

CTM

CLIFTON TOWN MEETING



CTM Meeting April 7, 2014 Clifton Cultural Arts Center

In attendance: Linda Ash, Pat Knapp, Michael Moran, Adam Hyland, Bruce Bernard, Eric Urbas, Adam Balz, Ashley Fritz, Kevin Marsh, Morgan Rich, Joyce Rich

Absent: Ben Pantoja, Anthony Sizemore, Buddy Goose, Tom Dwyer

Police Report

Neighborhood Officer Lisa Johnson reported that three graffiti arrests were made and CPD is working on getting restitution for the damage done to property. Thefts from auto continue to be a problem. If street lights are out in any areas, please report it to the police. Ludlow Avenue is having an influx of panhandlers. And residents continue to report possible drug transactions happening on Clifton streets. Officer Johnson also noted that heroin is a growing problem in the city. Call 765-1212 for non-emergency police matters and Officer Johnson's direct phone number is 569-8507.

Fire Department

Captain Jim Kettler from the Cincinnati Fire Department reported there were 600 runs in the last month, but no structure fires in Clifton. Fire station personnel are doing their spring checks of fire hydrants in the neighborhood, checking the flow and flushing them out to make sure they work properly. Capt. Kettler also reported that the fire hall has free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. He also reported that his station would like to make some improvements to the exterior of the firehouse, including painting and landscaping. Trustee Adam Balz told Capt. Kettler that CTM plans to plant flowers. Resident Len Thomas volunteered to work with the fire hall on choosing new plantings for landscaping. Resident Carolyn Miller asked if the concrete benches outside the fire hall near Arlin's would be removed since the Metro bus stop has been relocated around the corner. Capt. Kettler responded that the city will be removing the benches.

Recreation Center

Tom Reese, manager of the Clifton Rec Center, reported that the Rec Center renovation is on schedule and will be completed in August. New doors and windows have been installed and there will be lots of natural light in the building. Due to the construction, summer day camp will be held at the McKee Recreation Center on Chase Avenue in Northside.

The Rec Center's third annual yard sale will be held Saturday, May 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The sale will raise extra funds for the center.

CCAC Report

CCAC Board Member Fay Dupuis reported that the renovation of the CCAC's Great Hall has been completed and the former gymnasium is being used as an event space. An open house was held March 26. She reported upcoming CCAC events including the Macy's Arts Sampler Day April 12, Second Sunday Theater April 13, Opera Raps on April 22, and the Crafty Supermarket April 26.

Minutes of March 2014 Meeting Were Approved

Candidates Introduction

Two political candidates introduced themselves. Paul Komark, a Northside resident since 1980, is running for Hamilton County Commissioner. Dr. Paul Sohi is a candidate for the Ohio Senate District 9. He has practiced pediatrics in Clifton and Norwood for the past 24 years. The election primary is May 6.

Clifton Natural Foods

Bob and Aline Craig, owners of Clifton Natural Foods, reported that they are moving their store from 189 McMillan Avenue to 336 Ludlow Avenue, in the former chiropractor's office. They have owned Clifton Natural Foods for 32 years. They are moving the store because their building in Clifton Heights is being torn down. They will open the Ludlow Avenue store in mid-May. Hours will probably be 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The store will carry fresh produce and meat. There will be 5-6 parking spaces behind the building.

Hyland is on the Clifton Market Coop Board, and Buddy Goose's wife is also on the board.

