

**CTM Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2016**  
**Clifton Recreation Center**

Present: Adam Balz, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Eric Urbas, Shaun McCance, Ashley Fritz, Joyce Rich, Erin Hinson, Peter Block, Malcolm Montgomery, Rama Kasturi

Absent: Ben Pantoja, Cindy Oakenfull, Adam Hyland, Nicholas Hollan

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

**Police Report**

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick Hageman shared STARS report. Citizens on Patrol for Clifton is no longer active due to lack of volunteers. In order for it to restart, we would need at least 4 volunteers, and all volunteers would need to complete the training with CPD. Go to this website for more information on training <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/community-involvement/citizens-on-patrol/>

Home break-ins are occurring with more frequency in the district. These generally happen through residents leaving windows / doors open or unlocked.

Property crime continues to be down. New police recruits are about to finish their on the job training and be released to regular patrol duty.

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 runs, but no major structure fires in the Clifton area during the past month. Clifton has a relatively low use of Narcan for drug overdoses as compared to neighboring communities. Clifton had 4 vs mid 20's for other neighborhoods.

Oct 13, 12pm. Firefighter's Memorial on Central Parkway across the street from the Convention Center.. The entire week is fire safety week.

Reminder that you can call 513-591-6000 customer service line for anything.

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**

Trustee Marsh read the report as provided by Clifton Branch Manager Jill Beitz.

We just re-started our weekly Tech Talk Classes. These are every Wednesday from 10:30-12:30 and cover a variety of topics from Beginning Computer Skills to Downloadables to Microsoft Office Suite. Call the branch to register.

Our Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club meets on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Lydia's on Ludlow. This month's book is "The Princess Bride." Newcomers are always welcome!

Teens and Tweens will have fun at the Guinness Book of World Records Program on this Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Join us as we answer trivia questions, watch cool videos and even experience what it's like to be a world record holder. Please register online.

Teens can also plan ahead for "Yo-Yo with Jody Jones" at 6PM on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch a fun demo by yo-yo competitor, Jody Jones while also learning the physics of yo-yo techniques. Learn some fun new tricks as well.

Children can join Mr. Eric at 2PM on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> for Outdoor Games Day. It'll be a fun day of friendly competition and outdoor play.

### **Recreation Center**

Service Area Manager Tom Reese reported that swimming coaching and pre-life guard classes for 14-15 year olds are happening 7:30-9pm Mon-Thur. Life Guards can start work at age 15. This is an effort to prepare for next summer. The warm water pool is at the Mt. Auburn area community center. Other classes happen there as well.

Listening Room is happening every Wednesday night. Cincinnati Poet Laureate – Pauletta Hansel is challenging the neighborhood to create a collective poem. Sept 22 workshop to create the poem. You can turn in one line, a whole stanza, or anything you wish.

Online Rec Center Calendar is at

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

### **CCAC**

CCAC Board member reported Art show opening, "FotoFocus" this Friday, Sept 16. On Sept 28, Sunset Salons series begins again. Topic of immigration is for the first salon. Nov 6 fundraiser at Dewey's Pizza. For \$25, you can learn to make pizza. All drinks and tips also are donated to CCAC. Classes for Fall have started – dance, writing, theatre and much more. All future events are

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 August CTM meeting were approved as submitted.**

**Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Shaun McCance reported on August results. Golf outing net income was \$11,101.37. Monthly activity: \$4101.58 revenue. Expenses \$5,144.06. Net loss of \$1042.48.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$85,370.37 with no outstanding liabilities.

McCance highlighted year to date income and expenses. Generally income is tracking well to budget amounts YTD. Expenses for Chronicle, Plaza, and Holidays on Ludlow are tracking much higher than YTD budget. For the Chronicle and Holidays on Ludlow, some 2015 expenses were actually paid in 2016, but we did not budget for the timing in that way.

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

**Executive Committee**

Trustee Malcolm Montgomery shared a summary of meeting between the Working Group (alliance of Clifton, CUF, SGV, CCAC, Fairview-Clifton GSL LSDMC) and CPS Board of Education members and CPS administrators. We had asked for such a meeting for the purposes of dialogue to find ways to work together. The meeting was held on August 29 with BOE President Copeland-Dansby, CPS Director of Public Affairs Janet Walsh, CPS Director of Family & Community Engagement Pat Neal Miller, and Superintendent Mary Ronin.

