



CTM Meeting Agenda  
August 6, 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, Pete Schneider, Mary Jo Vesper, Linda Goldenhar

Absent: Bob Blum, Bruce Bernard, Christian Huelsman (resigned)

**Review and approve:**

Minutes from the June 2012, Meeting (Ron Becker) Minutes approved with two abstentions

Treasurer's Report

- Budget & Insurance Update June and July (Tom Dwyer) Provided an overview of June and July budget. There hadn't been much financial activity. The remaining House Tour ad revenue came in. Year to Date, have a surplus over \$14,590.91. Total budget available: 101, 897.92. Also announced that he changed insurance company for revenue savings.
- Dwyer represents Clifton on the City's NSP Allocation Committee for the year. That committee reviews the proposals that neighborhoods submit to receive city grants.
- Tax returns submitted. He stated that in the future, he recommends that CTM find someone else to complete the tax returns. He would recommend the same CPA who works with the Plaza LLC that CTM is involved in. The returns are primarily information, since we do not pay taxes as a non-profit organization.

NSP Budget Allocation – Review and public vote

- We sent out a request for input from the community regarding ideas for NSP proposals. None were forthcoming. The Board recommended using the funds to support The Chronicle, which was in keeping with past practices. Dwyer made a motion to use NSP funds for 2012 support The Chronicle. The vote was open to everyone in attendance. 17 for, no opposed, no abstentions.
- Goldenhar asked if there were rules for how much non-profit orgs could hold in bank before their non-profit status was in question. Dwyer stated he had not seen anything about that. Goldenhar asserted that she felt that we should find ways to spend the money we have to support the community. Dwyer agreed. Montgomery encouraged the Board to spend the money with care and pointed out that much of the money needs to last for three years (until the next House Tour).
- Vesper mentioned that there was an outstanding check from Good Sam (\$5,000). Money was targeted to Streetscapes and the installation of the Vine and Wolper beautification. Goldenhar echoed the Board's appreciation of the continued support from Good Sam.

Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report. Passed with one abstention.

## **Regular Reports**

Police: Off. Johnson reported the arrest of three juveniles for auto-thefts. Property was recovered. People who may have experienced an auto break-in should contact her. Thanks to tips from neighbors, some arrests of drug dealing have been made on Greendale. She continued to deal with the graffiti problem, working closely with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful representatives. Asked for neighbors to help out by reporting any suspicious behaviors. There have been some problems connected to the businesses and asked for any tips on suspicious behaviors. Also encouraged people to report door-to-door solicitation in which people ask to do small jobs for money. Acknowledged concerns about the upcoming music fest.

Recreation. Arnel reported recent changes in staff. Wanted to thank the maintenance man who helps transform the meeting room, which is used for an array of activities during the day. Encouraged people to look at Lincoln Pool (on Linn Street). She summarized some of the major activities that had taken place at the Center, including an art project in which children make fish-shaped lanterns. Reminded everyone about the diverse programs going on in the evening (e.g., fencing club, pottery facilities, and Zumba classes).

## **Special CTM Reports/Guest Speakers**

Streetscapes & Clifton Fest 2012 (Kip E. /Scott C.)

- Kip updated the progress of the Streetscapes event. He reviewed the projected budget. Total Income/Expenses: \$17, 850. He asked CTM to confirm CTM's commitment of \$2,500 and to serve as the financial umbrella for the event. Goldenhar asked about the T-shirt data, which costs \$900 but brings in only \$300. Kip stated that for such events, T-shirt sales tend to be a PR tool rather than fundraiser. Other ideas that have emerged in the past for alternatives include: postcards and calendars.
- Clark asked whether it was wise to spend \$600 on advertising (via T-shirt subsidies). Kip stated he felt it was. He also acknowledged that the t-shirts serve as important gifts to artists and sponsors. He also was open to the board telling him that T-shirts were not advisable.
- Vesper asked about plans and expenses for tents in case of rain. Kip and Schneider recently decided that it was a success last year and have planned to use such tents regardless of weather. (Last year's cost was \$2,300). The budget will have to be revised to reflect the costs for the tents.
- Clark asked who had done the electronic marketing. The company was Ekra, and Schneider announced that he is connected to the firm (which donates its time for online marketing).
- Kip admitted that he is uncertain how the Cliftonfest (which is connected to CBPA) will affect his fundraising efforts.
- Schneider made a resolution to authorize CTM's treasurer to transfer \$5,000 from CTM general account to the Streetscapes account in the amount defined in the CTM annual budget for 2012.

