



CTM Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Clifton Cultural Arts Center

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

Absent: Adam Balz, Bruce Bernard

Police Report

No police report was given.

Fire Department

Captain Jim Kettler of the Cincinnati Fire Department reported that the Clifton firehall underwent its inspection by the City of Cincinnati and were notified that the City plans to clean and paint the exterior of the building.

Capt. Kettler noted that at this time of year, carbon monoxide poisoning can become a problem as homes' pipes and falling leaves clog ventilation systems. He said this is the time of year to check, clean, and repair any issues. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal and it can also make people very sick, showing flu-like symptoms for long periods of time. The Clifton firehall has both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors available for anyone who needs them.

He also reported that outdoor burning can be a problem as people use fire pits and create bonfires. If neighbors complain about smoke or fumes, they respond and ask residents to extinguish the fires.

Recreation Center

Arnell Davis, Recreation Center Director, reported that the Rec Center staff is busy sorting and packing in preparation for construction to begin on the center's renovation. The Clifton Rec Center is one of two Cincinnati rec centers being renovated this year. The official start of construction is Oct. 29 and the center is expected to be closed for 12 to 15 months. Before and after school programs are being held at Fairview School. Art programs are being farmed out to various other city rec centers.

The renovation will include a new entry facing the existing parking lot, a large circular staircase to the upper level with classrooms facing the parking lot. The building will be made more distinct from the Clifton Cultural Arts Center, and the bridge connecting the two will be demolished.

Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Mark McKillip reported that the CCAC has a new executive director, Leslie Mooney, who is currently with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. She will replace Ruth Dickey who resigned during the summer to take a job in Seattle. CCAC has also recently renovated a couple of classrooms in the building, painting and refreshing them. During the Rec Center renovation, CCAC is leasing two office spaces to the Rec Center staff. CCAC is also working with the city Recreation Commission to resolve an issue with the parking lot during construction. The lot, which CCAC shares with CRC, currently has 55 spaces but will be reduced to 51 as a result of the renovation. During construction, the city has allotted only 11 parking spots to CCAC. This is a concern due to CCAC's frequent events and programs. CCAC is trying to work this out with the city, asking

them to move their construction fence to free up an additional 32 spaces for CCAC events. CCAC hopes the issue will be resolved this week but if not, requests CTM's support in a letter to the director of the Recreation Commission and City Council.

Approval .of Minutes

Minutes from the September 2013 CTM meeting were approved.

Probasco Fountain Report

Joel Koopman, facilities manager for the City of Cincinnati, reported on the progress of the Probasco Fountain renovation and relocation project. Roughly a year ago he attended the CTM meeting to notify the neighborhood that the city planned to renovate it in 2014, and asked for neighborhood input. A committee formed and has been working on the issue, holding public input meetings and gathering information. From that process, several major concerns were identified:

- Relation of fountain to its historic location
- Visibility for pedestrians and motorists
- Accessibility to all sides of the fountain
- Safety for users re: traffic

The committee recommended moving the fountain 7 ft. 6 in. west of its existing location and up to 2 ft. 2 in. north of the existing location.

Next steps include obtaining the approval of state and federal historic preservation entities. The fountain is in two historical districts. Current plans for the renovation including replacing the original bell feature at the top of the fountain, repairing the water feature, and making all sides of the fountain accessible to pedestrians while not using up too much space on the CCAC lawn, which is used for summer concerts. The plans will be submitted to the state historical preservation group by December and to federal officials after that. At the next CTM, the committee hopes to be able to show final drawings.

CliftonFest Report

Pete Schneider of the CliftonFest Committee reported that the Sept. 27-29 arts festival was a great success. An estimated 7,000 to 7,500 people attended due to good publicity and beautiful weather on Saturday. Sunday was damp but the first annual 5K run was a success with 85 registered runners. The Pet Parade included more than 100 pet owners, many with multiple pets. Sponsorships were very successful and Schneider thanked CTM, CBPA, TriHealth, and the individual businesses on Ludlow for their support. Plans for CliftonFest 2014 are already underway. The 2013 event was the result of 10 months of planning and preparation by the committee, which included 10 to 12 Cliftonites and numerous volunteers during the weekend.

