

CTM Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2016
Clifton Recreation Center

Present: Adam Balz, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Ben Pantoja, Eric Urbas, Adam Hyland, Nicholas Hollan, Shaun McCance, Ashley Fritz, Joyce Rich, Eric Hinson, Peter Block, Malcolm Montgomery, Cindy Oakenfull, Rama Kasturi

Absent: None.

A quorum is present. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Police Report

Sgt. Jason Voelkerding shared that crime is still down this year. Last year D5 lead the City with 11% reduction. D5 has focused heavily on violent crime. D5's drug unit's processes have been implemented in other CPD districts due to their success in D5.

Neighborhood Liaison 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 Ken Caldwell from Engine 34 introduced a new paramedic that joined the unit today. Captain Caldwell advised that it would be wise to advise your neighbors when you are going to light an outdoor fire to avoid unnecessary fire department runs to your house. Now is a great time for spring-cleaning: dryer vents, cardboard boxes.

Spring service is happening throughout April on fire hydrants. Fire Dept will turn on the hydrant to flush it. Sometimes this causes brown colored water to flow from your faucets, and this can be dealt with by running the water to flush it out.

Have a smoke detector on each level of your home including your basement as well as outside each bedroom.

Captain Caldwell can be reached at 513.352.2334; email is ken.caldwell@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 summer camps are now full. Please check out the river trek for teens (12 - 17) program at CRC. This is a camping, paddling

Online Rec Center Calendar is at

<http://cincyrec.org/search/basicprogram.aspx?k=Clifton%2BRecreation%2BCenter#results>

CCAC

CCAC Executive Director Leslie Mooney reported on various facts about the current discussions between Cincinnati Public Schools District (CPS) and CCAC for the potential of CPS using some of the building for classes. She shared 3 different proposals that CCAC had made to CPS on Dec 10, 2015; Jan 10, 2016; and Feb 18, 2016. CPS had accepted none of these at this time.

Online CCAC calendar of events is at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/events/coming-events/>

In addition, their schedule of classes is at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/classes/all-classes/>

CBPA

No report was provided.

Minutes of the March CTM meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Shaun McCance reported on February results. \$1227 income. Expenses \$0. Net income of \$1227.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$72,129.41 with no outstanding liabilities.

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

Uptown Consortium

Joyce Powdrill explained the YourUptown.com "buy local" website. Residents can sign up with their email addresses to receive two notices per month that highlight various Uptown businesses. The website also contains information on businesses in the community. Go to <http://youruptown.com/> to learn more as well as signup.

Executive Committee

President Urbas reported on three actions that CTM had taken between meetings. All were email votes:

1. Agreed to act as fiscal agent for Clean Up Cincinnati as part of the 2016 events that included Clifton cleanup at CPD D5 HQ area.
2. Emailed City Council regarding widening of MLK on March 29 as follows:

Councilmembers of the Major Transportation & Regional Cooperation Committee:

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) has concerns with the committee item 2-201600368 regarding the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding Applications planned for the March 29, 2016 Committee meeting. CTM notes the plans include a "potential fourth westbound lane/right turn lanes" item associated with the MLK corridor Vine to Harvey Uptown plan. CTM has concerns that an additional westbound lane at Jefferson/Vine will cause bottlenecks and divert even more rush hour commuter traffic along Jefferson Ave and Vine St, and through the residential streets and business district of Clifton and other nearby neighborhoods. CTM has not been involved in any of the discussions or plans regarding the noted item. CTM respectfully requests a meeting with neighborhood stakeholders, including CTM, to understand the collateral impact of this plan before the City moves forward on the funding application for this project.

3. Emailed City Council regarding the Elmore Connector bridge project on March 29 as follows:

Councilmembers on the Major Transportation & Regional Cooperation Committee,

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) continues to want to be involved in the planning, design, and implementation of the Elmore Connector Bridge. In August 2015, we provided input on the project to Ohio Dept of Transportation, City Council, the Mayor, and the City Manager. We are resending this input today since the Major Transportation & Regional Cooperation Committee will be voting on a matter, 3-201600249, to move forward on the Elmore Connector Bridge project.

