

**CTM Meeting Minutes**  
**May 2, 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**

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick Hageman shared STARS report. Crime down 36%. 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 Ken Caldwell from Engine 34 reported that his company had 174 EMS runs, but no major structure fires in the Clifton area during the past month.

Reminder that all households should have an emergency plan for severe weather. This should include for what to do when travelling by car or walking as well as when home. Please inspect your trees for the potential damage they could cause.

Captain Caldwell can be reached at 513.352.2334; email is [ken.caldwell@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto: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 on various upcoming activities including a GO Cincinnati event sponsored by Crossroads Church on May 14 at the Rec Center.

Online Rec Center Calendar is at

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

**CCAC**

Online CCAC calendar of events is at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/events/coming-events/> and their schedule of classes is at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/classes/all-classes/>

## **CBPA**

No report was provided.

## **Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Shaun McCance reported on amended results for March. \$5,105.46 income. Expenses \$581.17. Net income of \$4,524. Results for April: \$1,860 income, \$4,436 expense. Net loss of \$2,576.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$62,861 (excluding assets in the CTM Pay-pal account) with no outstanding liabilities. McCance still is working to gain access to the Pay-Pal account.

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

## **Executive Committee**

President Urbas presented various email votes that the Board took during April:

- Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP) application for Business District Plan creation. Trustees discussed this during the April CTM meeting.
- NBDIP application for repair of bronze art plaques on Ludlow Ave sidewalks
- Clarification of Golf Outing proceeds for funds less or more than approved in budget. If less, 5/8 to charitable donation and 3/8 to CTM. If more, 100% to charitable donation. Budget was \$5,000 to charitable donation and \$3,000 for other CTM programming. Charitable donation will be for a welcoming signs at Burnet Woods.
- Support for selling beer at Clifton Plaza during programming in 2016 to offset expenses for said programming.

Urbas advised that a working meeting of Trustees happened on May 1 to discuss matters of Clifton Cultural Arts Center and what is happening with Cincinnati Public Schools.

Outcomes of the discussions:

- Concerns about the validity of the survey that CPS sent to the community.
- Desire to engage more deeply with other nearby community councils on matters concerning CPS and education.
- No response by CPS on any of CTM's prior motions. Requires more CTM follow-up.

Matt Bourgeois spoke that he believed the survey was worded poorly and disingenuous. He is concerned that he knows at least half a dozen families did not receive the survey. He wants CTM to tell CPS to do surveying in a professional manner and as inclusive as possible.

Trustee Montgomery shared CTM obtained three critiques on the CPS survey. Credentialed experts have signed two critiques. One expert wished to remain anonymous. Montgomery made a motion to send the critiques to the CPS BOE. Motion was seconded.

Marsh made a motion to amend to send the critiques to the community at large as well as the press. Motion to amend was seconded.

Discussion: Should the critiques be a part of a more coordinated “telling our story”? Marsh indicated he wanted CTM to send a press release as this was an important finding we have made.

Hyland indicated he would help prepare the press release.

McCance wanted to ensure that the press release was coordinated such that the CPS BOE gets the information first.

Block asked if LSDMC and CCAC should be involved in what we send. Balz responded that it did not seem to add any additional impact.

Hollan reminded that CPS BOE came to CTM originally to collaborate on the survey, and then failed to follow through despite having CTM feedback.

Motion to amend passed.

Main motion discussion: Holland indicated that he also knows many in the community that did not get the survey. Block indicated that no one surveys 100%.

Balz advised that CPS did agree to survey all the families in their system.

Hinson wanted to know if the critiques and press released would be put on the website and all Trustees agreed that it would.

Motion passed.

Montgomery moved that CTM should reach out to the other community councils regarding their concerns with the process for input and collaboration with CPS on matters related to schools in their neighborhoods. Motion seconded.

Discussion: Hollan advised that CTM sent emails last year to all councils and only two replied: CUF and Madisonville. Hyland indicated he envisioned calling each council. Montgomery confirmed the approach was to be more direct with communication, not just email.

Motion passed.

Urbas indicated that CTM would be following up on past motions sent to the CPS Board BOE including appearing at future CPS BOE meetings. Further, we expect to vote in the near future on additional clarification on Education Committee Goals and Priorities.

