clark and Montgomery are also on the bylaws committee.

Announcements: **Next Meeting August 6, 2012 Clifton Rec. Center, 7:00 p.m.**