

**CTM Meeting Minutes**  
**September 14, 2015**  
**Clifton Recreation Center**

Present: Adam Balz, Morgan Rich, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Tony Sizemore, Ben Pantoja, Eric Urbas, Adam Hyland, Nicholas Hollan, Rama Kasturi, Mike Schur, Shaun McCance, Ashley Fritz, Pat Knapp

Absent: Joyce Rich

A quorum is present. Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

**Police Report**

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick Hageman shared STARS report. Clifton had an 86% decrease in violent crime and down 43%. YTD 7% down. Hageman commended the diligence of Clifton residents removing belongings from vehicles and locking their house doors. These acts prevent crime.

Citizens on Patrol numbers are dwindling – down to 4. This is a great program, and Officer Hageman wants to hear from anyone who is interested. It only takes a couple of hours a month.

A new Interim Police Chief has been appointed. Hageman shared that the new Chief has many years of experience, and Hageman said that some different directions will be taken.

Trustee Hyland asked about what is being done to address the heroin dealing. Hyland indicated that personnel has been shifted around and wonders if that is impacting things. Hageman indicated this is a region wide problem especially because it is a highly addictive drug. Hageman also indicated that CPD does have units (Vice, Violent Crimes) working on this, but it is not easy to stop each selling transaction because many are setup via texting / social media. This issue is an ongoing priority for CPD.

Officer Hageman can be reached at 513.569.8527; email is [nicholas.hageman@cincinnati.oh.gov](mailto: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 34 reported that his company had runs, but no major structure fires in the Clifton area during the past month. Engine 34 does continue to respond to vacant building fires in other neighborhoods. Vacant buildings are a haven for criminal elements, and Cpt. Kettler wants to know if there is a vacant building in Clifton as CFD can help to secure it.

Outdoor fires are okay if done properly and if the smoke does not bother others. CFD must respond if they get complaints, and you will be asked to extinguish your fire even if it is in a fire pit.

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

### **Library Report**

No library report was provided.

### **Recreation Center**

Service Area Manager Tom Reese reported that the Rec Center will have an event put on in collaboration with Eagle Scout candidate Andrew. It will be a play called "There Must be a Dragon in the Woods!" adapted from "The Princess, Knight & The Dragon". Andrew has prepared the music, and the performance will be on Oct 29 at 7pm at the Rec Center.

Many classes are happening in the evening: karate, pottery, etc. with the a new Senior Exercise class coming online Tues & Thurs morning.

### **CCAC**

CCAC could not report due to their having a Board meeting tonight.

### **CBPA**

No report was provided.

### **Clifton Chronicle**

Vicki Black advised the new issue is at the post office and should be in mailboxes this week. It was delayed due to issues with the printer.

Next editorial deadline is Oct 30 for the Winter issue. Oct 24

Vicki submitted the following written report:  
Clifton Chronicle Report September 14, 2015

The fall Clifton Chronicle was uploaded to the CTM website August 27. The electronic file was delivered to the printer on August 11, but due to unforeseen events, was not printed until after September 1.

Because I believe the current printer is under duress and in the past has also had difficulties producing the newsletter on time, I would like to recommend we seek out a new printer and mailing facility. I took the opportunity to obtain quotes from three printers and mailing facilities earlier this summer and would like to follow up with them to guarantee their pricing remains the same. I'm asking CTM board's permission to establish a relationship with new vendors in order to produce the printed Winter 2015 Clifton Chronicle on a timelier basis. I am also requesting that whomever is selected be paid for their services within no more than 30 days after the delivery of the printed newsletter. Depending on who has the best price and service, they may have other payment requirements, which I will communicate to the CTM President and Treasurer.

The winter issue is due to be out December 1, 2015. I will need advertising space reservations by Friday, October 23 and final art on Friday, October 30. I am asking for all editorial copy to be submitted to me by Saturday, October 31. I realize in our media kit it states October 24 and November 1, but this seems to be an issue particularly with businesses who wish to advertise. Often they wait until the following Monday to send the files and that puts me behind schedule. Especially while making new vendor connections, I'd like to have responsible scheduling.

Thank you all who contributed advertising and editorial to the fall issue. I look forward to the winter issue, which will promote events from December 1, 2015 through March 1, 2016. Follow-up articles of fall events will also be included.

Respectfully submitted—Vicki Black

Trustee Sizemore made a motion to switch printers based on Vicki's report. Motion passed.

**Minutes of the July & August CTM meeting were approved as submitted.**

### **Special Presentations - Parks Levy**

#### **Parks Levy Campaign - Chris Watkins**

Watkins presented on the campaign for the parks levy that will be voted upon in November as a City Charter amendment.