### **Special Update from CCAC**

Exec. Director Leslie Mooney thanked CTM for focusing on issues affecting CCAC. She thanked residents for their support. She advised an update on various recent activity:

April 11 – CCAC, Fairview LSDMC, and CTM (Montgomery attended) went to a fact finding meeting with CPS BOE. A proposal was presented by LSDMC & CCAC to do cultural and technology programming for Fairview at the CCAC. This proposal had been previously presented to Supt. Mary Ronan during March. CPS Eve Bolton advised that CPS was now looking at the CCAC for a neighborhood school.

CCAC requested a series of meetings. President of CPS indicated she would speak with attorney and advise a response. She gave feedback on April 14 that such meetings would happen soon – likely in May.

April 26 – CPS BOE meeting. BOE presented an “open letter to the community”. This was the first time that CCAC had seen the letter. The letter indicated CPS had made an offer of the carriage house. CCAC advised that no offer of the carriage house has ever been formally made.

CCAC formerly requested that a public meeting be held in the community with 2 CPS BOE members. CPS advised May 12 would be the meeting date, and it would be held at the Burnet Avenue CPS Administration offices for one hour. The agenda is not known at this writing. CCAC has suggested some agenda topics to CPS.

Trustee Block asked if the land was included as part of the carriage house offer. Mooney advised she did not know as no formal offer was ever made to CCAC.

Carolyn Miller thanked CTM and the community for working on this issue. She quoted a CPS strategic goal: Great Communities Goal; “Cultivate a robust and inclusive network of stakeholders.....” She believes CTM should use this and point out that CPS is not doing what the goal states. She wants the CPS meetings to be for more than just parents; rather the entirely community should be invited and value the input provided.

Chelsey Borkman presented CTM an active petition containing 1122 signatures and extensive comments in support of the Clifton Cultural Arts Center. She stated various reasons why CCAC is so important to cultural arts in the city.

Cindy Herrick stated she is concerned about the community and whether it would be divided by issues of access to quality education seats and the benefits the CCAC. She is very appreciative of the steps CTM is taking on the issue. She believes that CTM needs to continue to push CPS to engage in the community. She offered to provide historical reference to CTM on the 2004 community engagement that occurred during the period of time when preparations were being made to move the Fairview Clifton German Language School to Clifton.

Unknown person -- In 2004, it was easy to have one on one discussions with CPS BOE then. You could call them on the phone during the day or evening, and they would speak with you about your concerns.

Margot Godot – she is an artist and long time resident. Supports CCAC.

Sean Mullaney – He has not met one person who agrees with expanding Fairview – Clifton German Language School. He reminded all of the 2001 community engagement process

with CPS. Community asked for a Montessori style neighborhood school. CPS opened an experiential learning school, which was poorly communicated. He believed no one sent their kids there because they knew the community was not being listened to. He does not understand why CPS did not learn from this past experience.

### **Education Committee**

Chairperson Hollan reminded all of the Committee's original charge: "explore access to education." This is a broad charge. The Committee has never asked CTM to approve a motion asking for a neighborhood school. Following a Committee recommendation, CTM did approve a motion to ask CPS to reserve spots at Fairview Clifton German Language School for any child in 45220 zip code if that school was expanded.

Hollan emailed Janet Walsh to ask CPS if they had agreed to create a gifted / neighborhood school in the CCAC. He asked for a written respond. Walsh was hesitant to speak for the Board, but advised CPS BOE was still in a fact finding mission.

Hollan asked Trustee Marsh to elaborate on the data that been obtained from CPS as part of a public records request. Marsh advised he made his request for information was as a private resident and parent of children in the CPS system. He made no mention of CTM in his request because at the time it was not clear to him if some of things requested were things CTM had agreed to seek. The following information was obtained:

- + boundary map of the now closed Clifton School.
- + Number of applicants by zip code in the 2015 lottery who selected Fairview Clifton German Language School as the 1<sup>st</sup> choice
- + Number of applicants by zipcode in the previously noted 2015 lottery who were accepted.
- + Census of current school year students at Fairview Clifton GSL by zipcode and grade level.
- + Census of current school year students in 45220 zip code and what school they are currently attending (private, public, parochial, etc)

Marsh thanked fellow Committee members for all the analysis that was being performed by various Committee members so far. He further indicated other prior year / trend data that was requested from CPS was not provided because CPS said summary data from public records is not consider a public record. Marsh indicated the Committee or a private citizen will need to consider if a request should be made for redacted public records to compile the summary data for prior years.

