



CTM Meeting Agenda  
October 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m.  
Clifton Recreation Center

In attendance: Ron Becker, Ben Pantoja, Linda Ash, Jeff Rose, Brian Curwin, Tom Dwyer, Mike Moran, Pete Schneider, Linda Goldenhar, Bruce Bernard,

Absent: Mary Jo Vesper, Erik Clark, Buddy Goose, Christian Huelsman

Review and approve:

Minutes from the September 2012, Meeting – Ron. Minutes approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report, Budget, – Tom Dwyer.

Provided an overview of the income, pass-through funds, and expenses (mainly left over expenses from the Chronicle, Streetscapes funds for the tents). Monthly outflow ~\$6,300. Current cash position \$98,228.83.

Schneider asked about the funds budgeted to Cliftonfest. Dwyer stated that he is still awaiting the invoice. Bernard reminded the board that they had approved spending on Clifton signage. Approved with one abstention.

Regular Reports

**Fire.** Capt. Campbell summarized fire station activities for Sept. Relatively quiet month. Encouraged everyone to stop by.

**Police.** Summarized the positive experience of Cliftonfest from the police perspectives. District 5 have tried to inform community about recent armed robberies in area. There may have made arrests in those crimes today. With UC back in session, there is an increase of noise complaints. They are working with landlords and UC officials to develop ways to have meaningful consequences. Although crime in Clifton is relatively low, students' tendencies to leave items in cars leads to uptick in crime stats.

A question was asked if there had been an increase of homeless people in Burnet Woods since the renovation of Washington Park. He stated that he hadn't seen an unusual change. He stated that there has always been some homeless people in the park and they always try to work on dealing with the issue.

A question was asked what actions are being taken to deal with recent increase in drug deals on Morrison Ave. He reported that cell phone technologies have led to a change in drug dealer strategies to from-car sales. He encouraged people to contact district 5 if they notice such activity, They will then stake out the area, try to stop people, get buyers to work with police to catch dealers. The biggest drug problem currently is heroine.

A follow up conversation indicated that some of these crimes involve more serious drug traffickers. The detective also explained that the police are involved in long-term undercover operations in order to build bigger cases.

**Recreation;** Ton Reese promoted the new Health and Wellness programming that includes a variety of classes (karate, fencing, tennis, etc).

## Special CTM Reports/Guest Speakers

### **Clifton Rec Center – Renovation;** Dan Jones and Mike Thompson

Hoping to get fund for renovation (in March) to start in Fall 2013 (which would require 9 month closure). Biggest changes would be to make ADA compliant. Also want to create new entrance from parking lot at lower level. An addition with elevator and stairs will be added to rear of the building and serve as the primary entrance to the Center with a new 2-story atrium-like lobby. The administrative area would also be relocated to lower level, off of the parking area entrance, creating a new point of control for people coming in and out of the building. The upper level will remain but used for emergency egress only. The entrance to the gym will be relocated to the new lobby. The group restrooms on the lower level will be renovated to function better and comply with ADA requirements. The over-arching goal of the renovation is to open up what are now closed-off spaces, creating more visual interconnectivity among spaces and improve lighting. New windows in some rooms also planned to get more natural light into interior. The presentation included architectural renderings and floor plans. Exterior aesthetics inspire by the current building and the new school next door.

A question was asked about the locker use rates. The answer suggested that lockers were heavily used.

A question was asked about what will happen during the 9 month closing. There are current plans to relocate activities to various alternatives.

Timeline: drawing expected to be complete by end of February. Assuming money is approved in March, construction planned to start after summer season of 2013. Be completed by spring 2014.

A question was asked if there were any plans for AV systems to be built in. Except for security systems, there have been no plans. Montgomery asked if there could be equipment built in and if there would be community input. Tom Reese was identified as the person to share ideas with.

A recommendation was made to included key wiring options for future development while walls are open.

Projected budget: \$1.1 million.

Pete Schneider asked if ongoing updates could be shared with CTM to send on to the community.

There will be a loss of few parking spots. As plans progress, they will look to design the lot to recover as many as possible.

A question was asked whether the walkway-bridge would be removed. There is general agreement is should be if funds/plans allow.

### **Clifton Welcome Signage; Bruce Bernard**

Provided an update on the signage project, using NSP funds. Such signs play a welcoming function for the neighborhood. The old signs have disappeared for one reason or another. So we want to place new signs around the area.

- Has worked with Clifton vendor to develop prototypes of alternative signs and showed a sample of a 6-color design that we could purchase for a great price.
- The estimated costs for signs was ~\$1,000.
- We do not have costs from city for installation.
- Presented a map with 9 locations for installing signs.

