



CTM Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Clifton Recreation Center

Present: Kevin Marsh, Tom Dwyer, Bruce Bernard, Brian Curwin, Pat Knapp, Ben Pantoja, Mike Moran, Ashley Fritz, Adam Balz, Buddy Goose, Anthony Sizemore, Morgan Rich, Joyce Rich, Linda Ash, Eric Urbas

Police Report

Officer Lisa Johnson said crime is down 13% in District 5. Everyone is very concerned about the home break-ins but Ofc. Johnson noted Clifton is actually faring better than surrounding neighborhoods due to the vigilance and alertness of neighbors who call and email information about suspicious activity. Northside is getting hit very badly. Ofc. Johnson said she monitors Nextdoor Clifton closely. She reminded people to lock all doors and windows, including second-floor windows. Call 765.1212 for non-emergencies. Officer Johnson's direct number is 569.8507 and her email address is

lisa.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov.

She also noted complaints about panhandling on Ludlow Avenue. Police will ask the business association if they want a police detail on Ludlow 3 nights a week to discourage panhandlers. In July, 7 arrests were made for graffiti. Many neighbors are complaining about drug transactions happening in the neighborhood. Police have made 3 arrests based on information from neighbors.

Ofc. Johnson also noted there is an effort to dead-end Greendale Avenue to cut off traffic driving through to Vine Street.

Police are still investigating the shooting in July at Arlin's. The victim was a Clifton resident, Roger Ramundo. His mother was the one who called police and reported that he had a gun. She saved a lot of people. Bullets came very close to officers and could have hit innocent bystanders.

Councilmember Wendell Young on Public Safety

Cincinnati City Councilmember Wendell Young noted that he is aware of high concern around burglaries and drug dealing in Clifton and other neighborhoods this summer. He said Clifton is very lucky to have an officer like Officer Johnson. He said crime in Clifton is actually way down. He reminded neighbors to look out for one another. Even if you are not 100% sure that an illegal activity is taking place, still call police. Don't leave your doors or windows unlocked. Don't leave valuables in cars. If you've got a burglar alarm, use it. If you have a dog, put it in a position to alert you if someone enters your home. If you have a bad feeling about the way you're leaving your home, get it fixed. If a person really really wants to break into your home, there's not a lot you can do about it. But they usually take the path of least resistance.

Young also mentioned the Cincinnati Police Department's new differential response policy for non-injury automobile accidents and burglar alarms. He said it's new to Cincinnati, but not to this country. City Council has cut the police budget very tight and citizens will feel that in the services provided. They simply don't have enough cops to do what they have always done. The base salary for police officers is \$70,000.

Fire Department

Captain Jim Kettler of the Cincinnati Fire Department reported that July was a quiet month, with under 200 runs, including some structure fires, but mostly in lower McMicken. Before UC returns, the fire department is on a campaign to inspect multiple-unit dwellings and get them up to code. A new city ordinance requires photoelectric smoke detectors for multi-dwellings. Smoke detectors are the #1 savers of lives.

Due to a grant through the state of Ohio, local firehouses have supplies of smoke detectors that are free to residents. These are the standard ionization detectors, but they still work.

Laure Quinlivan

City Councilmember Laure Quinlivan noted that a new program called Cincinnati Safe Student Housing has been established in reaction to the deaths of two UC students in January in a house fire near campus. Parents came to the city asking for measures to ensure this type of thing never happened again, resulting in the requirement for photoelectric detectors in multiple-unit dwellings. The city fire code was also recently changed to prohibit blocking windows with air conditioning units (which is how the two students died). The goal of the new program is for all rental property owners to have their units inspected and when they pass inspection, their names are posted on the website (cincinnati-safestudenthousing.com). Students, parents, or landlords can request the free fire safety inspection. It's an incentive for landlords to make their properties safe. The program is a collaboration between the fire, law, and other city departments. For more information, call 357.7585.

Recreation Center

Zach Ober, new community center director at Clifton Recreation Center, said the center is about to wrap up summer day camp. 80 kids attended the day camp. There were 5 teen staff members as part of the Mayors Youth Employment Program, as well as 14 part-time staff. Before- and after-school camps are both full for the fall. Both will be held at Fairview School because of construction at the recreation center. No date has been confirmed on the start of construction. The September 9 CTM meeting will still be held at CRC. Renovations on the building will include ADA accessibility and a new façade.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 2013 CTM meeting were approved.