Result of April 7 City Council Vote on Zoning Control for the Former Keller's IGA Store

Trustee Michael Moran reported that an Interim Development Control (IDC) Overlay District Boundary Ordinance proposed by Mayor John Cranley and Vice Mayor David Mann would place further development restrictions on the property that formerly housed the Keller's IGA store. After CTM submitted its resolution to support the development of a full-service grocery store in the space, Cranley and Mann went a step further with the IDC proposal. The IDC would mean that if a proposed use of the property by a developer is not to the liking of the local community, it would not be favored by the city. The IDC proposal will go to the city's Planning Commission this month. Following is the exact wording of the proposal:

6-201400387 MOTION, dated 3/26/2014 submitted by Mayor John Cranley and Vice Mayor David Mann, that the Department of Planning and Buildings work with Clifton to update their Neighborhood Business District Plan (NBD). WE FURTHER MOVE that Planning and Buildings staff prepare an IDC Overlay

District Boundary Ordinance on the site of the former Keller's IGA in Clifton to temporarily regulate the establishment of uses, construction of new buildings, and demolition or alteration of existing structures during the course of the study.

Trustee Eric Urban explained that IDCs are one of the most powerful tools available to ensure that communities can leverage their will on private property development. Essentially they ensure that communities get a say in how property is developed in the area. IDCs have been used recently by the city for the casino development downtown and in Pleasant Ridge, as well as along the Martin Luther King/Reading Road redevelopment path to discourage the volume of speculative property purchases. An IDC was used in the late 1970s to early 80s to ensure that the Roanoke Apartments in Clifton were not developed into a Burger King.

Moran noted that CTM did not request the IDC. Urban noted that Council probably saw CTM's resolution as a strong demand from the community. The IDC will be in place for 60 days and can be renewed.

Trustee Morgan Rich pointed out that CTM needs to plan its next steps in case a grocery store does not move into the space. Resident Carolyn Miller noted that the first sentence of the IDC wording refers to a new Neighborhood Business District Plan for Clifton, and with potential cuts to city departments, CTM should encourage that a full city planning department be kept. Trustees Adam Hyland, Moran, and Rich noted that CTM should work with the city to develop the Neighborhood Business District Plan to build on work already done by consultant Kathleen Norris. That work is being finalized now.

An audience member asked what effect the new Clifton Natural Foods store will have on securing a full-service grocery store. Trustee Bruce Bernard noted the distinction that the community has stated its preference for a "full-service" grocery store to serve the neighborhood.

Probasco Fountain Update

Dick Druffel, chairman of the Probasco Fountain Committee, and Jamie Accurso, City of Cincinnati, reported on the status of the Probasco Fountain project. Druffel noted that funding for the project is included in the city of Cincinnati's 2014 capital spending budget. Two bidding processes are involved in the project: 1) the restoration of the fountain itself and 2) general construction of the sidewalks/base/plaza area around it. The bidding process has started and will be finished by the end of April.

The schedule is being worked around not negatively impacting the CCAC schedule, specifically the Wednesday Concerts on the Green that happen during the summer. The committee anticipates that the restoration company will remove the fountain and take it to a warehouse to restore, then bring it back in late summer or early fall. The project should be complete by October or early November 2014.

The committee and city are working with state and federal historic preservation agencies to ensure the fountain maintains its historical designation. Jamie Accurso, an architect with the city's facilities management department, reported that the fountain will be moved 7.5 feet to the west and 4 feet to the north. The project will add a pedestrian walkway all the way around the fountain and will restore the fountain's original water feature at the top. To ensure safety and security from Clifton Avenue, the elevation around the fountain will be raised by 1 foot and a decorative iron fence will separate it from the roadway. The project will also include seating areas and new lighting. Granite in the city's stockpiles will be repurposed for the fountain base. A bronze marker will be placed to note the original location of the fountain and its new location.

I-71/MLK/Reading Road Corridor Study

Trustee Joyce Rich reported briefly that the city has recently completed the I-71 Corridor Study including the MLK/Reading Road Corridor Study decided to facilitate traffic to the Uptown and Clifton areas.

Burnet Woods Development

Rich also reported a recent news item that quoted Mayor John Cranley as saying he would like to see Burnet Woods redeveloped and better utilized. Rich said Uptown Consortium is trying to form an independent committee to gather community input.

