

CTM Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2015
Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Present: Ashley Fritz, Adam Balz, Joyce Rich, Morgan Rich, Kevin Marsh, Tony Sizemore, Ben Pantoja, Eric Urbas, Adam Hyland, Nicholas Hollan, Rama Kasturi, Mike Schur

Absent: Michael Moran, Pat Knapp

A quorum is present. Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

Election of Officers

Trustee Pantoja made a motion to elect the following CTM Board officers for the 2015 term:

- Tony Sizemore – President
- Adam Hyland – Vice President
- Joyce Rich – Vice President
- Michael Moran – Treasurer
- Kevin Marsh – Secretary

Motion carried.

Committee Chairpersons

Trustee Sizemore made a motion to nominate Committee Chairpersons.

Committee	Chairperson
Beautification	Adam Balz
Business	Morgan Rich
Chronicle	Ashley Fritz
Websites	Eric Urbas
Membership	Kevin Marsh
Events	Nicholas Hollan
Housing and Zoning	Adam Hyland
Nominating	Ben Pantoja
Public Safety	Kevin Marsh
Clifton Plaza LLC	Tony Sizemore & Michael Moran
Transportation	Mike Schur
Volunteer	Shaun McCance
Parks	Adam Hyland

Fundraising	Joyce Rich
Ad Hoc Committees	Chairperson
Evaluation of trash cans on Ludlow	Rama Kasturi
Deer Management	Adam Hyland

Motion carried.

Police Report

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick Hageman shared STARS report with crime statistics. Major crime is down. Property crimes including theft from auto are up some, and this is the expected and typical trend. CPD District 5 is using light tower to create an disruptive environment for property crimes/theft from auto. It was recently deployed on Middleton Avenue. They are also coordinating with Citizens on Patrol. No arrests have been made, yet, regarding theft from autos. Speed detecting radar cart has been deployed again and directed patrols have been requested to address concerns about speeding automobiles.

Community member asked about the home invasion on Ludlow Avenue on Dec 17. There was no available information to share during the meeting, but Officer Hageman asked the community member to follow up with him.

Officer Hageman can be reached at 513.569.8527; email is nicholas.hageman@cincinnati-oh.gov. See the Clifton Community website for other police contact info on the Public Safety page.

Fire Report

Captain James Kettler from Engine Company 34 reported that his company had runs, but no major structure fires in the Clifton area during the past month. 2000 runs made in 2014. 21 runs were actual structure fires and only 1 of those was in Clifton. This is a significant reduction from historical trends. They are making the rounds at schools to teach fire safety. Capt. Kettler stressed the need for using safety with space heaters. Capt. Kettler advised that Capt. Campbell (former head of Engine Co. 34) is retiring Feb 12, and there will be a celebration of his retirement on Feb 12 at 12noon until 5pm. The community is welcome to stop by.

Captain Kettler can be reached at 513.352.2334; email is james.kettler@cincinnati-oh.gov; or visit the fire station on Ludlow Avenue.

Library Report

No report was provided.

Recreation Center

Service Area Coordinator Tom Reese reported that the center is now open for programming. The grand re-opening ceremony will be Tues, Jan 27 at 10am. It is open

now from 10 to 6 and staff will be happy to give people an informal tour. The new entry way is at the parking lot with all the glass windows.

A pickle ball court is now lined on the gym for those interested in playing. Also have volleyball, pottery, community art, fencing, new ping pong table, basketball. The center also includes an open room that could be used for people to work/share before major programming for the kids starts each day. New staff are being hired to replace staff that did not return after the center was closed for renovation.

Have had some young pre-teenagers approaching people in the Rec Center parking lot, asking to use their cell phone, and then they grab it and run. Tom Reese, Frau Mulligan (Principal Clifton German School), and Leslie Mooney (CCAC) met with CPD District 5 to discuss these incidents.

CCAC

CCAC Executive Director Leslie Mooney reported on facility improvements including roof repair and clock tower repair on the main building and a new roof for the carriage house. They are planning to finish in February if weather permits. New catering services area is complete, thanks to a grant from Scripps Howard Foundation. Enhanced outdoor lighting is now planned thanks to a grant from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. Will hold a community volunteer day on Jan 31, 9am-3pm for scraping and painting the walls.

84 classes are currently offered in the Winter Session. Reference online calendar at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/events/event-calendar/>
Along The Wall exhibit opening this Saturday, Jan 17.

CBPA

No report was provided.

Minutes of the December 2014 CTM meeting were approved as provided.