CTM attended the public information session for the Elmore to Central Parkway Connector (PID 98109) on July 21, 2015. The public information session designs, along with subsequently provided certified traffic report, were presented and discussed at the August 3, 2015 CTM meeting.

Although CTM appreciates the completion of a certified traffic study, we feel the traffic impact of the connector to Clifton is indeterminate at this time. CTM still has concerns regarding the effect of the connector to Clifton residents and businesses. Please continue to update and include CTM in any future planning and public input.

CTM welcomes the planned shared use bicycle-pedestrian path on the new roadway. However, we note the absence of separated bike lanes on Central Parkway in the current plans. In June of 2014 and January of 2016, CTM passed a resolution of support for the Central Parkway Separated Bike Lanes and their extension to Ludlow Avenue. We request that the Elmore Connector plans include separate bike lanes on Central Parkway consistent with the City of Cincinnati Bicycle Transportation plans and recommendations.

Education Committee

Trustee Montgomery introduced some stakeholder organizations at the meeting: CCAC Board members, CPS Board of Education President and CPS Attorney, Fairview – Clifton German Language School LSDMC, Vice Mayor David Mann, Councilmember PG Sittenfeld,

Chairperson Nicholas Hollan recognized the Trustees and residents of the Education Committee. Hollan then shared some of the history from a list of Key Events related to education.

Key Events time line

- August 2015
 - Cincinnati Public Schools(CPS) suspends first come first serve system for lottery.
 - CPS inquires about space available at the CCAC
- September 2015
 - Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) passes 1st resolution 1) CPS to delay enrolment change for 1 year 2) CPS engage Clifton community in a developing a new enrolment process and assess overall education needs. No CPS response received. CTM forms CTM Education Committee.
- October 2015
 - CTM Education Committee Hosts community public discussion on quality school access. CPS invited but does not attend.
- November 2015
 - CTM passes 2nd resolution 1) any expansion of Fairview-Clifton German Language School (F-CGLS) include dedicated spots for Clifton (45220), 2) assign an specific CPS representative to develop the a process to engage the community to assess overall education needs and options to solve those issues. No CPS response received.
- December 2015 – February 2016
 - Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) makes three sequential proposals to CPS . The third proposal offers a mission aligned amount of space at essentially zero cost for leasing of the space.
- February 2016
 - CPS notifies CCAC by voicemail they intend to terminate the 2005 lease.
- March 2016
 - 3/17 Enquire article explains about possible lease termination for CCAC.
 - 3/17 CPS contacts CTM asking for a meeting to talk about interest in a neighborhood school and a survey inquiring about that idea.
 - 3/24 CTM along with Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview (CUF) Community President meet with CPS to hear about the neighborhood school idea/survey.

----- End of Key Event timeline -----

Hollan indicated that CTM had no committee to address education issues in the neighborhood prior to Sept 2015. The current Board recognized this mistake and formed the ad-hoc Education Committee in Sept. Hollan advised that approx. 50 people came to a CTM sponsored public forum in Oct 2015. Notice of this forum was by postcard mailer to 45220 addresses. Various input was gathered on school access options.

March meeting with CPS & CUF community council representatives was to discuss options about surveying the community regarding a neighborhood school.

Urbas presented two slides that suggested some ideas for the future:

How does CTM want the education access effort to proceed?

Develop a plan and timeline for the following as partner with CPS:

- 1) Assess Clifton's (or other community) educational needs to clearly identify the actual long term and short term issues for our community.
- 2) Identify options for addressing both the long and short term issues.
- 3) Engage in a collaborative process to narrow the options and arrive at mutual solutions that can be responsibly executed and have the support of all the stakeholders including the community they are intended for.
- 4) As appropriate include CUF or other neighboring communities that have unmet educational needs/issues in all the above.

