



CTM Meeting
January 6, 2014
Clifton Cultural Arts Center

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

Absent: Joyce Rich

The meeting began with introductions of the CTM Trustees, including new Trustee Adam Hyland.

Police Report

District 5 Sgt. Voelkerding said 2013 crime numbers are being tallied, but Clifton is down substantially. Police made a few burglary arrests recently. Burglars are carrying shovels and knocking on doors asking to shovel driveways, but if residents aren't home, they are going around and kicking in back doors. The last ones arrested were 13 to 15 years old. Sgt. Voelkerding also that people are warming up their cars because of the cold and coming back minutes later to find the cars gone. Police recommend if you must warm up your car, at least have an extra key and lock the doors.

He noted the south side of the UC campus in the CUF neighborhood, higher-profile crimes are occurring. UC is paying six officers 7 nights a week to provide extra coverage in the neighborhood. District 5 is now anticipating having to deal with that crime pushing outward from CUF.

In 2005, District 5 had approximately 5,000 people who were victims of crimes. Between 2011 and 2013, there was a 20% drop in overall crime. Lower crime rates and occurring in all 8 neighborhoods covered by District 5.

Rec Center

Tom Reese reported that the Recreation Center offices are temporarily in the basement of the CCAC. Construction is ongoing on the center.

Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Barb Sferra reported that CCAC completed its year-end fundraising campaign, exceeding its \$30,000 goal, allowing it to achieve the board match of \$10,000. The center is undergoing a small renovation project in the Great Hall. Lights and electricity are being upgraded and more aesthetic improvements and planned when grant money is procured.

The room will be ready for use in February. A total of 47 winter classes are happening at the center during its winter session. A variety of exhibits and theatrical programming is planned for the coming months.

Highlights of CTM Offsite

Ben Pantoja reported that the CTM Trustees attended an off-site extended meeting January 4 at the Downtown Public Library. During the meeting, trustees discussed how to make the CTM meetings shorter and more effective. The CTM meeting agenda will now be flagged to indicate which topics are to be discussed by trustees only and which are open to public discussion. The trustees also drafted a 2014 budget and discussed the use of available revenue sources. The group also discussed proposed Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) funds and use of the annual contribution from TriHealth. A fundraising committee was formed to create events that will supplement CTM's income streams.

2014 CTM Officers

The following were approved as 2014 CTM Officers:

President	Ben Pantoja
Vice Presidents	Joyce Rich and Adam Hyland
Treasurer	Mike Moran
Secretary	Pat Knapp

Treasurers Report

Outgoing Treasurer/Trustee Tom Dwyer reported that December 2013 saw Chronicle ad revenue of \$569, membership revenue of \$542, and \$3.32 in interest income for a total income of \$1,114.07. Beautification expenses (including Pop-Up Ludlow) were \$1,102, the printing of the fall Chronicle \$1,260, communications \$1,000 (last payment on website redesign), and other expenses for a total of \$3,697.08 in expenses. The outflow for the month was \$2,583.01. CTM's current cash position is \$87,243.41.

2014 Budget

Ben Pantoja noted that CTM's proposed 2014 budget (attached) considers a three-year budget cycle wherein some years have deficits but the third year includes average income of \$15,000 from the Clifton House Tour (\$5,000 a year). So while deficits may occur during the years without a House Tour, for the three-year cycle the budget is actually in the black.

The 2014 budget includes \$8,000 in new revenue from future fundraising events and \$4,000 in expenses for business district promotion, including investment in banners, booths at events, etc. It does not include consulting fees for Kathleen Norris (Ludlow Business District consultant), which was a one-time expense in 2013.

Trustee Bruce Bernard commented that the \$8,000 estimate for future fundraising events might be too high, since there are no events planned yet. Trustees voted to amend the budget to change the net fundraising total to \$3,000.

Proposed Use of \$5,000 NSP Funds

The City of Cincinnati historically provides each neighborhood council with \$5,000/year through its Neighborhood Support Program. Each council has to explain what the money is used for each year. They are flexible on the use, but want the proposed uses of the funds must be discussed and approved in a public meeting. The fund can be used for one-time projects or for expenses such as insurance costs for events, newsletter production, etc.