Housing & Zoning Committee

Land Development Code

Trustee Hyland presented an overview on the Land Development Code. Draft #2 has been published. The Committee is reviewing this draft of 300 pages. Maps were posted on the wall during the meeting. The Committee includes Trustee Moran, Steve Slack and Malcolm Montgomery. Other community members are invited to participate in this effort. Please contact the Committee members or email them at housingandzoning@cliftoncommunity.org to volunteer. M. Montgomery presented a handout regarding how the changes will impact the community. This handout will be put on the Clifton Community website and notices sent to NextDoor and the CTM listserv so that the community will be made more aware. The City has requested feedback by January 31, 2015. S. Slack shared that he believes the City Planners are not trying to sneak something in, but they are making a lot of changes so they need our help catching errors & mistakes that enter. The Committee intends to make another report with a recommendation of actions to CTM in a future meeting.

Whitfield Development

Trustee Hyland provided a review of prior CTM action including no opposition in November 2014 to a requested variance for parking density. Hyland indicated that some new variances developed after the November CTM meeting. Rick Kimbler representing the developer reviewed the variances: there were 2 variances for parking density because there are 2 parcels of land involved, a variance to include bicycle storage structure, a variance for screening fence, and a variance for a retaining wall.

The bicycle storage structure, the screening fence, and the retaining wall variances were not known to be required by Rick Kimbler during the Oct & Nov CTM meetings. A zoning variance meeting was held in December, and a decision is expected the week of January 12.

Community member Arthur Brown representing a group of residents living on Terrace Avenue presented a verbal report including a drawing showing the North elevation. Brown indicated community notification was received by adjacent residents on Dec 8 for the Dec 22 variance meeting. Brown also indicated that the parking variance requested allows for 36 vehicles above the proposed parking spaces. Brown indicated that there is no room on Terrace Avenue for 36 additional vehicles. Brown and his group have asked the developer to build a 6 ft high screening fence along the north elevation to screen the view of Building B. They have also asked the developer to build a retaining wall on the terrain along the north elevation. Brown and his group are asking that the zoning code be observed, and if it is appropriate to ask for variances then make some considerations for the neighbors.

Kimbler indicated the zoning code only requires a screening fence for parking areas, not buildings.

CliftonFest Update

Jan Checco shared the thank you that went to CTM back in 2014 following CliftonFest 2014. She then presented a full page of "Sponsors and Amounts" and "New Accomplishments from 2014". This page also included an estimate of 2015 will require fundraising of \$64,000 in order to maintain the scale of the 2014 event including professional leadership for an Event Producer and a Music Director. A full 2014 income statement was presented showing all revenue generated and all expenses. The 2014 event generated \$14,050.89 in profit vs a budget profit of \$13,400. 2015 cost development is underway, including discussions with candidates for an Event Producer position.

Trustees asked questions for clarifications of the information presented. Trustee Hyland asked about some businesses losing money during the event. Checco indicated that some businesses prepared for the event (example, Proud Rooster selling out of food) and some did not. CliftonFest sent 66 exit surveys to Clifton businesses and received only 4 responses. The 4 responses contained useful suggestions for improvements in future months.

Trustee Hollan asked about attendees from outside Clifton. Checco shared that more than half the 10,000 attendees were not from Clifton based on surveying attendees. Checco indicates that the 2015 event will remain during the last weekend of September.

Trustee Schur asked about how community input is sought. Checco indicated that this is being done via the Facebook page and CliftonFest organization members interacting with the community.

Trustee Sizemore asked Checco to provide CTM with a request for funds for 2015 as well as an expectation for future year needs for our planning / budgeting purposes. Checco advised that the event is still growing and requested that 2015 not be a year for less giving relative to prior year. Trustee Balz indicated that CTM's House Tour profit is effectively consumed by 3 years of equal giving to CliftonFest. Checco expressed appreciation for prior contributions (money and volunteer hours).

The two pages of information provided by CliftonFest will be attached to the minutes as an Addendum.

2015 Budget

Trustee Sizemore presented a budget for 2015 that included an income of \$18,156.49 due to a House Tour year. Trustee Sizemore made a motion to approve the budget as presented.

Trustee Hyland moved to amend the budget to add Housing & Zoning funds of \$500 for printing to allow for small community notification mailings of neighbors adjacent to zoning changes. Some Trustees raised concerns about when such notifications would be necessary (eg. New building going up VS new deck being added). Trustee Hyland indicated this amendment is not intended to be recurring at this time; this is a trial only. Motion carried.

Trustee Marsh moved to amend the budget to increase the CliftonFest contribution from \$6,000 to \$7,500. Following some Trustee discussion, the motion failed.

