



**CTM Meeting Agenda**  
**July 1, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Clifton Recreation Center**

Present: Bruce Bernard, Tom Dwyer, Kevin Marsh, Pat Knapp, Ben Pantoja, Eric Urbas, Adam Balz, Buddy Goose, Tony Sizemore, Mike Moran, Linda Ash

Absent: Morgan Rich, Joyce Rich, Ashley Fritz, Brian Curwin

**Police Report**

District 5 Sgt. Woolert reported three burglaries on Morrison Avenue the night of June 30; each included forced entry (cut screens) through second-floor windows that were open. He encouraged residents to keep all doors and windows locked, as burglars can easily climb into second-floor windows.

Violent crime is down in Clifton, although the neighborhood is experiencing an uptick in burglaries during the warm months. Residents are continuing to report drug-related activity. Police recently seized \$3 million in heroin from the Kroger parking lot on Kenard. They also intercepted another 60 pounds of product being shipped out of UPS. Sgt. Woolert noted that police are out in the neighborhood in plain clothes, especially at night. They have some suspects they are watching, but they're asking neighbors to continue being vigilant, leave your lights on, and lock all windows and doors. Call the non-emergency number, 765-1212 with any tips. If you have someone in your sight and need to talk to police immediately, 911 is your best bet. In a pinch you can also call the District 5 office at 569-8500 for non-emergencies.

He also reminded people that laptops, phones, and tablets are being stolen frequently. He suggested making sure to note the serial numbers so that if the items are recovered, they can be returned. He also suggested enabling GPS if your device has that feature.

Following up from District 5 Commander Neudigate's report during the June CTM meeting, Sgt. Woolert noted that like all city departments, CPD is trying to do more with less. CPD will soon implement a differential response policy that impacts response to security alarms and auto accidents. They determined that 99.5% of burglar alarms are false. Police will respond to security alarms only if they have confirmation from the security company or if a neighbor witnesses someone entering the home. Pharmacies will be an exception. Response to auto accidents will have a big impact. Currently the CPD spends 65,000 man-hours per year responding and completing reports for the insurance companies. Under the new policy, they will still respond to the scene, ensure there are no injuries, that the cars are drivable, and that there are no outstanding warrants on the people involved, then encourage the parties to exchange insurance information. CPD is currently preparing public education materials to guide residents on how to handle auto accidents. Freeing up this time will allow police to spend more time responding to serious crimes.

Citizens on Patrol is always looking for volunteers. A COP volunteer in attendance said they really need more people. "We would like to be patrolling much more often." Call 352-3533 for questions and to volunteer.

CTM President Ben Pantoja urged the CPD to distribute public education materials about the new policies.

### **Fire Report**

Captain Jim Kettler introduced himself as the new captain for Clifton Engine 34, replacing Kevin O. Campbell. Kettler was a Cincinnati police officer before joining the fire department, and has 15 years of service to the City of Cincinnati. He was assigned downtown before his Clifton assignment. Capt. Kettler welcomed residents to the firehouse at any time and says he looks forward to working closely with the community.

He reported Engine 34 has completed close to 1,000 runs in the first six months of the year, including about 100 structure fires and about 700 EMS runs.

Responding to a question from the community during the June 2013 CTM meeting, he noted that the burnt-out building at 3201 Jefferson (corner of Jefferson and Nixon) is scheduled for a Public Hearing on 7/26/2013 at 9 AM at 3300 Central Parkway. This hearing will determine if the building is a public nuisance and subject to demolition. Capt. Kettler noted that if no one complains about the building, it will stay up and the process for condemning it is lengthy. If citizens complain by attending the hearing or writing letters, their input will be included in the hearing. Anyone from the community is allowed to present their opinion at the meeting, after the testimony of Buildings and Inspections, Fire, Police, a Property Analyst, and the owner.

Pantoja noted that the building is not within the CTM boundary. It is technically in Corryville, although it is a significant gateway to Clifton.

### **Recreation Center**

Tom Reese, service area coordinator of Clifton Recreation Center, reported that the center is in the fourth week of summer day camp. Keep your eyes out for the kids crossing the street. Open registration for before- and after-school programs begins July 2. This year the programs will be located at Fairview school due to construction at the Rec Center. The center is also hiring rec leaders for the before- and after-school programs. Applications can be submitted on line on the City of Cincinnati website.