**Streetscapes Annual Funding Resolution:** CTM's treasurer is authorized to transfer \$5,000.00 from the CTM general account to the Streetscapes account as defined in the CTM annual budget for 2012. These funds are strictly for the support of the Streetscapes event and may be only be used to fund

expenses defined in the 2012 Streetscapes Street Painting Festival budget presented to CTM at the 8/6/12 regular meeting.

- Approved with 11 for, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.
- Kip also provided an update of current movement on preparations, including ask letters and kid's area.
- Kip spoke tentatively about Cliftonfest, acknowledging he has little information. As a citizen, he expressed concerns of what impact this will have on neighborhood—especially closing Ludlow for 48 hours and rerouting traffic through neighborhood streets.
- Schneider informed the board the CPBA has received a permit to close Ludlow from Clifton to Middleton. Plans include: to put up bandstands, stages, port-o-potties, beer trucks, and other elements. The event will coincide with Streetscapes. Schneider had few details and stated that he didn't know whether there was a central point of contact for the event. In reflecting the tenor of the meeting he attended for the event, he felt that those involved envision it as supporting the streetscape art event.
- Kip warned CTM about the possible negative impact for Streetscapes and CTM if the Cliftonfest stumbles. Also warned that traffic issues related to such street closing and events might cause stress on the neighborhood.
- Kip also clarified that he does support the idea of Cliftonfest and hopes that it succeeds.

#### Drink In Ludlow & Light In The Woods (Rome N./Janelle L)

- Rome discussed an upcoming event (8/8). 18 business signed up as venues. There will be live performances in Arlin's and Ludlow garage basement.
- Cincinnati Film Festival. 9/6-13.
- October 27 event: Lights in the Wood. Interactive light show in Burnet Woods park with music at bandstand.
- Q: Schneider asked about the possible request for CTM funds to support these events. There may be requests coming.

#### Nominating Committee Report (Linda Goldenhar)

- Summarized recent efforts to move forward with recruiting and nominating candidates for the next CTM board election. There will be seven vacancies on the board. Blum, Becker, Clarke, Vesper, Rose, Huelsman, Goldenhar. We currently have four nominees. She asked those leaving the board to make aggressive action to recruit a replacement. In fact, all board members should work hard to recruit candidates. Need the names and bios of candidates 60 days before election.

#### Boundaries Committee (Eric Clark)

- In response to disputed boundary issues, this committee was formed to clarify the boundaries of Clifton that CTM represents. Members include: Clark, Moran, Montgomery, and Huelsman. The committee met once to establish key issues and discussing best approach. They expect to approach Uptown Consortium and use language of "joint areas" and to explore maps that might be illuminating. Once joint areas are established, they will proceed to revise CTM charter. Montgomery asserted that such boundary issues matter when development or activities take place. CTM and Clifton's ability to influence developments depend on where the boundaries lie—especially in the eyes of institutions and the city. So establishing and clarifying our boundaries is a key issue for how CTM can work to shape the quality of life in Clifton.

- When asked whether the committee had reached out to the city on these issues, Moran explained the various efforts the committee is making along those lines. It was explained that the last time that the city dealt with such issues, they asked neighborhood for what they defined as their boundaries. They took that information and put it on file without resolving or even identifying areas of overlap or unclaimed areas.