Trustee Sizemore asked for community questions regarding the budget. Malcolm Montgomery advised he believes spending \$6,000 on CliftonFest is too high for an event that made a profit in 2014. He also believed that the income of \$6,000 from Tri-Health could potentially be in conflict with CTM's interests in the future. He does not believe that is appropriate for CTM to take money from an institution. He suggests CTM ask Tri-Health to provide \$6,000 directly to CliftonFest as the two issues offset each other.

Member asked what the Worker's Compensation is for. Trustee Sizemore indicated it is required for our insurance / police detail on various events.

The amended budget motion was approved.

Annual Interest Grant

Trustee Marsh made a motion to spend the Annual Interest Grant of \$630.49 on 2014 Clifton Chronicle postage. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Trustee Sizemore made a summary report in Treasurer Moran's absence. Net expense of \$1,447.17 for the month of December.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$75,396.21 and no outstanding liabilities.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report carried.

Speed limit on Vine Street

Trustee Marsh reported that Councilmember Seelbach has requested the speed limit on Vine Street between be unified to 30 mph and that consideration be given to extending the 25 mph zone on the curve. The City Dept of Transportation & Engineering has agreed to do a traffic study which would be the first step in the process to change any speed limit. Trustee Marsh moved to refer the matter to Transportation Committee for reporting back to the full Board on or before the March 2015 meeting.

Annual Meeting Calendar

Trustee Sizemore made motion for the annual meeting calendar for 2015. Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, no Jul meeting, Aug 3, Sep 14, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7. Motion passed.

Membership Committee

Chairperson Marsh reported 2014 ended with 395 dues paying members and total membership receipts of about \$7,500, including \$1,300 in donations. The monies received are the second highest since 2002, but members ran above 600 from 2005-2009. Marsh reported that phone banking will be considered for 2015 membership drives.

Events Committee

Outgoing chairperson Sizemore reported on the House Tour preparations: All houses are confirmed and historical writeups are in progress. Planning continues and commitments are being made.

Website / Social Media Committee

Chairperson Eric Urbas indicated a meeting would be held in January to discuss moving the Clifton Community website hosting server to a faster speed provider.

Business Committee

Chairperson Morgan Rich announced the next public forum to discuss recommendations of the Ludlow 21 report will be hosted by the Ludlow 21 Working Group. It will be held on January 20 at 7pm at the Public Services Building on Bates Avenue (same as prior public forum). 40 hours of free marketing / branding consultation has been obtained from Eye Candy. Expanded valet parking is getting closer to implementation. Notices will be sent to the community via the CliftonNews email list and NextDoor Clifton website.

Chronicle Committee

Chairperson Ashley Fritz reported that January 24 is the advertising deadline for the spring Chronicle. Feb 1 is the editorial deadline.

Trustee Updates / Announcements

Trustee Sizemore introduced new Trustees – Rama Kasturi, Nicholas Hollan, Shaun McCance, and Mike Schur.

Public Q&A

Peggy Spohr requested Committee meetings and volunteer requests be sent to the CliftonNews email list as not everyone is using the NextDoor Clifton website.

Dennis Robb asked some questions:

1. If the by-laws could be replaced with a “cleaned up” version on the website? This will be investigated. The existing version is valid and was approved.
2. Was CTM aware of any new parking restrictions had been implemented on Clifton Hills Avenue? Trustee Pantoja indicated only that a proposal been made, but it is not active nor being implemented.
3. Has there been any feedback from the City regarding the temporary traffic diversion device on Clifton Hills Avenue that has been in place for at least 120 days with the understanding that it would be in place for approx 90 days? No Trustee advised receipt of feedback from the City.

Mr. Robb advised he would submit the questions to the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee (Trustee Schur) for followup.

John Sheblessy asked if CTM had considered having the Clifton Plaza property sold or donated to the City Park Board to eliminate expenses. Trustee Sizemore advised this had not happened, but the Clifton Plaza LLC Committee would review it this year.

Malcolm Montgomery asked if any Trustee had a position on taking money from an institution and potential future conflict of interests. Trustee Nicholas Hollan responded that CTM as a democratic body had spoken with the approval of the budget.

Daniel Ames asked for a special thanks be given to the Probasco Fountain Committee. Trustee Sizemore agreed that this will happen at a future meeting. Ames also asked the Parks Committee to locate the plaque and fly flags for a monument located in Clifton. Steve Schruckman – Supt of Planning may be of assistance.

Steve Slack asked about the air mover noise on tops of Good Sam hospital. He asked about it approx 3 months ago. The noise continued, but is not present currently. He wants to know if the matter has been resolved. Trustee Pantoja agreed to followup.

Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb 2, 2015, at the Clifton Recreation Center.