The center is also hosting a class on July 16 called Voice Coaches: Getting Paid to Talk, which focuses on the voice-over market.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the June 2013 CTM meeting were approved as presented.

### **Woolper Avenue Rehab and Rewidening**

After the city's Traffic & Engineering Department reported during the June 2013 CTM meeting about proposed repair and rehabilitation of Woolper Avenue, Trustee Bruce Bernard canvassed the street's residents to gather input to provide the city. The city had proposed decreasing the current 12-ft.-wide travel lanes to 11 ft., dedicating 8 ft. (rather than the current 10) for a parking lane, and eliminating the grass/sod between the roadway and sidewalk, adding a 5-ft.-wide bike lane, and moving utility poles to the other side of the sidewalk, closer to the homes. Residents were concerned about losing sidewalks and the grass buffer between street and homes.

Prior to this meeting, in response to news that trees were being cut on the street, CTM issued the following resolution:

"I move that CTM sends a letter to Traffic Engineering, City Council Members, City Manager, the Mayor, and Duke Energy asking that Duke and Traffic Engineering immediately stop any activities related to trimming trees or otherwise preparing for widening the street, moving utility poles, or removing the grass strips. The letter would provide background information, details about the reaction of the neighborhood to the original proposal, alternatives presented by Traffic Engineering as feasible if the neighborhood prefers them, etc. The basic recommendation is to not widen the street, keep the grass strips, and to keep the utility poles out of people's yards as indicated in one of the options Traffic Engineering described as feasible. This is the option that got overwhelming approval when Bruce surveyed the residents."

Based on input at the June meeting, the city revised its proposal to include 10.5 ft. for traffic lanes, 5 ft. bike lane, a parking lane of 8 ft., retaining the sod/grass between street and sidewalk, and not moving power poles. Bernard said the city would be able to accommodate not moving the power poles and retaining the sod on either side of sidewalks, but one of the concerns was that truck mirrors might hit the poles. Duke was also proposing to cut down trees in people's yards to accommodate moving the power poles, but Michael Moore of Traffic & Engineering said they would put a stop order on the tree removal. He said "Traffic & Engineering was very responsive in getting us information and in answering our questions."

Bernard printed out the drawings and made a flyer inviting people to attend the July meeting. He spoke to 24 people and of the 24, 22 said they were not in favor of having poles moved or trees cut down, wanted to retain the sod, and were concerned with the width of the travel lanes. Bernard said CTM should ask the city if other streets in the neighborhood are that width.

Chris Ertel from T&E said 10.5 ft. wide is considered sufficient for safe traffic. The average parking lane is only 8 ft. wide. Traffic calming is usually done by narrowing street width. Carolyn Miller asked if T&E is looking into lengthening the left-hand turn lane from Clifton to Woolper. A Woolper resident asked if moving poles would cost residents. Ertel said Duke will have to do it at their cost, which is a cost to the citizen. Someone asked if the construction scheduled would be affected by the changes. Ertel said they will push bids back another month, but the duration of the construction won't change. Ben Pantoja said CTM would like an email confirmation from the city that the plans have changed.

### **Lights outside of Mosque during Ramadan—Geoff Calvert**

With the Muslim holiday Ramadan July 9 through August 7, the Clifton mosque is reaching out to the local community. Three mosque members reported that Muslims fast from pre-dawn through sunset, not eating or drinking. At sunset, they break fast and will be having a communal meal every evening at the mosque. In general it's a time of increased prayers, reflection, and the idea of Ramadan is that we're controlling our appetites for food and for other physical desires to develop greater self control and closeness to God. The meals will start at about 9 and prayers will be from 10 to midnight. During weekdays 120 to 150 people will attend and on August 5, approximately 400 people are expected. The Clifton community is welcomed to the dinners and the mosque is planning an open house as well.

The mosque members said they want to be good neighbors, so if anyone is parking where they shouldn't or making too much noise, please let them know. Contact information: Majed Dabdoub, Board Chair, cell 513.604.3277. Email is [majed@dabdoub.net](mailto:majed@dabdoub.net)

### **CTM Updates**

#### **Treasurers Report**

Tom Dwyer reported \$280 in Chronicle revenue and \$598 in membership revenue for a total revenue of \$881. He also reported \$100 in expenses for the upcoming golf outing for a net of \$780 for the month. CTM's cash position is \$95,118.