Library Levy

Kimber Fender of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County reported that the library recently received the National Medal for Library Service, one of only 5 libraries in the country to receive the honor. It is also a Library Journal 4-Star Library and has won numerous awards for innovation in recent years. It is the 7th busiest library system in the U.S. and its main library downtown is the busiest library in the country. 7.5 million people visited in 2012 and 516,000 people have library cards, representing 90% of households in the county having at least one cardholder.

Two-thirds of the library's funding comes from the state and one-third comes from the local property tax levy. Ms. Fender urged Clifton to vote for Issue 1 in the upcoming election. It will not raise taxes, but is a renewal of a 2009 levy. It costs taxpayers \$2.51/month for each \$100,000 in property value. It represents \$17 million of the library's budgets. If it is not renewed, the library will have to cut staff, hours of operation, and branches.

She also reported on the renovation of the Clifton Branch Library. The project is in design phase, and drawings will soon be ready to show the public. A public input forum identified local residents want more space for meeting rooms and reading, so the design will reflect more meeting spaces and a computer lab. The project should be out for bid in February and will take 12 months to complete.

TriHealth Report

Jamie Easterling, new executive director of hospital operations for Good Samaritan, reported that TriHealth is happy to support Clifton neighborhood events such as CliftonFest, the Clifton Chronicle, and CCAC’s Wednesdays on the Green. TriHealth also agreed to sponsor the upcoming Lantern Walk as well as improvements to the CTM website. TriHealth includes Good Samaritan, Bethesda North, and a plethora of medical facilities in Hamilton and Butler counties.

Inaugural CTM Golf Outing

Trustee Tom Dwyer reported that 30 people participated in the inaugural CTM Golf Outing. About \$2,000 was raised, which will be used to help pay for a new A/V system for the Recreation Center.

Treasurers Report

Dwyer reported \$2,019 in revenue for the month of September, including \$1,800 from the golf outing and \$150 in Chronicle ad revenue. Expenses included \$1,120 in payments for the website upgrades and \$6,300 for CTM’s sponsorship of CliftonFest. CTM’s cash position is currently \$82,862. Dwyer reported this is a good financial position but noted that the next big fundraising event is not until 2015 when the Clifton House Tour will be held. He provided a history of CTM cash positions since 2004.

Year	Beginning	Ending	Net Increase/ (Decrease)
2004	56,040.38	46,008.81	(10,031.57)
2005	46,008.81	57,977.71	11,968.90
2006	57,977.71	56,248.45	(1,729.26)
2007	56,248.45	53,101.20	(3,147.25)
2008	53,101.20	52,315.10	(786.10)
2009	52,315.10	86,367.82	34,052.72
2010	86,367.82	82,698.29	(3,669.53)
2011	82,698.29	80,445.02	(2,253.27)
2012	80,445.02	87,908.00	7,462.98
2013 Budget	87,908.00	69,618.00	(18,290.00)

The Treasurers Report was approved.

CTM Website Ad-Hoc Committee

Ben Pantoja recommended the establishment of an Ad-Hoc Committee that will focus on maximizing the upgraded CTM website as a communication tool for the community. The site has recently been moved to a WordPress platform, which will allow for easier updating. The committee will consist of trustees as well as local residents who are interested in volunteering their professional expertise to guide CTM in adding WordPress plug-ins and utilizing social media.

Business District Improvement

Morgan Rich, chairman of the CTM Business District Committee, reported two success stories on Ludlow Avenue. First, consultant Kathleen Norris, who was hired to evaluate potential improvements to the tenant mix and vacancies on Ludlow Avenue, helped in the rebranding and redesign of the former Aquarius Star/Om Café

into a new identity as Om Café. Also, a new tenant is moving onto Ludlow in the former wine store space, and Norris has connected the business owner with a City of Cincinnati new business development contact.

The stakeholders in the business district study are planning a “Pop-Up Cincy” event during the holidays, whereby the windows of various Ludlow Avenue stores will be decorated and other special events will be planned. This initiative is an offshoot of several recommendations that have been made in the study so far. Rich also reported that Uptown Consortium has hired an intern, who may be available to help in Clifton’s business district efforts.

Nominations Committee: December 2013 Trustee Election

Kevin Marsh, chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the committee has met to plan the 2013 election. Four Trustee positions are open, and 3 existing CTM Trustees have decided to run again. So far 3 additional candidates have expressed interest, and on October 7, CTM sent an email announcement soliciting any other candidates who may be interested. The election will be held during the December 2, 2013 meeting.