Summary of Current Situation

- CPS has expressed to CCAC they will terminate the lease but has not yet served this notice.
- There is no CPS plan/proposal CTM has been made aware of for a new neighborhood school for Clifton at the former Clifton School or any other location.
- There is no CPS plan CTM has been made aware of for using any part of the space at the former Clifton School for addressing the near term capacity concerns at Fairview-Clifton German Language School.

After much deliberation, CTM has drafted a motion to continue working on a wining outcome for all involved. We see no benefit in potentially losing the CCAC, a valuable and now important part of our community. We want to find actual/viable options to address the educational access concerns we have now and into the future.

Trustee Montgomery moved for the Board to approve the following resolution:

Resolution by Clifton Town Meeting to Preserve Clifton Cultural Arts Center and to Seek Guaranteed Access to Quality Public School Education

Whereas Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) finds Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) to be an essential asset to the schoolchildren and adult citizens of Clifton, Uptown and beyond, and

Whereas CTM finds access for Clifton schoolchildren to quality public school educational opportunities to be essential

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. CTM respectfully requests Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) not terminate the 2005 lease agreement with CCAC which would result in the loss of this essential asset to Clifton, Fairview-Clifton German Language School, Uptown and the Cincinnati community-at-large, and
2. CTM respectfully requests to be an active partner with CPS in assessing demand for various educational alternative among residents of Clifton and the entire

45220 zip code with the shared goal of achieving guaranteed access to high quality public school education, and

3. CTM respectfully requests CPS to join with all community stakeholders including, but not limited to, CTM, Fairview-Clifton German Language School administrators, faculty and staff, LSDMC, CCAC, and CUF in an effort to build strong partnerships that lead to creative solutions to the current and future educational challenges of this community and beyond.

Discussion on the motion. No Trustees had comments.

Urbas recognized speakers from the audience. Some comments are paraphrased and/or shortened due to inability to capture everything that was said.

Carolyn Miller – CCAC spent at least 3 years doing strategic planning and fund raising to open. She would like CPS to do the long term planning instead of jumping to short term needs. She fears that CPS is acting hastily.

Dick Aft – Expressed appreciation for all the time CTM spent on this topic. Supports the resolution and the efforts to seek a win-win solution. Shared some history that he was involved in early discussions about a community center and admitted what he thought was not possible then.

Burt Robinson – moved to Clifton in 2006. At that time, there were many questions about CCAC. He has seen the CCAC grow and become an important part of the community. There are many people coming to take advantage of the various classes and programs. He is amazed how many people have approached him after the recent article in the Cincinnati Enquirer. Supports the resolution and hopes CTM can work with CPS.

Grace Dobush – one of the organizers of the Crafty Supermarket. The 2nd event was held at the CCAC and brought 1600 shoppers to the 50 artists. Now, it is annual event at the CCAC drawing.

Carol Friel - Fairness, justice and common sense. Many residents have provided financial support and many volunteer hours to the CCAC. Why can't CPS use temporary classrooms while other plans (building out Fairview – Clifton school) are made? The plan to use the CCAC makes no sense.

Sally O'Callaghan – LSDMC rep. Supports the CTM resolution. LSDMC is working with CPS on the expansion at Fairview-Clifton. 160 are coming in 2016. Unlink the CPS Vine Street pre-school program path to enter Fairview-Clifton. LSDMC is working on very similar things that CTM is working on.

Carol Brammer – former GEBAS Board meeting. If the community came together and wanted something, then they had to work with CPS. Back then there was a strong community spirit to build things for Clifton.

Mary Schubauer Berigan – former CTM Trustee. Showed 2000 & 2010 census data for 45220 zip code. She indicated that the data indicated that there is a reduction of school age students from 2000 to 2010 census.

