



CTM Meeting Agenda
June 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Clifton Recreation Center

Present: Tom Dwyer, Kevin Marsh, Brian Curwin, Pat Knapp, Bruce Bernard, Ben Pantoja, Ashley Fritz, Adam Balz, Linda Ash, Morgan Rick, Joyce Rich, Eric Urbas

Absent: Buddy Goose, Anthony Sizemore, Mike Moran

Police Report

Officer Lisa Johnson thanked the many Clifton neighbors—especially on Morrison, Wood, and Wirham—who have been calling her with concerns about possible drug dealing and break-ins. Getting descriptions of cars is very helpful. Police also received reports of a female, black and with tattoos, knocking on doors and soliciting/selling something. She distracted one tenant who later discovered a bike missing from the back yard. Police made an arrest on a drug deal reported by neighbors in April on Howell and Morrison. The neighbor supplied a good description and someone was arrested three blocks away.

Officer Johnson also reported break-ins on Howell and Morrison (jewelry stolen on Howell and miscellaneous items from the Morrison home including a TV and a laptop). She urged neighbors to be alert, keep windows and doors closed and locked, and watch out for their neighbors' homes. Call CPD at 765-1212 with any information.

Deer cameras purchased by CTM are being used regularly in the neighborhood to spot illegal activity. When police see drug deals happening on camera, they can track the vehicles and send them letters outlining the potential legal consequences.

Captain Paul Neudigate, District 5 Commander, reported that Cincinnati Police will soon change its policies regarding response to home security alarms as well as non-injury-related automobile accidents. The changes are needed in order for CPD to focus its resources more on drug activity and other serious crimes. He noted that police will still respond to auto accidents, but if there are no serious injuries and if involved cars are drivable, they will ask people to exchange insurance information and work it out. He said this will free up thousands of hours for police officers to work on more serious situations.

He also noted that 95% of all burglar alarms are false, using up valuable police resources when they are the primary responders. Future policy will be that unless police have verification that a break-in has occurred, it will be up to the private alarm company to respond. Neudigate also said that many other large municipal police departments are making similar policy revisions to optimize limited resources.

Clifton resident Carolyn Miller asked if CPD has planned a community education program around the policy change for auto accidents. Neudigate said his best advice is to document everything, take pictures, and get the names of witnesses. CPD has heard from other cities that insurance companies tend to step up their efforts once the policy changes.

CTM Trustee Bruce Bernard suggested CTM interview Neudigate and post the information on its list serve and/or website as well as in the Chronicle.

Neudigate also noted that the website www.nixle.com is designed to provide citizens with police-related information specific to their neighborhoods. People can view CPD information on the site and/or register to receive text messages about local police activity.

Another Clifton resident noted that tenants in an apartment on Ormond Avenue have been causing major concern among neighbors due to yelling, drunken fighting, child neglect, and threats to neighbors who complained. Neighbors have pleaded with Jack Brand, the landlord, to do something about the situation, she noted. On Memorial Day, six shots were fired. Police had to get into the apartment by calling Brand. The neighbor entreated police and CTM to give the situation highest priority.

Fire Department

No one from the fire department was present.

Recreation Center

Tom Reese, service area coordinator of Clifton Recreation Center, said the start of construction on the CRC has been moved from August to October. While it is under construction, the before- and after-school program will be held at Fairview School. Priority registration is in effect until July 2, after which regular registration begins.

Reese also reported on the Future of Clifton mural project that CRC campers worked on at Sitwells, under the guidance of art curator and Clifton resident Kip Eagen. The mural is on display now at Sitwells.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 2013 CTM meeting were approved.

Grocery Store Update

CTM President Ben Pantoja reported that he spoke with Steve Goessling, owner of the future Goessling's Market in the former Keller's IGA space, after a recent television news report that Goessling was considering selling the building to other grocery store operators. Pantoja communicated the community's concerns about the grocery store and received confirmation from Goessling that:

- Goessling is considering the possibility of selling or leasing the Ludlow Avenue property to other grocery store operators who he referred to as "upscale markets."
- Goessling said that whether he operates the store or someone else buys or leases the property, it is his "utmost priority that it remain a grocery store."
- In spite of rumors that construction had stopped, Goessling said there is no intention to stop and that, in fact, he expects the roof to be finished in 2 weeks. After the roof is finished, he wants to clean up the landscaping that has become overgrown, paint the exterior of the building, fix the exterior lights, and fix the small wall on the driveway side that got knocked over. After that, he says interior work will begin, starting with the subfloors and flooring.
- Goessling was not aware of a notice from the city warning that the water on the site will be turned off because the "back flushing" test had not been completed. Goessling said he had not heard about this and would take care of it immediately because he needs water for the fire suppression system.
- He said he should know more in 4-6 weeks.

Overall, Pantoja said he felt more confidence that Clifton will end up with a grocery store, whether it is one run by Goessling or run by another company. He plans to continue communicating regularly with Goessling to keep the community informed.

He said Goessling also agreed he'd be happy to work with the business district consultant recently hired by CTM, Clifton 20/20, CBPA, and Uptown Consortium to help enhance the Ludlow Avenue Business District.

Consultant Kathleen Norris may be able to help Goessling connect with a grocery operator interested in the space.

Cincinnati City Council Member Yvette Simpson, scheduled to address the meeting with her perspective on CTM's involvement with the business district overall, was called on to answer questions about the grocery store. She said the city is very concerned about the situation and is doing its best to ensure Clifton gets its grocery store back. They approved financing for the project "hesitantly, because we wanted Clifton to have a grocery store. We were concerned about his [Goessling's] ability to make this happen. Now he needs additional support to make this happen. What we're working on now is to get him connected with someone who has the wherewithal to make this project happen. What I would tell this community is that you should encourage that partnership so we can continue this project. Our economic development director has put him in contact with individuals. We're committed but we have to be responsible with the dollars given to us."