Dwyer and Pantoja met with the Clifton Plaza LLC board and have its tax returns for the last couple of years. CTM expects a request for \$1,500 for plaza maintenance costs. Clifton Plaza LLC is a joint venture between CTM and the Clifton Business and Professional Association, which share costs for its upkeep.

Dwyer is coordinating a golf outing October 5 at Avon Field. Cost of the outing is \$75 and 72 spots are available. Proceeds will help pay for new audio/video equipment for the Clifton Recreation Center. CTM uses the A/V equipment for its meetings. For more information, [CTMgolfOuting@cliftoncommunity.org](mailto:CTMgolfOuting@cliftoncommunity.org).

The Treasurers Report for July 2013 was approved.

#### Business Committee Update

Chair Morgan Rich did not attend the meeting. Ben Pantoja reported that Steve Goessling, owner of the building formerly occupied by Kellers IGA, is working with a professional broker in efforts to sell the building. Work on the building so far has been focused on the roof.

The business district leasing study that is a joint effort among CTM, Clifton 20/20, Uptown Consortium, and CBPA will result in a master plan for Ludlow Avenue that outlines a strategy when vacancies occur. Consultant Kathleen Norris will gather community input as part of the process.

#### Communications Committee

The committee has been gathering quotes for revising the CTM website to be more easily updatable and to incorporate an e-commerce component. The project will likely cost about \$3,000. Currently, the site can be updated by only one person due to software constraints. A revamped site would allow more than one person to make changes, creating a more content-rich site. The committee will have a vendor recommendation at the August 2013 CTM meeting.

#### CTM Trustee Reports

Adam Balz reported the committee weeded and planted on the plaza.

Bruce Bernard thanked Council member Yvette Simpson, who was instrumental in working with the city engineering department on the Woolper Avenue reconstruction and CTM's efforts to coordinate with Woolper Avenue residents. He said the Traffic & Engineering Department was extremely responsive.

Pat Knapp reported that she is working with Clifton 20/20 to investigate whether Clifton is a potential site for a CoSign project.

#### Community Q & A

Tom Lohre reported he is working on getting another box to hold Chronicles. For the summer Chronicle issue, ad revenues dropped. This may require going to just 8 pages, or ad prices could be raised. If we continue to lose money, we may do that. Deadline for fall issue is August 1. Ad reservations are due July 24.

City Council candidate Mike Moroski introduced himself. His background is in education, including a bachelors in English, MA in linguistics, and an MBA. He worked for the Archdiocese for 12 years and co-founded a few non-profits downtown. Currently he works with former prison inmates. He has lived in Cincinnati for 16 years and has been interested in local politics since he was a child. His platform for the council race is using economic morality in investing in neighborhoods.

Daniel Ames suggested CTM and CBPA have the Ludlow Avenue sidewalks power-washed before CliftonFest.

Betsy Black reported she is disappointed by the job done filling the sidewalks, especially on Ludlow, Ormond, and other side streets. She said some of them are already sunk in, and they are ugly and a safety hazard. (Trustee Buddy Goose to follow up)

Several residents of Juergens Avenue attended to ask CTM for support related to a series of problems. Residents are very concerned about a motorcycle club that has moved into a building at Juergens and Vine. Megan Holbrook and Stephanie Gilbreath (sp?), a Greendale resident, reported there was a convention the first day the club opened and it was very loud. Residents reported the problem to police. District 5 Capt. Neudigate told them to report any problems, but since the club is on private property, there is not much recourse.

Vanessa Thomas, another Juergens resident, said residents have contacted the Health Department about overgrown weeds and abandoned houses (15 to 20) on the street. They have also spoken with Traffic &

Engineering about repairing ditches on both sides of the street. Also, residents report incidents of vehicles stopping on the street for drug transactions. “No matter how often we report it to police, we’re told to continue doing so.” People living on the street are very concerned about their safety. None of the problems have been addressed and they entreated CTM to support them. They also need more lighting on the street.

Trustee Mike Moran encouraged the residents to keep complaining to the police and said CTM will write a letter of support to the city and circulate it to the city manager and other relevant departments. Malcolm Montgomery and Trustee Bruce Bernard agreed it would be good to meet with residents and gather information about their concerns, then invite a city representative to the next CTM meeting. Carolyn Miller noted that there was a plan to repair the curbs along Juergens but it never happened. She would like to see CTM support the roadwork and lighting.

**Next meeting: August 5, 7 p.m., 2013 Clifton Recreation Center**