16 major project areas including Burnet Woods

75% of the levy money will service debt incurred from doing the projects.

25% of the levy money will go towards capital maintenance (lighting, sidewalks, removal of fallen trees, building roof replacement, etc.)

The charter amendment will lock in a stable \$2.3 MM operating fund budget for the Parks Dept. to allow for ongoing maintenance

Levy cost - For every \$100,000 of assessed property value it will cost \$35 annually. This is a 1 millage tax.

Approx 10,000 people live within walking distance of Burnet Woods, but few use the park.

Approx 22,000 people signed petitions in support of putting this charter amendment before the voters.

Why a charter amendment? This allows for consistency of the parks budget and also provides for ongoing income towards servicing the debt.

Who controls the project selection? Mayor recommends projects and the Parks Board would approve them. Council approves the bonds for covering the debt so they are also involved in controlling the money.

Watkins covered a long summarized list of all the 16 project locations.

Are the projects part of what is going to be voted upon in the charter amendment? No. The vote is only for setting up the system for longevity of the parks.

Will the Parks Board engage communities on the details of the projects? Yes, this is exactly the plan as the Parks Board wants to ensure that community input.

### **Save Our Parks Campaign – Tim Mara**

This campaign is against the charter amendment. Mara referred to Marion Barry's recent decision to not support the amendment.

Mara indicated that the budget process for the City won't happen if the City Charter is changed with this amendment. Mara indicates that the Mayor is specifically empowered to select the projects.

"Council shall pass all necessary ordinances...."

Mara showed the list of projects that have a total cost \$83.5 million, and indicated that it will be many years before any new projects can be undertaken. This is because the debt will need to be paid down with the levy income.

Mara indicated that some of the projects have nothing to do with Parks: Jewish Community Center, and Kings Records.

Mara showed the current Master Plan for Burnet Woods that contains a restaurant and moving of roads which will require significant removal of trees. Mara indicated that Burnet Woods is a bird sanctuary as declared by the Audubon Society.

Mara showed other drawings other parks outside of Clifton and noted bike trails and beer gardens. Mara showed a picture of Millennium Parks in Chicago.

What's the alternative? Vote no on this amendment. Instead have a levy to spend money on repair and maintenance of the parks (remove fallen/diseased trees, repair roads).

Who is the City borrowing the money from? The city would issue bonds as they normally do to cover debt.

Is it fair to lock in a spending amount for the Parks...what if we have a bad year or other unexpected spending? Mara indicated that the City should be allowed to budget as usual as not be held

Who can be on the Parks Board? Must be appointed by the Mayor. Terms are longer than a Mayor's elected term.

Vice Mayor Mann was present at the meeting and he advised that was supporting the charter amendment.

### **Education/School**

Trustee Hollan introduced a resolution that formed an adhoc Committee of CTM.

A Resolution of Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) in requesting the creation of an ad hoc committee to explore access to education in Clifton.

Whereas, the Cincinnati Public School Board of Education made sweeping changes to the enrollment policy for magnet schools without requesting any community input from the constituents that the Board of Education serves; and

Whereas, residents are eager to work with the Cincinnati Public School Board of Education to develop a comprehensive enrollment policy that encourages both the diversity of the student population and access to quality education; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by CTM:

- 1) CTM will create an ad hoc committee to explore access to education.
- 2) Nicholas Hollan will serve as chair of this committee.
- 3) Trustees Adam Balz, Adam Hyland, Kevin Marsh and Shaun McCance will also serve on this committee.

Trustee Marsh moved to amend the Committee membership to include Clifton residents Mary Schubauer-Berigan, Krystn Metzger, Mindi Rich, Abby Moran, Leslie Mooney, etc. so that the makeup of the committee would include residents as well as trustees.

The amendment passed. The amended motion passed.

Hollan reported on a summary of the first meeting of the group that is forming the committee.

Hollan made a motion for a second resolution regarding the focus of CTM on the Committee.

Resident Mary S-B spoke about how the attendees at tonight's meeting did not truly represent Clifton's demographic makeup. There are people in Clifton who cannot camp out and have no choice other than to attend the poorly performing neighborhood school – Rockdale Elementary.

Resident Krystn Metzger indicated that all the groups she has spoken with regarding this matter have discussed involving and identifying all of people in Clifton that are impacted so that they can all be helped.

Resident Michael Burrill indicated there is a supply and demand issue. People cannot get into the good schools because is there is not enough room.

Trustee Hollan indicated a community forum will be held in the near future to allow for community input and gathering of community ideas on improving access to quality education for Clifton.

