

CTM Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2016
Clifton Recreation Center

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

Absent: Adam Hyland, Erin Hinson, Rama Kasturi

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

Police Report

Neighborhood Liaison Sgt. Jason Volkerding reported that crime is down 36%. Theft from auto is down 56%, but still happening. Univ Cincinnati continues to fund a detail for theft from auto. This detail is 7 nights a week for Clifton, CUF, and Corryville. This helps to lower all crime statistics. This is quite expensive; over \$1 million.

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nicholas 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

Lt. Gary Wright from Engine 34 reported that his company had 197 runs, but no major structure fires in the Clifton area during the past month. Engine 34 only made 4 Narcan runs in the past month, and this is significantly lower than any other neighborhood. If your smoke detector is more than 10 years old, it needs to be replaced. Ensure that there is a smoke detector on every floor and preferably also in every bedroom. Please replace the batteries.

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

Trustee Marsh read the library report provided by Branch Manager Jill Beitz. "Here is what's going on in October:

Tomorrow, October 4th at 6 PM teens and tweens can join Yo-Yo champion Jody Jones to learn tricks, along with a little science. Try out your skills and receive a free yo-yo. On this Saturday, October 8th at 11:00, adults can make a wine cork pumpkin at our Craft and Create Program. On Thursday, October 13th at 6:45 join the Cincy Ghost Hunters as they discuss ghosts and haunted places in Cincinnati. On Friday, October 14th at 10:30am our Branch Book Club will be discussing "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi. There are still copies available. Finally, on September 20th Mr. Eric will host his monthly Bedtime Storytime at 7PM. "

Recreation Center

Service Area Manager Tom Reese reported that the poem created by community members with the City Laureate is on the city website. Aileen Evans, storyteller, will be here on Oct 27. Evans will tell stories about children being brave; these are not scary stories.

Still working on pre-recruiting teenagers for life guarding positions for next summer.

Online Rec Center Calendar is at

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

CCAC

CCAC Board member Cindy Herrick reported that this Sunday is first of this year's Second Sunday series. The series runs from Oct to May. FotoFocus is running through Oct 28. The Golden Ticket Exhibit starts Nov 8. Dewey's Pizza is holding a fundraiser for the CCAC on Nov 6.

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.

Minutes of the Sept CTM meeting were amended with two additional paragraphs from Trustee Montgomery and then approved as amended.

Amendment details in bold: Trustee Block was not sure if he heard from Montgomery's report that something is changing with CPS / BOE.

Montgomery replied that there was a change in their approach, from a rigid style of communication by attorney or press release to face-to-face informal discussion. The working group had asked for this, and it was a welcome change.

Trustee Moran believed that a lot of the work was being pushed to the community. He asked what resources CPS was offering to help get the work done.

Montgomery said that CPS wanted the neighborhoods to work on the many questions that we share about a possible new neighborhood school. For example, they had not done any research regarding extent of need or parental commitment, nor budgeting or finding potential locations for a school. Neither had they determined a program focus, or explored potential partnerships with nearby institutions, such as UC, Cincinnati State, and the hospitals. They wanted the neighborhoods to come up with answers and recommendations for all these questions and more.

Montgomery said that CPS was willing to have further discussions and provide access to facilities personnel. **Other than that, they offered no resources.**

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Shaun McCance reported on September results. \$13,299 gross income. Expenses of \$8,908.31. Net income of \$4,390.69

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$85,491.07 outstanding liabilities and this includes the PayPal balance.

McCance highlighted four expense categories that are running over budget year to date due to 2015 expenses that were paid in 2016: Clifton Chronicle, Clifton Plaza, Beautification Committee, and Holidays on Ludlow.

YTD Gross Income is \$44,601.92 including all pass through grants. YTD total spending is \$35,025.62 leaving a net income of \$9,576.30. 2016 budget was to have a net loss of \$5,175.

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

Issue 44 Levy

Eve Bolton, Board of Education member and Vice Mayor David Mann spoke in support of the Issue 44 Levy on the ballot this November.

Excerpts from the handout provided: \$48 million per year for 5 years. No new money asked for in a levy in the past 8 years. The Cincinnati Business Chamber paid for an external review of the CPS financial books, and this resulted in a finding that supported a need for a new money levy. This levy provides \$15 million in funds for expanded preschool through CPS and community-based providers. There is a transparent and accountable preschool plan associated with the implementation. Without the levy, CPS faces a structurally imbalanced budget that could grow to \$50 million annually.

Bolton advised that none of the money would be used "to destroy the CCAC" after asked this question by a community member. CPS added 200 seats for preschool this year. All the CPS preschools are 5 star rated.

Clifton Market

Charles Marxen reported that hardhat tours happen on Saturday. Opening is expected by end of November. By end of October, major construction will be completed and then they will move to installation of equipment. 80 positions to be filled. There were some delays on the plumbing permit.