Grocery Store Update

CTM President Ben Pantoja reported he spoke with the broker for Steve Goessling's property (former IGA building) because of a rumor that a dollar store was being considered. They said they cannot talk about it but should know more in 4 to 6 weeks.

Marilyn Hyland has in the past done a lot of work on the grocery, before that Goessling, and before that IGA. She ghost-wrote a letter that CTM could potentially give to the broker and potential store owners explaining why the community will go out of its way to make a grocery business successful. It would give them valuable background information about, for example, how Clifton supported the Esquire Theater. Pantoja proposed the letter be refined with help from the trustees. In general it tries to make a couple of points: Clifton supports businesses and also we would be very eager to work with city and council so there is possibility of getting developmental support. That is an important point for a potential store chain and important to the future of the other businesses in the area.

Trustee Buddy Goose commented that overall the letter is very good. Trustee Kevin Marsh said he would like to see the Ludlow working group author the letter (including CTM, CBPA, Clifton 20/20, etc.). Morgan Rich said the letter is a good starting point.

Proposed Minor Change to Resolution on Woolper Avenue Construction

Based partly on input from Ted Chism, a resident of Woolper, CTM moved to make a minor change in the resolution on the Woolper Avenue rehabilitation project. The new proposal is to make the parking lane on the right 6 inches wider by getting rid of the grass strip on right (south side). The resulting parking lane would be 8.5 ft. instead of 8 ft. There were attempts to talk with 30 residents on the south side of the street to get their consensus on this change. Contact was made with 13 people, 11 of whom were in favor of the minor change. 2 were opposed. Trustees passed a motion to approve the minor change.

Status of Burnt-Out Restaurant at 3201 Jefferson Avenue

Michael Moran provided a status report on the former bar and restaurant building. The building is currently going through the city's process for condemnation. It has gone through the first hearing. The second phase, because the building is older than 50 years, is an Urban Conservatory hearing August 16, 2 p.m. at 805 Central Ave. in the Martin Griesel Room. The Urban Conservatory does brief report regarding any historical significant. If deemed not, then will proceed through condemnation.

Resident-Only Parking on Ruther

Corryville is doing a big residential-only parking effort, which covers the Bishop and Ruther area. 4 houses on Ruther that are actually in CTM area asked to be included in the Corryville plan. Due to timing constraints, CTM trustees voted via email to support addition of those 4 residences in our community to that residential parking area.

CliftonFest Update

Pete Schneider from the CliftonFest committee reported that as of today, 22 of the open 30 spots for chalk artists have been booked. Vendor booths are sold out. The 5K race is definitely happening on Sunday morning, Sept. 29. The race is a great way to populate the event. That is funded and we got a good group of folks sponsoring and providing a lot of swag. A beer garden will be set up on Telford. Thanks to the ceaseless efforts of Buddy Goose, Signup Genius is now live. About 2 months out from event right now. There is a CliftonFest Facebook site. Friday night, a wine walk will be held but Ludlow will not closed. The street will be closed Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 am. to 11 p.m., and Sunday Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Trustee Tom Dwyer noted that CTM should have a table at CliftonFest. In the future, we could take membership. Buddy Goose agreed.

Treasurers Report—Tom Dwyer

Dwyer noted in the month of July the revenue side of the treasury was slow. \$200 in Chronicle revenue and \$75 in golf outing revenue was reported, in addition to \$576 for membership. Dwyer reported he paid \$1,500 liability insurance, \$935 for the first payment to Plaza LLC for maintenance of the plaza, and the first payment of \$1,500 to the CliftonFest committee (from NSP funds that had to be spent). \$3,865 was the total outflow/expenses for the month. CTM's cash position is \$91,830. Dwyer plans to consolidate two other CTM savings accounts.

The August 2013 Treasurers Report 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. The cost is \$75 (includes golf, dinner, prizes). To find out more about the scramble-format event, contact Email for more information,

Communications Committee on CTM Website

The Communications Committee has been working on gathering quotes for upgrading the CTM website. The consensus is that moving the site from DreamWeaver to a web-based, open-source platform such as WordPress will make it easier to change and be updated by multiple people.

Kevin Marsh noted there are two requirements for the upgrade: move to online membership renewal, which he estimates would work for about 85% of CTM members (the rest would continue with a mail-in system), and create a site that will allow multiple people to add and update content. Currently one person is in charge of all website maintenance.

