



**CTM Meeting**  
**February 3, 2014**  
**Clifton Cultural Arts Center**

In attendance: Ben Pantoja, Ashley Fritz, Tony Sizemore, Tom Dwyer, Morgan Rich, Adam Hyland, Linda Ash, Bruce Bernard, Kevin Marsh, Eric Urbas, Pat Knapp

Absent: Joyce Rich, Mike Moran, Adam Balz, Buddy Goose

**Police Report**

Officer Lisa Johnson reported that Woolper Avenue was blocked off a week ago due to a shooting that occurred on Irving. The subjects drove to Woolper. One man died on the scene and the other was hospitalized. SWAT was called and a 14, 15, and 18-year-old were arrested. February 2, another UC student was robbed at gunpoint and shot in the leg. The perpetrator was arrested. On Bishop, a string of burglaries has occurred in the 3200 block. Mostly homes are being broken into and vandalized.

Officer Johnson also reported that CPD is seeking volunteers for Citizens on Patrol. She shared her phone number 569-8507 and email [lisa.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:lisa.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov) for anyone to report suspicious activity. She also urged neighbors to sign up for the Nixle crime alert system. Go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and search for Cincinnati Oh Police Department District 5 or text the DST5 to 88877 to receive alerts of crime happening in our area.

**Fire Department**

No Fire Department report was given.

**Recreation Center**

Tom Reese reported that the Clifton Rec Center has launched a website for online registration for summer day camp. Parents can sign up their children at [www.cincyrec.org](http://www.cincyrec.org). The Clifton Summer Camp will be hosted this year at McKie Center in Northside due to the ongoing renovation of the Clifton Rec Center

The renovation of the Rec Center is moving quickly. HVAC is now up-to-date with current building codes and replacement of electrical and plumbing is almost complete.. The foundation of the new building is complete and demolition of the skybridge between the Rec Center and CRC is complete. Reese said the Center will be able to afford to bid on a drop-down projection screen for the CTM meetings. The renovation will provide new lobby, elevator, staircase to the second level, new windows on the west side of the building, and ADA-accessible restrooms. The total cost is \$1.7 million and Jostin Construction is the contractor.

### **Clifton Cultural Arts Center**

CCAC Board Member Fran Larkin reported that the CCAC is asking people who come into the building to sign in, for security reasons. Construction in the building as part of Phase II of the CCAC renovation plan includes work being done on the Great Hall, the school's original gymnasium that was converted into classrooms during the 1970s. With an initial investment of \$90,000, the walls between classrooms have been taken down and the original steel truss ceiling exposed. Energy-efficient LED lighting is being added. Now it is one large space that can accommodate various functions for up to 170 people. Auditorium adjacent. The work is being done by Champlin Architects and Turner Construction Small Projects Division. CCAC is seeking donations for additional work on the center, including repair of the clock tower, construction of a catering kitchen, refinishing the original maple hardwood floors in the Great Hall, and tables and chairs for that space.

In January the latest in CCAC's Sunset Salons was held, focused on creativity. The next Sunset Salon is March 26, focusing on invention. The Second Sunday Family Showcase is Feb. 9 with Jack and the Wonder Beans at 2 p.m.

### **Minutes of January 2014 Meeting Were Approved**

#### **Treasurers Report**

There was no treasurer's report, as CTM Treasurer Michael Moran was absent.

#### **CliftonFest Update**

Jan Checco reported that CliftonFest has achieved LLC status and is awaiting approval of its 501(c)3 status, which will help with fundraising. Its 2014 sponsorship campaign has begun. \$20,000 has been pledged to date and the goal is \$60,000.

Staff has been engaged: Christian Huelsman will coordinate events and do outreach. CliftonFest will be held Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28. Musicians are being booked and programming is in place for ArtCarpets, juried artisan booths, the Kids Zone on Diggs Plaza, 5K Run and It's Yoga Live event Sunday morning, Pet Parade Sunday afternoon.