### Proposed "Welcome to Clifton" Sign Placements

1. Ludlow Ave. and Central Parkway at Cincinnati State\*\*
2. Clifton Hills Ave. at Central Parkway
3. Dixmyth Ave. and Whitfield Av.
4. Clifton Ave. and Dixmyth Ave. opposite Burnet Woods
5. Jefferson Ave. and Ruther Ave.
6. Woolper Ave. and Vine St.\*\*
7. Clifton Avenue at I-75 Overpass

\*\* Should these sites have larger, more prominent wooden signs?

- Asked whether there were any gateway locations where we would want larger signs or some kind (i.e., bottom of the hill on Ludlow; Wolper and Vine)
- Also asked if there were ideas for other locations. Is open to the formation of a committee to decide.

### Feedback on sign and location:

- Liked shape and design but wanted fresher color scheme—brighter color scheme.
- Someone suggested looking into the color scheme of the Clifton flag.
- Perhaps try a variety of color schemes and try them out.
- Encouraged to buy extra signs in original order to have replacements.
- A proposal was made to place sign at south end of burnet woods.
- Encouraged to connect with boundaries group.
- Only proposed location questioned was the one at Morrison and Lowell.
- Asked for Bernard to look into possibility of graffiti-proof paint.

There was agreement that the board is happy going with Wayne and the sign design but would like to see one more option with fresher colors.

Asked for CTM board to consider the locations further to nail down options so a vote could take place in future meeting.

### **Clifton 2020; Andrea Torrice and team**

Introduced the goal of the new group who emerged out of concerns over the Ludlow business district (e.g., about key closures, general malaise, etc). The group formed to see what interventions could take place. Met with Steve Goessling and Uptown experts. Decided they should be a community development corp., a model recognized in Cincinnati. Work with community councils (and other stake holders) to focus on a specific part of neighborhood. Over the summer, they developed a plan to improve a specific area. They can apply for grants and raise capital. They have met with CTM president to begin conversations. Last Friday, CTM president and 2020 representative helped bring parties together. Read the organization's mission statement and key goals.

- Contact info: [clifton2020news@gmail.com](mailto:clifton2020news@gmail.com) Encouraged anyone interested in helping to contact them.
- Asked what their relationship with other businesses on Ludlow besides the grocery store. Answer: they plan to develop one-on-one relationships with business owners.
- A comment was made that another key constituency to work with are the building owners. The group agrees and plans to reach out to them.
- Question: since Uptown consortium covers many similar issues, what was their response? Uptown welcomed the group which can offer a more focused effort.
- Question: how have they connected with CBPA representatives? They haven't met with them yet but will soon. They believe that the relationship be reciprocal.
- Moran asked about what specific steps they have taken in creating a Community Development Corp. They explained their plans for how to take official steps.

- Asked if there was any interest in the old Ludlow Wine spot. Early talks are going on with Cincinnati State for a bakery for its culinary school. Other ideas are also being explored.

### **Public Safety Questionnaire; Karla Washington**

Explained the goals of the mayor's committee on public safety. There will be an electronic questionnaire. The info will be linked via the website and sent out to the list serve.

### **CTM Winter Meeting & Elections; Pete Schneider**

Elections will take place at Nov 12 meeting. Elections will start at 6 pm. 10 candidates for 8 positions. Have to be a member of CTM, You can become a member that night.

Provided an update, including a new resolution on chronic nuisance ordinance. The revised resolution passed unanimously.

Be it resolved that:

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) finds the Chronic Nuisance Enforcement Procedure to be inadequate because it fails to provide an effective and timely abatement of chronic nuisance problems, in large part because it does not incorporate the most significant provisions of the revised law. VTM hereby requests that the City put into effect all of the provisions for enforcement of this ordinance.

### **Candidates/Issues Presentations; Pete Schneider**

Candidates/Speakers on Issues presentations:

1. Speaker in favor of Senior Services Levy Renewal
2. Steve Black running for judge (democratic sponsor along with Allen)
3. Denise Driehaus for State Senate
4. Amanda Montgomery in favor of Mental Health Levy (Issue 51)
5. Carolyn Miller (League of Women's Voters) on Issue 4 to go to 4-year terms for city council. Open forum Monday, 10/15. Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church.
6. Speaker in favor of Renew 42 on school levy.
7. Jim Neil for Sheriff
8. Pam Thomas for Hamilton County Clerk of Courts

Community Q & A; Pete Schneider

Announcements: **Next Meeting November 12, 2012 Clifton Rec. Center, 7:00 p.m.**