Marxen indicated they desire to hire local residents as much as possible.

Audience question: Why was the permit delayed? There were revisions. Vice Mayor Mann helped push permits through the review process.

Executive Committee

President Eric Urbas reported that the 3 community budget requests voted upon in the September meeting were submitted by the deadline of Sept 23 and he confirmed with the administrator that they were accepted.

Urbas reviewed the Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) that provides funds to neighborhood community councils. He requested that the community submit ideas, and the entire community who attend the December meeting will vote on where to spend the funds.

Trustee Rich asked who pays for the flower pots. Trustee Balz advised the annual cost of \$4000 is split 50:50 between CTM & CBPA. The cost includes new plantings for 3 seasons and twice a week watering.

Trustee McCance advised that the NSP report for the current year (City fiscal year ending June 2016) was submitted on time.

Urbas reviewed that the Executive Committee approved a spending policy that all Trustees will notify the Treasurer and the President as soon as a commitment is made. This allows for proper accounting of the expense as a known liability.

Urbas reported that some 2015 spending carried over to 2016 Budget as noted in the Treasurer's report, but this did not require new Board approval. In the future such events will need be handled more clearly in the budget creation process.

Education Committee

Chairperson Nicholas Hollan reported that two community forums have been completed. Sept 18 and Oct 1. Approx. 40 attended the first one and approx. 20 attended the second one. The forums started with a brief presentation and some question/answers, then small group discussions, then a reporting out of the results of the group discussion. The overwhelming response was that a neighborhood school is desired for the Clifton area. Feedback details ranged from strategic to tactical. Many parents and people that were planning a family attended the forums.

The next steps for the Committee are to summarize this feedback and figure out what to do with it.

Trustee Block asked if CUF residents attended. Hollan advised that we did have CUF residents, but none from Spring Grove Village.

Nominating Committee

Chairperson Ben Pantoja reported on the preparations for this year's election of Trustees. This report was sent to all Trustees on Oct 2 by email.

Nominating Committee Report 2016

The CTM Nominating Committee files the following report with the full Board of Trustees as required by the Bylaws 60 days prior to the election. The election is set for Monday, Dec 9, 2016.

There are 10 Trustees who have the option to continue their current terms. All 10 confirmed in October 2016 via email that they intend to continue as trustees in 2016. There are currently (5) Trustee positions in which the current Trustees term will expire after this year. The current incumbents will run for re-election for 3 of these 5 openings. However, Ben Pantoja is term limited and Erin Hinson has decided not to run again:

Trustee	Term Limited?	Plans to run for re-election?	Length of Expiring Term	Length of New Term
Ben Pantoja	yes	n/a	3	3
Kevin Marsh	no	yes	3	3
Joyce Rich	no	yes	3	3
Adam Hyland	no	yes	3	3
Erin Hinson	no	no	1	3

The Nominating Committee has decided on the following next steps:

- Community announcements seeking candidates to be sent on Listserve and Next Door no later than 10/11/16
- 200 word bios from candidates due by 10/30/16 to enable publication in Winter Clifton Chronicle.
- Start direct recruiting of candidates, especially any potential candidates recommended by any Trustee

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Pantoja, Chairperson Nominating Committee

Plaza LLC Committee

Chairperson Eric Urbas advised that the administrator of the Clifton Community LLC was changing bookkeepers. He is still working to get clarification on the possible tax liability from the past despite our records indicating the LLC had no taxes due.

Events Committee

CliftonFest – Trustee Urbas advised he would create a signup for volunteers to staff the CTM booth at CliftonFest. Trustee Marsh reminded all that the E.T. Carson Masonic Lodge would share a table at our booth in consideration for their providing us free use of their facilities for meetings in 2016.

Lantern Walk – Trustee Balz reported the results of a planning meeting. They are looking at shortening the route and starting at the Clifton Rec Center. Trustee Fritz is looking to hold a pre-event lantern making session. The Lantern Walk will be Sunday, November 6.

Holidays on Ludlow – Trustee Rich reported that the event should be held on the first Friday instead of the second Friday of December. This would be Dec 2. There was some discussion about when lights & decorations should be placed, and that date will be finalized by the Beautification Committee.

Reindeer will go up around the same time as the lighting. 5 new deer are needed due to lighting failures. The deer will be placed around the plaza area & some other regular locations. The Clifton Community Fund is providing money for this purchase of 5 new deer.

Kip Eagen reported that Storytellers event will be postponed until February. CTM budgeted \$1000 towards this event's production in 2016.

Business Committee

Trustee Rich reported that CTM obtained a \$30k grant to repair the installation of the bronze plaques on Ludlow Avenue. The plaques will be removed, proper drainage will be installed, and then they will be reinstalled.

A second grant of \$52k NBDIP was awarded for the preparation of a new business district plan. The City advised that they made a mistake awarding this grant as a business district plan as such spending is not eligible for NBDIP grants.

