

CTM

CLIFTON TOWN MEETING



August 4, 2014, 7 p.m.
Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Present: Linda Ash, Adam Balz, Tom Dwyer, Buddy Goose, Adam Hyland, Pat Knapp, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Ben Pantoja, Joyce Rich, Morgan Rich, Tony Sizemore, Eric Urbas

Absent: Bruce Bernard, Ashley Fritz

Police Report

Captain Bridget Bardua was introduced as the new CPD District 5 commander, replacing Captain Paul Neudigate. Officer Nick Hageman is the Neighborhood Officer for Clifton (513-569-8527).

Officers reported on the new traffic diversion devices to be installed on Clifton Hills Avenue to discourage motorists from turning left onto Clifton Hills Avenue from Central Parkway. This is now illegal at all times of the day, and traffic sticks are being erected to make sure drivers cannot use the street as a cut-through to Ludlow Avenue/Clifton. CPD officers will be posted near the street during the first few days of the new situation to help reinforce the new rules.

Fire Department

Fire Captain Kettler reported that there were no major incidents during the month of August. The firehouse will be doing safety inspections at rental housing used by UC students. Many firehouse improvements have been made and neighbors have responded positively to new red doors, flower boxes, and landscaping.

CRC Update

Summer camp is winding down and before and after-school care will begin soon with the start of the school year. These programs will be held at Fairview School until the CRC building is reopened.

CCAC Report

The CCAC has many new classes and programs scheduled for the fall. A complete lineup can be found at cliftonculturalarts.org.

Approval of Minutes

July 2014 minutes were approved.

Clifton Hills Avenue Update

As a result of meetings between the residents of Clifton Hills Avenue and the Cincinnati Department of Transportation, traffic sticks are being placed on Clifton Hills Avenue near the driveway to the DePaul Christo Rey High School. This will discourage drivers from turning onto the street from Central Parkway. Other measures may need to be explored given the uncertainty over whether exit ramps from I-74 onto Central Parkway will be closed by the Ohio Department of Transportation as scheduled.

Business District Study Update and Neighborhood Business District Plan

The recently completed Business District Study ("Ludlow 21") by Urban Fast Forward (Kathleen Norris) will serve as input and foundational data for a future Business District Plan for Clifton. Ludlow 21 sponsors Uptown Consortium, Clifton 20/20, the Clifton Business and Professional Association, and CTM are still awaiting final project deliverables from Urban Fast Forward.

Deer Population Management

Jim Godby, Land Manager of Cincinnati Parks, reported the Parks department's plan to manage deer overpopulation in Mt. Storm Park and Rawson Woods/Edgewood Grove.

Godby explained that deer "browsing" is very damaging to park foliage, especially spring wildflower regeneration. The effects of deer overpopulation ripple through the park system, negatively impacting the birds and other wildlife dependent on the foliage the deer destroy. It also compounds the problem of invasive insect species, further compromising the park ecosystems.

The Park formerly used police sharpshooters to kill the deer, but using bow-hunters is much cheaper and in five seasons of this program, no safety issues have been reported and 633 deer have been harvested by bow in Cincinnati parks. Volunteer bow hunters must pay a \$15 fee, attend a qualifications class, provide proof of passing state hunting safety course, and pass a shooting test.

Bow hunters will hunt in the two Clifton parks between Sept. 27 and Feb. 1. A maximum of two hunters per park is allowed. They cannot hunt within 30 yards of any roads, property lines, or buildings.

Reduction of the deer population in Mt. Storm Park will be helpful as the park is being restored from damage due to the I-75 construction. Rawson Woods/Edgewood Grove will also benefit from deer population reduction as well as removal of invasive species.

Jim Godby can be contacted at 861.9070 ext. 24 or at jim.godby@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Audience members expressed their strong disagreement with the deer culling program and asked Godby about alternatives to killing the deer, such as contraceptives or other methods. Godby noted that the bow-hunting program is the most cost-effective and efficient for the Parks. Other audience members said they were in favor of the deer management strategy outlined by Godby.

Golf Outing Update

The second annual CTM golf outing will take place August 16, 2 p.m. at Avon Fields. The price is \$80 per golfer. Django and Keystone Grill will be there. Dinner is included. All sponsors are filled and there will be prizes. CTM Trustee Tom Dwyer, coordinator of the event, says it has been publicized on Facebook, NextDoor, and the website. Proceed will benefit the Clifton Cultural Arts Center's Great renovation project.

Community Priority Requests and Clean & Safe Grant Requests

Trustees Joyce Rich and Pat Knapp reported they are applying for Community Priority Request funding from the City of Cincinnati for two projects: 1) \$7,500 for district/neighborhood branding for the Ludlow Avenue business district and 2) \$15,000 for bicycle infrastructure (following last month's CTM resolution in support of bicycle infrastructure in the neighborhood). Trustee Kevin Marsh noted that the requested projects must be approved by the town council prior to application. Trustees voted their approval of applying for the grants.

Trustee Joyce Rich also reported she applied for a \$10,000 Clean & Safe Grant to add decorative grates to the tree plantings on Ludlow Avenue.

Clifton Chronicle Update

CTM Trustees voted to approve paying Chronicle Editor Vicki Black an additional \$300 for extra work she performed for the fall issue of the Chronicle. This is a non-recurring payment.

Fairview LSDMC Representative

Trustees voted to endorse Clifton resident Sally O'Callahan as a community representative on the Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) for Fairview-Clifton German Language School.

Clifton House Tour Report

Trustee Tony Sizemore, CTM Events Chair, reported that the House Tour 2015 committee has met three times to plan the event for Saturday May 10, 2015. About six houses will be on the tour. Subcommittees are currently being formed for tasks such as marketing and promotions, volunteer coordination, house tour booklet, etc.

Treasurers Report

Trustee/Treasurer Michael Moran reported income of \$3,147.68 between June 3 and August 4, 2014 (including \$1,467 in Chronicle advertising, \$500 in Memorial Day Parade sponsorship, \$547 in dues, and \$630 in Invest in Neighborhoods grants).

money); and expenses of \$4,888.94 (including \$930 for Memorial Day Parade food and signs and \$3,000 for the Ludlow 21 study final payment). CTM's current cash position is \$81,217.68.

Next meeting

Tuesday, September 2 (due to Labor Day on first Monday), 7 p.m., CCAC