The motion to support the proposed resolution passed. The full resolution is below:

A Resolution of Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) in requesting a one year suspension in the new enrollment policy for magnet schools within the Cincinnati Public School system and in support of collaborating with the Cincinnati Public School Board of Education to provide community input in the policy reform.

Whereas, the Cincinnati Public School Board of Education made sweeping changes to the enrollment policy for magnet schools without requesting any community input from the constituents that the Board of Education serves; and

Whereas, residents are eager to work with the Cincinnati Public School Board of Education to develop a comprehensive enrollment policy that encourages both the diversity of the student population and access to quality education; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by CTM:

- 1) CTM requests a one year suspension in the new enrollment policy for magnet schools;
- 2) CTM will use the one year suspension to collaborate with the Cincinnati Public School Board of Education and other community organizations to develop, design, and propose a comprehensive enrollment policy that encourages diversity and quality educational opportunities.

### **Ad-Hoc Deer Committee**

Trustee Ben Pantoja proposed a process for working this discussion and it was agreed without objection.

Pantoja displayed a resolution to allocate \$4000 to Cliftondeer.org as a one time matching grant. The money would be rescinded if Cliftondeer.org did not meet its goal to proceed during November 2015. CTM would not spend any money on the project during years 2-5.

Trustee Hyland – committee member – thanked all who spent all the time on this project. Hyland asked audience members to show hands for support and not in support of the project. No count was announced.

Trustee McCance – thanked the group for working on this project. McCance asked if the data to support the population growth was solid and valid.

Trustee Urbas – wants the resolution to include CTM being regularly updated with all information from the research project. Urbas is concerned that the future years for the project could be spending more than expected due to higher deer migration rates.

Trustee Knapp – wants to give the project the money. The group was asked by the community to prepare a project, and they have worked hard towards this request.

Trustee Moran – appreciates everyone’s empathy for the project. Will be voting against the motion for \$4000 because it is too large an amount relative to other priorities for CTM.

Trustee Schur – believes there is a problem with deer damaging our plants. Supports the program because it is the only thing identified. Believes \$4,000 is too high an amount.

Trustee Fritz – nothing to add.

Trustee Kasturi – thankful for all the work that has been performed by all. Reviewed her discussion with and why this issue came before CTM last year. She indicated that it was to ensure that a prairie to be installed in the future on side of Mt. Storm Park needed to be protected. This prairie would be installed as part of the I75 widening project in the near future. Kasturi believes the well intentioned residents were misled.

Trustee Pantoja – advised that Jim Burkhardt, of Parks Dept has emailed him today after 6pm that the infrared survey did indicate an increase of deer. In summary, the Parks Dept does see deer population growth. Thankful & impressed by all the work.

Trustee Sizemore – Appreciative of the work of the Cliftondeer.org group and also the work of the Committee. Asked the Cliftondeer.org group to provide indications of support, and the group did produce intentions. Willing to support the project, but not as high as \$4000.

Trustee Marsh – Thanked the Cliftondeer.org group for the efforts. Fundraising is very difficult, and CTM Trustees have offered the Cliftondeer.org group feedback on ideas and opportunities for fundraising. Advised that CTM liaisons with Uptown, Clifton Community Fund, and TriHealth had reached out to connect the Cliftondeer.org group for the potential of additional donations. He hoped these connections would help the group’s fundraising efforts. Concerned about the unknown deer migration rate that could drive up costs in years 2-5. This is an unknown risk that needs to be considered by CTM when deciding what to invest in this project.

Trustee Hollan – hears the community supporting the project, and therefore will support this project in some fashion.

Trustee Balz – thanked the professionalism of the CliftonDeer.org group and their time in providing meetings with Trustees to explain details of the project. Concerned that this is a lot of money, but supports the project at lower levels of funding.

Trustee M. Rich – nothing to add.

Residents were asked to speak on the matter:

Michael Burrill – lives near the deer, loves the deer and feeds them deer corn. He would be surprised if there has been the population growth. He believes the counts are not accurate. He grew up in the woods...and remembers seeing deer in the woods. Now seeing deer on the street. If we care about the deer, we should find a humane way to treat them. We need to find a way. Not in favor of supporting it financially even though it is a great project.

Supporter of the contraceptive group wanted CTM to support the sterilization group.

Motion to spend any undetermined amount passed.

Motion to spend \$4,000 did not pass.

Motion to spend \$3,000 did not pass.

Motion to spend \$2,000 passed.

Motion to spend \$2,500 passed.

Motion to adopt the resolution amended with regular updates and \$2,500 matching grant.