There is a large group of children in 45220 based on the census data.

Urbas then asked for questions from the audience with the understanding that we may not be able to answer all of them at this meeting.

Audience questions / answers from various. Some comments paraphrased / shortened due to inability to capture every word that was spoken:

1. “How many are here not from 45220 that support CCAC?” Several raised hands.
2. “What is the expectation between CTM & CPS? We pay their salaries. “ Hollan advised that our only option is to encourage
3. “Have you considered moving this situation into mediation? Robert Rack is a leading mediator in the US.” Hollan indicated that CTM has not as CTM is not a party to the negotiation between CPS and CCAC. CCAC Exec Director hopes to work hand-in-hand with the CPS BOE. CCAC has put forward proposals.
4. “What does getting Rockdale Academy Elementary School “up to par” look like?” Trustee Oakenfull has indicated that conversations have included the topics of programming, co-curricular, and extra-curricular with Rockdale. She stated that many great people with good ideas. CCAC Cindy Herrick indicated that Rockdale is about half full census-wise. Trustee Hollan indicated the initial community feedback was that
5. “Has there been a traffic survey/study done to understand the impact of an expanded Fairview-Clifton school? It is already a high traffic zone during school start / end times.”
6. “Has anyone from CTM worked with the Ohio Facilities Commission in Columbus? They write the criteria for what schools look like. This group has access to money and expertise
7. “Where are the kids in Fairview-Clifton live? We should survey the community like what Hyde Park did to get the Hyde Park School re-opened”. Current census 780. Adding 175 kindergarten students per year over next 3 years per CPS
8. “What happens if the worst happens and CPS takes CCAC? Can CPS truly payback CCAC in a lump sum? They cannot pay it out over time as CCAC would need the money for the next building.”
9. “Community is so important. Schools are important. I live here in Clifton. I don’t get it.”
10. “Can CPS BOE share why they have taken the approach they did?” Trustee Urbas advised that the CPS attendees were attending to listen, but we would not be demanding they answer any questions.
11. CPS BOE President, “Extremely impressed with the Clifton community. BOE wants to partner with Clifton. Does not have to be an either or solution. Confident that we can work together. Next steps are in depth community engagement.” CPS administration has developed a survey that they want to send to the community. They want to make sure that they are asking the right questions, and they want to discuss this further. They also want to have the survey distributed to the full community with the support of CTM.

12. Dan White – CPS General Counsel, “Original ask to CCAC from CPS was to share space by using 4 classrooms during the day. Does CPS want to pay rent to CCAC for an extended period of time? More pressure needs to be placed on CCAC.”
13. CCAC President Cindy Herrick – presented some history on the proposals provided to CPS administration with the basis that CCAC took a collaborative approach in the negotiations with CPS. She would like to meet with any CPS BOE member to further discuss the proposals made.
14. “In order to build community we have to value culture (music, dance, art). Let’s not chop off our nose to spite our face.”

Urbas asked for any additional Trustee discussions.

McCance stated he had several emails supporting the CCAC and Hyland stated this is a great opportunity to work with a very creative community. Montgomery stated that the CPS BOE needs to work more closely with the CPS Administration to have the collaborative approach that the CPS BOE President noted. Hollan stated this is a time of change at CPS, and we need to use this as an opportunity to work collaboratively. Balz thanked CPS for attending tonight. CTM has put resolutions forward to CPS and received no feedback. He hopes that things said tonight indicate a sign of change.

Motion for the resolution passed unanimously.

Trustee Oakenfull presented some next steps that community members can take to keep momentum moving on the topics discussed tonight. Making your voice be heard is important.

Please email the following:

Phyllis Davis davisph@cps 513-363-0040
Contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org
Cindy.herrick@icloud.com
Leslie.mooney@cliftonculturalarts.org

CPS BOE meetings happen on the 2nd and 4th Monday’s of the month. You can sign up in advance to speak at these meetings.