Goessling received a \$2 million loan from the city contingent on his procurement of another \$1.5 million in private financing. He has now lost the private financing. Simpson urged the community to support a partnership with another grocery store operator.

Simpson and others attending the meeting noted that since Goessling owns the property, there is potential danger that he could sell it to a non-grocery store. If that happens, she suggested that other neighborhoods, such as Pleasant Ridge, have been successful in organizing campaigns against certain retailers.

Treasurers Report—Tom Dwyer

CTM has pledged \$7,800 in support of CliftonFest 2013 and would like to ensure that the money goes toward arts-related expenses such as the planned art carpets (\$5,300) and paying musicians and artists. A detailed reporting system was discussed but it was determined that submission of receipts would be sufficient.

CliftonFest organizer Jan Checco Brown noted that the working budget is \$35,250, of which \$22,150 is yet to be raised.

Pantoja noted that to some degree CTM owes the community an understanding of where the money is being spent, as well as a paper trail of receipts. Dwyer noted that it would be difficult and cumbersome to track on an expense-by-expense basis. He also noted that CTM should be made a named sponsor of the event. Adam Balz noted a system of submitting receipts should be enough.

The flowerpot project approved as a Neighborhood Support Program project during an earlier meeting has been cancelled. Dwyer proposed allocating the money toward CTM's contribution to CliftonFest. A motion to this effect was presented and passed.

Dwyer reported total income of \$4,107 during May. The Memorial Day Parade Picnic, organized by CTM Trustee Adam Balz, brought in \$1,400 in revenue (up \$750 from 2012). Dwyer also reported \$1,356 in revenue from Clifton Chronicle advertising and \$1,350 from membership. The net outflow for May was \$818.

CTM's financial position is \$94,306 in the bank, up \$6,400 year to date. Dwyer is in the process of consolidating accounts to make management of the money easier. CTM is down from six bank accounts last August to just three accounts now.

The May 2013 budget was approved.

Inaugural Golf Outing

Dwyer is organizing a golf outing fundraiser Saturday, October 5, at Avon Fields Gold Course

It will start at 2 p.m. and include a post-golf grillout and prizes. Proceeds will go toward a new sound system for CTM.

New Meeting Location for CTM during Recreation Center Construction—Joyce Rich

CTM Trustee Joyce Rich researched several options for locating the CTM meeting during CRC construction. She recommended CTM accept CCAC's generous offer of \$60/meeting (a deep discount, since they typically charge \$200). Meeting temporarily at CCAC was approved.

Woolper Avenue Street Rehab and Proposed Bicycle Lanes—Chris Ertel

Chris Ertel, Supervising Engineer from the City of Cincinnati, reported that in 2011, Woolper Avenue was selected for road repairs after a community priority request was submitted by CTM in 2010. The project calls for the pavement to be removed 17 inches deep and replaced with six inches of gravel and 11 inches of concrete pavement, then resurfaced with asphalt. In addition, full curbs and aprons will be replaced at no cost to residents. The project is scheduled to begin as early as September and take approximately 5 months to complete. Two-thirds of on-street parking will be maintained during the construction. 50% of the \$1.6 million in project costs will be paid by the state.

CTM Trustee Adam Balz, a Woolper resident, said he heard that the grass strip between the street and the sidewalk on the north side of the street would be eliminated and the utility poles moved toward the front yards. Ertel replied that the utility poles will go behind the sidewalk instead of in front of them and that the extra pavement will be used to facilitate a better cross-slope change. Balz said this will make the street nicer for delivery trucks and will invite cars to go faster, but many residents want the additional buffer between the street and the sidewalk and yards. He said neighbors have not been notified of this change.

Ertel suggested he take the feedback back to City Council. The reason why neighbors were not notified about the pole relocation is that they are still in the right of way one foot behind the sidewalk. The project calls for the grass strip between the street and sidewalk to be eliminated, providing six inches to widen the lane for safety reasons. Other residents in attendance noted that the grass strip is an additional safety barrier for pedestrians and said the city seems more worried about trucks hitting the poles with their mirrors than about human safety. Ertel replied that moving the utility poles back away from the street is consistent with industry standards. Going uphill, a proposed five-foot-wide bike lane will be an additional barrier between cars and the sidewalk.

Another audience member asked about narrowing the street for traffic-calming purposes. Ertel said the primary goal of the project is to repair the pavement; traffic calming is not part of the project.

Audience members asked how they can request that the grass strip not be removed. Ertel and another City employee present at the meeting noted that the city's department of transportation will consider the concerns of residents, and suggested gathering feedback so they can take it back to their department. "If you don't want us to widen, tell us you don't want to widen."

Balz suggested a meeting with Woolper residents and city representatives and suggested the city provide drawings of their proposal. Ertel said his department is still working on design plans so there is still opportunity for change. Balz and Trustee Bruce Bernard agreed to organize a meeting, canvas the Woolper neighbors, and communicate their input to the city.

Community Q&A

An audience member asked about the status of the burnt-out building on the corner of Jefferson Avenue across from the EPA building. It was noted that a Fire Department representative was not in attendance at the meeting.

Daniel Ames noted that minutes of the past few months' meetings have not been posted on the CTM website, and are supposed to be made public. He respectfully requested they be posted as soon as possible.

Ben Pantoja noted that several City Council candidates have requested time on the CTM meeting agenda. As a policy, candidates will be allowed to speak but will be limited to 5 minutes including questions. Eric Urbas recommended they be allowed to speak during the Community Q & A.

Next Meeting: July 1, 2013, 7 p.m., Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Ave.