According to the CTM bylaws, any nominations must be made prior to 45 days before the election. The community must be notified about the final roster of candidates 10 days prior to the election. CTM will gather candidate bios and share them via the CTM email listserve.

(*The full report of the Nominations Committee is included at the end of the minutes.)

2015 CTM House Tour and 2014 Cincinnati Preservation Association House Tour

Paul Muller, executive director of the Cincinnati Preservation Association, has notified CTM that his organization will host a small-scale house tour in May 2014. CTM President Ben Pantoja noted there is concern the CPA tour may be confused for the CTM tour, which will be held in May 2015. Muller noted his group will work with CTM to ensure the event doesn’t cause confusion or dilute the CTM event. He also offered CPA’s help in promoting the CTM House Tour in 2015. The CPA house tour will most likely be limited to just 3 homes.

30-Second Trustee Reports

Linda Ash reported the annual Lantern Walk will be held November 3. For the second year in a row, the route will not include Clifton Avenue (for safety reasons). The event is sponsored by TriHealth and Ian Goodall/local Boy Scouts will again donate time to make and place luminaires along the route.

George Roden, who for more than a decade has organized the annual Holidays on Ludlow carriage rides, asked for help from CTM Trustees in planning the 2013 event. Local businesses are planning this year’s event. Last year’s event expanded to include performances on the Clifton Plaza.

Clifton Art Utility Box Project

Clifton resident and art consultant Kip Eagan reported that after two-and-a-half years of planning, fundraising, and negotiating, the anti-graffiti art project will be implemented this week on six utility boxes in Clifton. The pilot phase of the project will transform six Cincinnati Bell-owned boxes—which are frequent targets of graffiti makers—into trompe l’oeil objects. The boxes are at Bryant and Clifton, Shiloh and Middleton, McAlpin and Middleton, Whitfield and Howell, Howell and Clifton, and Gano and Ludlow. Primary sponsors of the project are the Clifton Community Fund and the CCAC, among many others. Two teams of two professional artists will be painting the boxes this week and then the boxes will be treated with anti-graffiti sealant. Small sponsorship plaques will be adhered to each.

Eagan explained this is a pilot phase of the project and hopefully many more utility boxes will receive the treatment. The cost is about \$1,000 per utility box. If interested in sponsorship, contact the Clifton Community Fund.

Next meeting: Monday, November 4, 2013, 7 p.m., Clifton Cultural Arts Center, 3711 Clifton Avenue.

**CTM Nomination Committee Report
October 1, 2013
Submitted by: Kevin Marsh, Trustee**

All Trustees,

The CTM Nominating Committee files the following report will the full Board of Trustees as required by the Bylaws 60 days prior to the election. The election is set for Dec 2, 2013.

There are currently 4 Trustee positions that are up for election as follows:

- Ben Pantoja - expiring 3 year term. Not term limited.
- Brian Curwin - expiring 3 year term. Term limited.
- Joyce Rich - expiring 1 year term. Not term limited.
- Kevin Marsh - expiring 1 year term. Not term limited.

The Committee has contacted all Trustees with expiring terms who are not term limited. The Committee has also contacted three (3) other community members in an interest to develop a full field of potential candidates. Therefore, the total number of potential candidates contacted thus far is six (6) for the open four (4) positions.

Of the potential candidates, 3 have expressed they will run again, 1 is undecided, and 2 have declined to run. Details by name are as follows:

Running again - Ben Pantoja, Joyce Rich, Kevin Marsh
Undecided - Paul Buckley
Declining to run - Kevin Leahy, Joyce Steiner

The Committee has also contacted all Trustees whose terms are not expiring to check and see if any Trustee might exit early. At this time, no Trustee has indicated they will exit early.

The Committee will have a formal meeting in early October to discuss next steps including the following:

- + Follow up on potential candidates already contacted.
- + Contact some more potential candidates.
- + Decide if we believe it is necessary to do a broader public announcement seeking candidates (listserv, Nextdoor Clifton, etc.).
- + Prepare for the election (ballots, announcements, voter eligibility info, etc.)

Respectfully submitted on Oct 1, 2013,
Kevin Marsh
Nominating Committee Chairperson