In its January 4, 2013, off-site meeting, Trustees agreed to use the NSP funds to pay for our portion of the Leasing Study for the Ludlow Business District (paid for in partnership with Uptown Consortium, Clifton 20/20, and the Clifton Business and Professional Association). We will be billed for the last payment soon and we are proposing to use the money for the Norris contract. Trustee Tom Dwyer (who was not in attendance at the off-site meeting) noted that the city in the past has allowed only a maximum of \$4,000 to be used on any one project. To make sure the money can be used in the required timeframe, Ben Pantoja suggested specifying \$3,000 for the Norris contract and \$2,000 for the Chronicle.

The audience was polled and all 10 in attendance voted to allocate the NSP funding this way.

Proposed Use of \$6,000 TriHealth Contribution

Trustees proposed use of TriHealth's (potential) contribution as follows: Memorial Day Parade \$1,300, Beautification \$1,800, website \$700, Carriage rides at Holidays on Ludlow \$1,500, and Lantern Walk \$700. The motion was approved. The group noted their appreciation for TriHealth's support of the Clifton neighborhood, and discussion of use of the money focused on events wherein TriHealth's banner can be displayed.

Trustee 1-Minute Reports

Ben Pantoja reported on the Probasco Fountain historical designation status. There was some concern that moving the fountain 7 feet as proposed in the current project would endanger the fountain's historic designation. Joel Koopman from the City represented the fountain committee at a recent state historic preservation meeting.

Pantoja also noted that CTM's largest expense in 2013 and planned for 2014 is its \$7,500 contribution to CliftonFest. He noted some concern about CTM's ability to sustain this level of contribution given its budget deficits in recent years. He reported that he spoke with CliftonFest organizer Pete Schneider and was reassured that event organizers have developed a business model for CliftonFest that will require lesser amounts from CTM in future years.

Trustee Kevin Marsh reported that January 13 is Cincinnati Police District 5's Town Hall meeting, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Mt. Airy. The main topic of discussion is expected to be changes in policing policies.

Trustee Buddy Goose reported his involvement in an initiative called the Pre-School Promise and he encouraged all the Trustees to take the promise to help make sure that every child in Cincinnati attends preschool.

Trustee Mike Moran reported there has been publicity in the Cincinnati Enquirer about some neighborhoods pursuing special “entertainment districts” designations within their business districts, which allows the state to grant additional liquor licenses. As Clifton doesn’t have an urban development corporation, we have not elected to pursue this designation, but Moran noted CTM plans to explore this option if there is a strong inclination toward pursuing it, CTM could help organize the parties who would be responsible.

Trustee Adam Balz, Chair of the Beautification Committee, reported that the holiday decorations would be taken down from Ludlow on Saturday, Jan. 11 (later rescheduled for Jan. 12). Helpers are needed and encouraged.

Public Q&A

Kip Eagen reported he would also be taking down the reindeer from Ludlow Jan. 11, weather permitting. He reported that Clifton Community Fund pays for the reindeer decorations. Items are purchased on CTM’s account from Ace Hardware but later reimbursed by CCF.

Eagen also reported he is writing the grant proposal for a second phase of the Clifton Utility Box Art Project. For administrative reasons (its non-profit status), CTM will be listed as the grantee but CTM will simply function as an accounting pass-through for CCF.

Another Clifton resident (name unknown) said during the December 2013 CTM meeting, he asked business district consultant Kathleen Norris about the possibility of encouraging Trader Joe’s to open a store in the former Keller’s IGA storefront. He questioned her statement that Trader Joes would not open a second store in a market of Cincinnati’s size. He wonder if Trader Joes is actually a viable option, and are there other options being explored?

Trustee Morgan Rich, Chair of the CTM Business District Committee, said Trader Joe’s has been contacted; they are not interested. Ben Pantoja noted that the real estate agent representing Steve Goessling (owner of the IGA property), has approached a number of national grocery chains, all to no avail. They indicate that Goessling is asking too much per square foot for leasing and until he drops his price, no one is interested.

Trustee Adam Hyland reported that he is involved with efforts to open a co-op grocery store. This would give the neighborhood more options, he said. The group is still doing research but is meeting weekly and working diligently on the exploration. The group hopes to have an announcement soon.

State Rep Denise Driehaus, a Clifton resident, was in attendance and voiced her support for the Preschool Promise program. She said she is working on restoring money to local government funds from the State of Ohio.