Motion passed. The approved resolution is below:

A RESOLUTION of Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) to provide CliftonDeer.org with a one-time matching grant of \$2,500 to help fund the Ohio Department of Natural Resources pilot program for deer sterilization in Clifton's parks (also known as the "Clifton Deer Project").

WHEREAS, Cincinnati Park Board has concluded that the ecological health of Clifton's Mt. Storm Park, Rawson Woods and Edgewood Preserve parks requires a reduction in the deer population; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Park Board asked CTM to recommend one of two options for non-lethal control of deer population; and

WHEREAS, CTM recommended the Clifton Deer Project's deer sterilization approach and this project is now the fall/winter of 14/15 because it has gone on to earn approvals from the Park Board and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Clifton Deer Project has raised about \$12,000 from small donors and \$20,000 from the Humane Society but is \$8-10,000 short of the funds it needs for the 14/15 season and has asked for CTM for a matching grant to close the funding gap; and

WHEREAS, the project has gained more than 75% of the funds it needs and is asking CTM to just help them close their final gap; and

WHEREAS, the project is innovative research that could eventually provide a new deer management option for all of Ohio and possibly other states; and

WHEREAS, the project could provide good publicity for Clifton given the fact that the Humane Society is planning to publicize the project as part of its 60th anniversary campaign; and

WHEREAS, the project is expected to achieve the same ecological goals as deer culling with less pain than bow hunting; and

WHEREAS, 148 Clifton residents signed a petition asking CTM to make a donation to the project and it is likely that, given more time, more signatures could be collected; and



WHEREAS, if this program is NOT funded for 2015, costs are likely to increase along with damage to the ecology in the parks by the time we get to 2016. The population of does grew from 30 to 40 in just one year from 2014 to 2015. This caused the budget for the first year to grow from \$30,000 to \$40,000. This would be likely to increase further if the Deer Project can't raise enough funds to start the program in 2015; and

WHEREAS, if this program is NOT funded, there could be considerable rework and the divisive controversy that occurred when bow hunting was first proposed in 2014 would be likely to return.

BE IT RESOLVED, by CTM:

- 1) That CTM allocate to CliftonDeer.org for the Clifton Deer Project a one-time matching grant of \$2,500; and
- 2) that CliftonDeer.org and the Clifton Deer Project must reach its goal of funds needed to proceed with the program during November 2015; or
- 3) the grant will be rescinded by CTM in December 2015.
- 4) CTM will disburse funds to CliftonDeer.org once it is clear the Clifton Deer Project has met the match.
- 5) CTM does not intend to fund years 2-5 of this project.

### **Noise at Good Samaritan Hospital**

Trustee Pantoja presented a summary of recent events including the root cause identification of a bearing problem on one of the HVAC fans. The fan was turned off and the noise immediately ceased. The broken fan is expected to be repaired before it is turned on again.

### **Executive Committee**

President Sizemore advised actions that the Executive Committee had taken in the recent weeks.

Letter sent to ODOT on the Elmore connector.

Letter sent to a resident regarding comments made by Trustees during the July meeting. Sizemore indicated copies of noted letters would be made available to Trustees after the meeting.

Sizemore will be attending a UC area impact study on behalf of CTM with Michael Moran as the backup.

### **Housing & Zoning Committee**

Chairperson Adam Hyland reported that Ann-Marie Kerby of the City Planning office wanted to meet with CTM to discuss the updates to the City Zoning Code. Will hold a community meeting soon to provide input on the Zoning Code updates and perhaps some other topics such as how people feel about development. Hyland will advise the details of the community meeting soon.

### **Parks Committee**

Chairperson Rama Kasturi – Honeysuckle pulls will resume very soon. Watch for CTM announcements soon on timing.

### **LLC Committee**

Chairperson Tony Sizemore will hold a meeting in the coming weeks for this committee on a variety of related topics.

### **Nominating Committee**

Chairperson Ben Pantoja motioned to approve the members of the Nominating Committee: Trustee Urbas, Trustee Fritz, Members at Large Linda Ash and Karen Imbus. Motion passed.

### **Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Michael Moran reported on August results. \$15,330.99 income. Expenses \$7456.30. Net income of \$7,874.69.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$89,691.23 with outstanding liabilities of Golf outing donation of \$6759.80 and others of \$1,410.47.

Sizemore moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

### **Trustee Updates / Announcements**

Trustee Kasturi asked Vice Mayor Mann to speak about the Neighborhood Activation Plan. He made some brief comments. Kasturi provided a brief summary of the concept. Sizemore indicated more updates would be forthcoming.

Sizemore indicated the Voices Scapes event will be on Oct 3.

### **Public Q&A**

There was none.

### **Adjournment/next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, October 5, 2015, at the Clifton Recreation Center.