Rich indicated that the involved groups (CPBA, Uptown Consortium, Ludlow 21 LLC, and CTM) will meet on Mon, Oct 17 at 3pm in the PNC Bank lower level to discuss the possibility of a façade improvement project to replace the \$52k NBDIP grant. A representative from the City will attend this meeting.

One meeting has been held so far to discuss rebranding Clifton. A second one will be on Oct 18.

Kip Eagen suggested that the decision to not use a community member as a project manager for the plaque project is ill informed. Eagen believes that the project could be completed sooner if a volunteer committee managed the project.

Transportation Committee

Trustee Marsh reported that the Committee is holding an Open House on Oct 18 from 6-8pm, as previously advised, for the purposes of collecting community input on a neighborhood bicycling infrastructure plan. There is no formal presentation so attendees can come and go as needed – perhaps no more than 30 minutes is required to visit each input gathering “station”. The Committee will collect the input, build it into a draft plan for review by the Board, and hold another input gathering session in the late Winter/early Spring of 2017. Then, a finalized plan will be prepared for review & approval by the Board.

Marsh reported that as a result of the traffic related fatality last year and from studying the intersection, DOTE is going to modify the intersection of Glenmary and Clifton Av. Specifically, the curb on the south side of Glenmary will be extended / bumped out to allow for a shorter crossing. It will also cause vehicles to slow down to make the turn. Marsh said drawings were sent to the Transportation Committee, but none of them included lane markings and other details to make them more easily understood. DOTE thought the work might get completed this year, but no firm timing has been established.

Trustee Montgomery asked if a tree could be planted in the bump out as opposed to having just more concrete. Marsh did not know what was possible but agreed to look into the matter.

Chronicle

Chairperson Ashley Fritz advised deadlines for next Chronicle are Oct 21 for ads and Oct 28 for editorial content.

Trustee Updates / Announcements

Balz advised the Beautification Committee did some major landscaping cleanup at the Plaza. The work was done by Trustees Balz, Block and Hinson.

Discussion on CTM monthly meeting structure

Trustee Balz led a discussion on how CTM might make the meetings more productive: both for the community members as well as for the Trustees. Several possible ideas were mentioned that could include, but are not limited to:

- Change the table layout into a U or circle shape to invite more Trustee discussions.
- Only 3 or 4 meetings are mandatory. Should we have less Board meetings and more discussion meetings?
- Have a “talk with Trustees” evening in addition to or opposed
- Have quarterly meetings where a block of time can be devoted to community topic discussion.
- Have two meetings: 1 for doing the necessary business, and 1 for getting community input.
- The community input forums that are being held by various committees are a great way to focus on a topic. Doing more of these could be good.
- Trustees could have more “working sessions” to discuss issues.
- The Executive Committee has refused agenda time to people who have non-Clifton matters to present in order to ensure we have productive meetings.
- Trustees could come early to the main meeting.
- We need to consider the time balance of Trustees along with needs to meeting
- The positive changes we make need to be institutionalized, not just something that happens for 2-3 years and then fades when a Trustees leaves the Board. The Board needs to consider how to leave the workings better for future Trustees.
- We should look at how other community councils operate. Some have community members voting along with Trustees and this tends to bring more attendees.
- Put more of the CTM committee meetings and forums on the community calendar (which is on the website).
- Provide the ability to for people to contact Committees more easily.
- Having time keeping limits is very helpful and makes the meeting less chaotic.
- Truncate the business section of the meeting (fire, police, Treasurer reports) further.
- Direct voting of community members can be difficult sometimes due to vocal minorities.
- Focus on certain committees on certain months to allow for more detailed discussions.

Public Q&A

Daniel Ames provided some history on Clifton. The University of Cincinnati was known as the "Burnet Woods Branch" as well as the "Streetcar Campus". Students used to ride the streetcar to classes. UC expanded north into Burnet Woods more than once as it expanded its campus.

Kristin Iverson advised that she and her partner witnessed the results of a very significant accident on Ludlow Avenue just down from Whitfield. Two dogs were hit and a woman suffered broken pelvis. A fire hydrant was hit and moved it at least 50 feet. Cars are speeding too fast, and there is a heavy volume of traffic. Iverson believed that this was an indicator of a future fatality. Iverson requested that something be done.

Michael Burrill advised that traffic calming can be done to address various traffic speeding issues.

A resident advised she struggles to get out of her driveway on McAlpin Avenue due to cars speeding by in the morning.

A resident asked if anyone knew what streets were being repaved and when in Clifton. Trustee Marsh advised that under the City's new Capital Acceleration Plan (CAP) that many streets were getting earlier refurbishing, but no list was published. Marsh advised he will get the list and share it with the community.

Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, November 7, 2016, at the Clifton Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Marsh, CTM Secretary.