#### I-71 & ML King Interchange (Michael Moran)

- Regular meetings have been taking place with neighborhoods affected by interchange plans. Everyone is cautiously optimistic that the re-design will proceed. UC has conducted a economic impact study that indicates there will be significant positive impact on area, especially Corryville but also Clifton. Other major positive impact: ambulance times. Having said that, it is not expected to move ahead soon. It is likely a 10-15 year timeline.

#### Communications Membership & Marketing (Brian/Jeff Rose)

- Chronicle: Jeff Rose provided an update on the Chronicle expenses. Because of late data, the committee hadn't been able to develop a full report. The new plan for The Chronicle has produced positive changes, reflected in a net profit of \$461.60. The committee is happy with where things stand and will have a more complete report at the Sept. meeting.
- Membership: A fuller report will be provided at September.
- Q: Schneider asked for whether the committee has plans to put out an electronic newsletter. Feedback from the survey conducted, there was mixed interest in an e-newsletter. So the committee plans to shift slowly and send out a link to the web-hosted e-newsletter.
- Q: Goldenhar asked what would happen to the profit. Rose stated that if profits persisted, they would go back to CTM fund.
- Q: Goldenhar asked is there was a record for "hits" on website/e-copy. It was reported that there had been 270 downloads of the winter issue and 620 for the summer issue—a dramatic increase.
- Q: Schneider asked where efforts to create online payment for membership. Curwin stated that there had been no movement but would make it a priority. Dwyer echoed the value of such an option.
- Goldenhar asked if anyone was managing the website. There had been some concern over out-dated information on the web. Curwin stated he was in charge of the web and admitted that he had been inconsistent with that work. Acknowledging the huge amount of work involved in managing the website, wondered if it would be worth hiring someone to manage the website. Curwin echoed the importance of that solution, especially if CTM wants to use the website in more elaborate ways. Montgomery and Rome offered information about businesses that can help. Goldenhar emphasized the need to be wary of creating systems for keeping track of data and how we use it.

#### Beautification Committee (Mary Jo Vesper)

- Clifton has developed 3 gardens with plantings that require watering and maintenance. In order to get water to the Plaza plantings, an irrigation system has been installed. There is also the need for consistent weed control. The committee has consistently struggled to find ways to engage community volunteers for maintenance efforts (rather than one-time planting or decorating efforts). For example, mulching will take place soon.
- Vine & Woolper Gateway, water maintenance is a struggle, currently supplied by the Zoo. Some plants died because of the drought. The Zoo has asked that the grass be trimmed early (due to a scuffle that has damaged them). The current color in those beds required 16 flats of petunias and a plan for next year's plantings will need to be made. Vesper added that \$5,000 of funding for the gateway was supplied by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and the committee has been encouraged to apply for an annual beautification award.

- Gateway Signage: Bernard and Vesper have researched lost signage with the city. There was no plan to remove signs. Instead, signs were removed in the midst of construction projects. Bernard discovered that Jack Brant has the “large” sign that was never put up. Q: Goldenhar asked if we need a plan to replace signs. Vesper stated that that would be a good plan and would require funds to pay for them. She did state that city representatives are interested in helping up put up such signage. Q: Vesper asked is signage issue should remain under the prevue of the Beautification committee.
- Scheider thanked Vesper for staying on top of the Plaza irrigation project.

September Meeting – Labor Day Conflict (Pete Schneider) Next meeting will be September 10.

#### Community Q & A

- Q: When would Resor be resurfaced. No one knew but Schneider will look into it.
- Q: One member reported a squirrel problem (possibly linked to removal of trees in neighborhood). He called various offices and found no city department that took responsibility for squirrel problem. He then connected a state office, which said they could deal with the issue, but to do so, his municipality needed to have program or make a request. Since he suspected that anyone in the city would tell him to go to his community council first. So he asked CTM if they would take action. Montgomery second his concern about problems linked to squirrels. Subsequent discussion acknowledged that the situation was frustrating but there seemed no obvious solution.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05

Announcements: **Next Meeting September 10, 2012 Clifton Rec. Center, 7:00 p.m.**