Events Committee

Chairperson Nicholas Hollan advised that the Cincinnati Neighborhood Games qualifying events for Clifton would happen during May. Most of the events would be on Memorial Day at Mt. Storm after the parade.

Trustee McCance advised the Memorial Day Parade and Grill Out would be happening rain or shine. Everyone is invited.

Housing & Zoning Committee

Chairperson Adam Hyland advised that the World Peace Yoga business at 268 Ludlow Avenue has requested to expand and add a kitchen. This request requires a special variance hearing due to the Urban Overlay District in the Clifton business district. The request also includes a special exception to the zoning code. The Committee reviewed the details as well as spoke with abutting neighbors. The Committee sees no concerns with this request and

Chronicle Committee

Chairperson Ashley Fritz advised the upcoming editorial deadline is April 22. Advertising deadline is April 15. Story about Memorial Day Parade and Cook out is needed for the front page.

Business Committee

Chairperson Peter Block made a motion to support an application for the Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP).

Trustee Pantoja noted that the scope is for a Clifton Neighborhood Business District Plan. First \$20k will be spent with Human Nature. Balance will be competitively bid, and the City Planning Dept is expected to make a bid.

Trustee Hyland asked who is vendor and who is client? Block stated client is the working group. Who is "in charge"? How is money spent? Trustee Rich indicated that Uptown Consortium would be the fiscal agent for the money. Block indicated that everyone on the working group understood that no money would be spent unless the group could agree.

Trustee Marsh asked when is the application due and that the Board needs to see the actual application in order to write the required letter of support that goes along with the application. Block advised that April 22 is the deadline for the application, and he agreed that the application would be shared by email to the Board for their review. Marsh advised he would not seek to amend the motion given Block's statement to send the application to the Board.

Composition of the working group: 3 Business Committee members at CTM reps, Joyce Rich as Ludlow 21 Rep, Joyce Powdrill as Uptown Consortium rep.

Marsh asked the Business Committee consider finding a member of CBPA to join group since the project was to update the Business District Plan. Block agreed to continue searching for a CBPA member.

Urbas reiterated that all Trustees understood that the NBDIP application would be sent by email for review later this month.

Motion passed.

Marsh asked about how the minor NBDIP application would be handled. Rich advised it would be done the same way – application sent by email to the Board for review.

Trustee Updates / Announcements

McCance – all checks were deposited.

Kasturi – Green Up Day. Sat, April 16, 9am-1pm. This event is for beautification and cleaning of green spaces including parks. She will send info on the event.

Pantoja – All Star Game events netted about \$420 income. Business Committee is looking into stringing café lights in the Clifton Plaza. Explained that the MLK widening issue came up suddenly which is why there was a need for an email vote.

Balz – the Beautification Committee cleaned the beds at Ritchie’s at end of Woolper. Also, consulting with Business Committee on the Plaza café lighting idea.

Montgomery – a large flower planter was destroyed due to a traffic crash. Balz will look into how to replace it under the City’s program.

Rich – CPBA is discussing the idea of having the business district declared an Entertainment District. Representatives of the City have met with CPBA exploring this option.

Public Q&A

Daniel Ames – advised some history of Cummingsville Highway. Clifton was once a no alcohol zone and there was a place called the “Last Chance Tavern” at the end of Bishop.

Unknown - What games and timing details for the Neighborhood Games? Will be sent by email, on website.

Steve Slack - Human Nature did Parks Master Plan. Are there any concerns? The working group will ensure the process is managed effectively for the community.

Tom Reese – CRC was approached by Crossroads to have a neighborhood block party. This could be an opportunity for some of the Cincinnati Neighborhood Games qualifiers. Tom will get back with Trustee Hollan.

Unknown – Please advise more details on the Elmore Connector. Marsh briefly referred to the August 2015 resolution and that the Transportation Committee continued to explore what was happening with this project.

Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Marsh, CTM Secretary.