Trustee Urbas noted that Cranley has expressed his desire to see the park developed and used to the level that Washington Park is being used. But he said Burnet Woods was designed as an urban forest and is not like Washington Park. Rich noted that it would be nice to at least clean up the park.

(See Burnet Woods Discussion below in Public Q&A.)

Treasurers Report – Michael Moran

Trustee Michael Moran reported total income of \$3,807 in March, mostly from Chronicle ads. Total expenses were \$4,410, including \$2,500 for CTM's last payment for its \$7,500 CliftonFest sponsorship. CTM's current assets total \$82,511. Liabilities include the \$7,500 CliftonFest sponsorship, \$1,500 in agreed-upon maintenance fees for the Ludlow Plaza, and \$5,000 for CTM's share of the Business District study by Kathleen Norris.

Trustee Bruce Bernard reported that at the request of CTM President Ben Pantoja he drafted a letter to TriHealth asking for \$6,000 in contributions for the next fiscal year. His TriHealth contact explained that since CTM just requested the 2014 contribution in September, it should wait until the 2015 fiscal year (July) to request funds.

Moran reported he submitted a request to the City of Cincinnati for NSP (Neighborhood Support Program) funds for 2015. He attended a meeting last week with peer

neighborhood councils. CTM has until July 31 to spend the 2014 NSP funds. They will be used for the business district study (\$3,000) and the Chronicle (\$2,000).

The treasurer's report was approved.

2-Minute Trustee Reports

Trustee Adam Balz reported he and Trustee Anthony Sizemore met to plan the Memorial Day Parade grillout sponsored by CTM.

Balz also reported CTM worked with the Park Board and the CBPA to plant pansies in 20 pots along Ludlow Avenue. Old pots that were on Ludlow were moved to Telford Avenue. The new pots were paid for by CTM and CBPA and will be maintained by the city.

Trustee Ashley Fritz reported the Chronicle deadline is April 24.

Trustee Morgan Rich reported the Ludlow Avenue business district study is almost complete and he will have a report from Kathleen Norris by the end of the month, to be presented to CTM in May 2014.

Public Q&A

Daniel Ames noted that CTM should share city information such as changes in garbage collection. On April 7, the city will resume collecting yard waste separately from garbage.

Peggy Spohr asked, How are we going to replace all the trees we are losing in the neighborhood?

Malcolm Montgomery asked about CTM's intentions to develop a Neighborhood Business District Plan. Trustee Moran noted there has been some discussion, but no plan is underway. We need to use input from the Ludlow Avenue business district study as the basis for working with the city on a plan.

LeVon Siler, a parent at Fairview Clifton School, noted the school's CSO committee is looking into drainage problems on the school grounds. Its goals are to do some site management to correct the drainage problems. Last year new gutters and spouts were installed on the Carriage House and this year the committee is planting on the hill in hopes to help the drainage. The group will have a public meeting in May.

Burnet Woods Discussion

Len Thomas, who is on the UC Planning staff, encouraged CTM and the community to familiarize itself with the city's Centennial Plan, a plan that is already in place to guide development of the city's parks. Carolyn Miller agreed that the 2007 Cincinnati Parks Master Plan should be the starting point for conversations about any improvements to Burnet Woods. She recalled one of the controversial items in the plan was realigning

Dixmyth Avenue with the Clifton Avenue entrance to the park. Bob O'Neal agreed that any development of Burnet Woods, particularly removal of trees, should be aligned with the master plan. The park was designed as an urban sanctuary and a resource for all time. It is an important area for bird migration. Len Thomas added that one of the more intelligent parts of the master plan was a plan to separate sewage and stormwater drains that run under the park. The Riparian Corridor is part of the original topography of the Clifton area and the Clifton community should be informed and ensure responsible stewardship of the park.

Trustee Bruce Bernard asked if anyone knows why there is a commercial enterprise—a trapeze operation—situated on public park land at the corner of Clifton Avenue and Martin Luther King.