Sanja Bias – Education Committee member. About 65% of 45220 goes to Public Schools in K-6 grade. Hollan advised that the Committee is analyzing the results, and the data from CPS was shared this week with CCAC Exec Director Leslie Mooney.

Hollan summarized a Committee meeting with Patrick Herrel, Director of Accelerate Great Schools, to discuss how communities move forward to create community schools. He advised that step 1 is to engage the community to determine what the community wants. This is a fact finding and consensus building process, and the Education Committee will be pursuing this in upcoming Committee discussions.

Trustee Oakenfull stated that she wondered if we needed to shift the conversation in the community to create an opportunity for CPS BOE to pivot. The shift she suggested would be for the community to voice its frustration and suggest CPS needs our support to pass a levy this year. She supports a levy.

Montgomery moved CTM ask the Mayor and City Council to support our request to CPS to slow down their process and engage with the community to collaborate. Motion was seconded. Hollan advised it might be better to ask for endorsement of motions we have made or will make. Hyland and Pantoja advised that City Council has effectively already supported our resolution last month so the motion is redundant.

Montgomery clarified his motion that was to engage further with City Council than what had already been done. Several other Trustees indicated the motion made was not clear on what actions would be taken. Without objection, Trustee Urbas asked that we table the motion until next meeting so that it could be further clarified.

### **Events Committee**

Trustee McCance reminded of the parade and cookout on Memorial Day. Zumba group will be doing a demonstration at the cookout.

Nicholas Hollan reminded of the Clifton qualifying events of the Neighborhood Games. First events are May 14 at the Clifton Rec Center: basketball horse or pig, chess, ping-pong, and tennis singles / doubles, tug of war. 11am to 1pm. 7-13 Kids, 14+ Adults. You can participate in all qualifiers. Balance of the events will be on Memorial Day in Mt. Storm Park, except for Trivia & Stein Holding, which will happen on May 31 at “Live at Ludlow Garage”. Watch the website/ email / social media for more details.

Voluntary pre-registration at [www.cincygames.com](http://www.cincygames.com)

### **Trustee Updates / Announcements**

Hyland - 537 McAlpin was demolished, but plans for future home building (1 or 2) have not been approved.

Rich – Goodfellas Pizza will not be coming to Clifton as has been rumored.

Block – Summer music series is kicking off in May on the Clifton Plaza. Produced by Ludlow 21 and sponsored by Gaslight Property.

Kasturi – Garlic mustard pulls will be happening soon in Burnet Woods.

Evans – Chronicle at the printer. Online edition deadline is Wed 5/4.

Balz– Progress is being made on taking care of the planting beds at the Clifton Plaza. More discussions will be had between the members of the Clifton Community LLC (CTM and CPBA), the owner of the Clifton Plaza.

Pantoja – Progress being made on the possibility of “café lighting” in the Plaza.

Marsh – Moved that the prior agreed to press release of CTM’s concerns about the CPS survey be sent not later than May 10 to ensure that action is taken promptly. Motion was seconded. Discussion: Hyland indicated he would be looking to prepare the press release this week. Motion passed.

**Public Q&A**

Jill Cates of Easter Seals Tristate covered a new pilot program launched in Clifton for assisting individuals with developmental disabilities. The program promotes recreation, independent & job readiness skills, and volunteer & job tryout opportunities with local businesses in the Clifton area. All Trustees received email on this program on April 19 as an opportunity to provide volunteer opportunities for these individuals. Cates agreed to provide additional information & photos to CTM for a community wide email.

Daniel Ames provided a historical update on road building – north on Clifton Avenue past Hebrew Union College and Good Sam Hospital was where the first “cut and fill” was performed before mechanized machinery existed.

**Adjournment/next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2015, at the Clifton Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Marsh, CTM Secretary.