#### **Burnet Woods Programming**

Lou Sand, event coordinator with Cincinnati Parks, reported on the 2014 schedule of family-friendly events in Burnet Woods. Three Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra performances are planned: June 5 (Woodwind Quartet), July 3 (Fourth of July theme), and August 7 (OctoberFest German theme), all Thursday evenings. The Big Show Circus will be held June 22 with trapeze performers, juggling and magic workshops, games, inflatable rides, face painting and balloon art, a concert, and concessions. And Cincinnati Parks will also partner with CliftonFest again this year to provide kid-friendly entertainment during CliftonFest. This will include Grammy-nominated Zak Morgan, Ballooney Puppet Works, Wump Mocket Puppets, face painting and balloon art, and carnival games. Funding for these events is provided through the Groesbeck Fund. Parks

would like to have fireworks during the July concert, so donations are being sought from the community to help make that happen.

### **Scenic Road Rallies**

Satolli Glassmeyer organizes road rallies (similar to those popularized on the television show *The Amazing Race*) and reported on the possibility of doing a race in Clifton. He describe these events as like a Saturday afternoon drive with a scavenger hunt. The rallies are designed to promote businesses and historic sites in specific neighborhoods. They are family-oriented, non-alcoholic events that appeal to all ages. His website is [www.scenicroadrallies.com](http://www.scenicroadrallies.com). The base fee for a rally event is \$1,485. It is free for the participants if they get vouchers from sponsoring businesses. Most communities get 15 businesses to sponsor for \$99 dollars, which pays for the event. For the sponsorship, businesses get vouchers and involvement in the scavenger hunt.

### **Preschool Promise**

Greg Landsman represented Preschool Promise, a group focused on providing free, high quality preschool for all children. College and school leaders, nonprofits, and business leaders are working with the group to focus solely on improving outcomes for every child in the cities of Cincinnati, Newport, and Covington. Children who attend quality preschool are proven to have much higher chances of success in school, but many children are not able to attend for financial reasons. If a child shows up at school at age 5 without having attended preschool, they are already behind. 90% of brain development happens during the first five years, so preschool at ages 3 and 4 is optimal. It is one of the biggest social justice issues of our time. Denver passed Universal Preschool for four-year-olds in 2007. It has been a game-changer in the city in terms of transforming outcomes for kids and growing the city. Preschool Promise is starting to have conversations about how we could do something similar if not bigger in Cincinnati, such as universal preschool for 3- and 4 year-olds.

Cincinnati hasn't grown in 50 years and we think this will help make that happen. There are all kinds of ways to get involved. Asking CTM and attending residents to consider signing the Preschool Promise Pledge.

Clifton neighbor Carolyn Miller asked how Cincinnati could fund this? Landsman said Denver passed a county-wide sales tax that generates \$12 million/year, which is why they decided to do just 4-year-olds. The local group is exploring many funding options and looking for input from the community. In Denver, credits can be used at any quality-rated preschool, public or private. CPS can theoretically expand its preschools pretty quickly. Just like in Denver, we would see an explosion of quality-rated preschools.

### **Trustee 1-Minute Reports**

Trustee Kevin Marsh attended the District 5 Town Hall Meeting held by the new police chief. He shared several learnings: 1) Many neighborhoods have much worse crime problems than we do. 2) The same person who answers 911 answers non-emergency phones as well. 3) Heroin is becoming a significant problem all over our communities. Because police officers are first responders, Police Chief Blackwell is looking into

getting officers trained to administer Narcan, the drug used to counteract the effects of opiate overdose. There are literally not enough beds for people who need heroin addiction rehab. 4) Chief Blackwell is rolling out a youth engagement platform, which is his long-term approach to the problem. 5) People are designing and rolling out community emergency response teams. 6) There was a lot of talk about CPD being 150 to 200 officers down from the desired level.

Marsh also reported on the Cincinnati Street Rehabilitation Program. Shiloh, Cornell, and Gano were scheduled, but then moved to 2015 because of sewer work on those streets. Woolper will be done in the spring.

Trustee Adam Hyland reported that CTM launched a Facebook page last month, another tool for communicating with the community.