Option A

Transfer website to WordPress = \$3,000

Add-on membership feature = \$600

Training at \$120/hour (4 hours training total)

Total cost = \$4,000

Note: WordPress is web-based, so updates would be in real-time

Option B

Buy more copies of DreamWeaver at about \$150 each

Provide training to users at \$120/hour

Add-on membership feature at about \$600

Total cost \$1,230

Not web-based, so it resides on someone's computer and has to be uploaded to web...so would need update/version control

Trustees discussed the merits of WordPress versus DreamWeaver in terms of ease of use, updatability, additional features, etc. Audience member Hugh O'Neill noted CTM should explore whether it needs additional functionality such as making the website more accessible via mobile devices. The topic was tabled until next meeting for more study. Dwyer agreed that certain CTM activities such as the Clifton House Tour, fundraising, etc., merit looking into additional features.

One-Minute Trustee Reports

Mike Moran reported that he and Pantoja attended a planning meeting for privatization of parking in the city. We were under the impression we were invited as leaders of community councils and business associations. Our intent was to show up and voice our wishes that it not happen at all, but if it must happen, that we are against extending hours of operation for meters, and we're in favor of mitigating other factors that might negatively impact our business district. Pantoja noted that he learned during the meeting that Xerox does not get additional revenue per parking ticket. This was good to learn because one of our concerns was aggressive enforcement to increase revenues. They said that wouldn't happen. But afterward, I wondered if they would inflate their cost per ticket. So that concern is still there.

Cincinnati City Councilmember Laure Quinlivan commented that she is pushing for the city to listen to residents' concerns and that if this plan is moving forward, maintain the current hours of parking meter enforcement. She encouraged CTM to email concerns to Council and to Laura Brunner, CEO of the Port of Great Cincinnati Development Authority.

Bruce Bernard reported that during last month's CTM meeting, residents of Juergens Avenue asked for help about the condition of their street, including badly damaged curbs, abandoned houses and overgrown lots, poor lighting, the presence of a new motorcycle club nearby on Vine Street, and criminal/suspicious activity such as suspected drug dealings. Bernard took pictures of badly damaged, unsightly curbs and compared them with photos of curbs on nearby Greendale. He proposed CTM write a letter to the city requesting improvements on

Juergens and contact Michael Moore, head of the city's traffic and engineering department. Bernard noted that Officer Lisa Johnson told him there is new funding through the police department to improve lighting on certain streets, and that Juergens is on the list.

Community Q&A

A representative of the Islamic Association of Cincinnati (mosque at 3668 Clifton Avenue) reported that about 300 people will attend a service celebrating Eid (the conclusion of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting). The mosque hosts prayers 5 times a day, the last at 10:30 p.m. The end of the driveway is very dark and the mosque would like to explore ways to light the driveway so that exiting the property is safer for people attending services.

Daniel Ames noted the June CTM minutes had not been posted to the CTM website. He reminded CTM that if the July minutes were approved, the June minutes should be available to the community. He also repeated that the bulletin board at the former Kellers IGA contains old notices that should be removed. And he suggested that the Ludlow sidewalks be powerwashed prior to CliftonFest in late September.

An audience member asked about the status of the business district consulting project with Kathleen Norris, and wondered about rumors of a possible grocery co-op at the former IGA. Pantoja noted that some of the people involved in Clifton 20/20 have been part of explorations for a co-op when the IGA first went out of business. New discussions have been surfacing recently.

Morgan Rich noted that 4 stakeholder groups -- CTM, CBPA, Clifton 20/20, and Uptown Consortium -- are working with Kathleen Norris on a study to improve the Ludlow Avenue business district. There have been several meetings at this point. The largest problem areas are lack of parking, lack of a diverse tenant mix, rundown facilities/appearance of Ludlow, and lack of the grocery store. Unfortunately, he noted, that is the area that the study can have the least impact on, due to the fact that IGA building owner Steve Goessling is working with a private broker to sell the property. At the next CTM meeting, the group hopes to have an update report on the efforts by Kathleen Norris.

Carolyn Miller asked if the water mains along Clifton Avenue are scheduled for replacement, and if so, will that impact CliftonFest?

Tony Sizemore reported the next Probasco Fountain meeting is August 8.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2013, 7 p.m., Clifton Recreation Center, 320 McAlpin Ave.