Trustee Tom Dwyer reported the second annual CTM Golf Outing will be held August 16. The money will probably be donated to CCAC's Great Hall renovation. The event will accommodate 72 golfers.

Trustee Bruce Bernard reported that CTM's new Fundraising Committee met twice and came up with 18 ideas for fundraising ideas. The top idea was a winetasting event, but that may conflict with scheduled Wine Walks on Ludlow.

President Ben Pantoja reported that Clifton Natural Foods will move into the chiropractors' space on Ludlow Avenue. They will move from their existing location on McMillan and Vine. May is the possible opening date.

Trustee Adam Hyland reported that the group researching a co-op grocery store will have an announcement within a few weeks. They are working to bring a full-service grocery to Clifton. At the end of this month, the co-op board is going to Bloomington, Indiana, for a co-op conference. They will meet with national co-op consultants.

### **Public Q&A**

Daniel Ames had questions about the Metro bus service in Clifton. He said Metro bus stops have been moved from in front of Arlin's on Ludlow to in front of the Marathon gas station on Clifton Avenue. Will the benches be moved? Also there is no bus shelter or benches at the new #19 bus stop on Ludlow Avenue just east of Clifton. Ben Pantoja said he will contact Metro about bus stop changes and seating in Clifton.

Ames also noted we have two locked public bulletin boards and neither one has been updated for many months. The one on the Kellers IGA building, he understands no one knows who has the keys to it. The other one on Clifton Plaza still has last year's CliftonFest poster in it. Someone should update them.

Ollie Cronan asked if we can identify the co-op operator. Adam Hyland answered that this would be a Clifton-based co-op. Most on the people on the board are from Clifton and idea is that it will be a Clifton-based co-op supported by the community.

Scott Stiles, interim city manager for City of Cincinnati and Clifton resident, reported on the city's winter snow operations and the police issues Kevin Marsh referenced.

We've had a long cold winter with several snow events. Stiles was out of town when he learned about the serious gridlock situation in Clifton a few weeks ago. There was a lot of ice that came more quickly than the city anticipated. Cars were backed up along several Clifton streets. This occurred due to a combination of factors. The weather came in quickly and the city did not do its best job treating Clifton streets. What happened that day was not up to the city's standards and we are going to endeavor to do better. We've had a couple of debriefs about it.

He also reported on some police initiatives outlined at Chief Blackwell's press conference. We are concerned that there have been 11 homicides so far this year. That is a lot in a cold month. Part of what we rolled out this morning was really a 6-part strategy to get ahead of this, including some short-term and some long-term efforts. Chief Blackwell has realized over a million in savings in his department over the first 3 quarters of the fiscal year, so \$600,000 will be applied to hot-spot intervention. We know there are areas where this is potential for activity to happen and if we can intervene at the right time and right place, we think we can have some impact. In police circles it's known that March is a critical month for crime increasing as weather warms up and people are getting out, so we want to get ahead of this trend.

The city will also be doing some lateral transfers to add qualified officers. The city will reach out to other Ohio police departments and see if their police officers want to become CPD officers. We are planning to offer jobs to 15-20 officers like this who are already certified and don't have to go through the 8 or 9-month police recruit and training cycle. Another strategy is to reinstitute our gang unit, which has been dormant.

A bigger and longer-term initiative is that we have not had a police recruit class for 5 or 6 years. We will start a 60-member police recruit class and have a new class of recruits on the street sometime after the first month of the year. Chief Blackwell is also planning a youth engagement program, doing such things as midnight youth basketball leagues with police officers. The CIRV program, Citizens Initiative to Reduce Violence, will also be taken back up to the level it was at previously.

All of these ideas are being considered by City Council. There is a significant cost to all of this, which will be factored into the development of the 2015 budget that needs to be passed by July. We'll have to make a lot of hard choices but we clearly need to get in front of this problem right now.

Brian Taylor, pastor with Bethel Cincinnati. We recently had our first service in this building, the CCAC, moved from Corryville. We hope to be able to be a part of the community.