Agreed no unilateral press releases would be made based on the meeting.

Outcomes:

1. Not able to make any decisions on the CCAC lease at this time. CPS and BOE are waiting until after the levy per request of CTM.
2. CPS is interested in a neighborhood school. Wanted the community input on this especially how many children will actually attend.
3. No decisions about the boundaries for the neighborhood school. They wanted community input on this.
4. Overcrowding at Fairview was discussed. The LSDMC is handling this topic directly.

Meeting was positive tone and cordial.

Working Group held a town hall style meeting on Sept 7. Approx. 40 community members attended. The meeting was moderated by Mona Jenkins of the UC Action Research group. Director of Family & Community Engagement Pat Neal Miller also attended to listen and learn about the community interests. Each Working Group constituent made presentations, then questions were answered.

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. 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 was willing to have further discussions and provide access to facilities personnel.

Audience questions: Is 2018 school start date possible? It could be, but we are too early in the process to be certain of such details.

### **Education Committee**

Trustee Marsh advised that the Committee is continuing to collect community input on the neighborhood school option including upcoming large group meetings on Sept 18 and Oct 1, door to door canvassing, and small group discussions. CPS agreed to attend the Sept 18 meeting to listen, but not participate.

Community member questions: Is the Working Group the conduit by which all communication goes to CPS? What's the end game? CTM is gathering and sharing input with the community at this stage. We will see what we learn from that process.

Feels uncomfortable to lobby for a school outside the neighborhood of Clifton. Why not just focus on Clifton only? The alliance between neighborhoods opens doors. CUF has 5,000+ residents and no school in their neighborhood, which is similar to Clifton. CPS sparked the idea of CUF and Clifton, not CTM.

Community member encouraged CTM to focus on a walkable, bikeable school.

### **"Save the CCAC" Committee**

Chairperson Malcolm Montgomery advised that community member, Michael Burrill, has agreed to help determine the costs of various building options.

### **Housing & Zoning Committee**

Trustee Montgomery read some guiding principles.

Neighborhood associations like CTM generally frown on requests to make exceptions on the grounds that the zoning code was established by informed citizens in a democratic due process, and intended to apply to everyone. To grant an exception merely because it was requested (“we’re nice guys”), or because we know and think highly of the requester (“they’re nice guys”), is unfair to those who do follow the law and who are not well-connected. We believe it is our civic obligation to protect the rights of all members of our community without prejudice.

The Housing and Zoning committee makes a best-effort attempt to understand the situation (including face-to-face discussion with interested parties, review of documents, site visits, communication with City officials, and application of relevant code). It may attempt to seek resolution between parties in conflict. The committee may make a recommendation to the Board, accompanied by a brief explanation of the issues.

#### 4025 Egbert Avenue: 2 Nonconforming Uses and a Variance.

Lauren & Jon Fruth of 4025 Egbert Ave are seeking approval for two Nonconforming Uses and a Variance. They have three separate lots (the house lot, the garage lot, and a playset lot). To help the situation with accessory structures on lots without a house they are going to combine the three lots into one lot. They are allowed to have 2 accessory structures on one lot. The Fruth's have done their due diligence in bringing petitions door to door to the abutting neighbors and those within sight lines of the house. There was one neighbor who only signed the garage petition. He did not sign the addition or playset petition. The neighbor indicated he did want to be involved but wouldn't stand in the way to stop anything.

The H&Z committee reviewed the Fruth's request and unanimously recommends no objection to the following:

1. The request to accept the garage as a Nonconforming Use
2. The request to accept the playset as a Nonconforming Use
3. The request of a Setback Variance.

Montgomery moved that CTM to send the following letter to the appropriate City of Cincinnati Departments in regards to the above mentioned requests.

Letter of No Objection:

CTM has no objection to Lauren & Jon Fruth's request for a setback variance and request to accept two nonconforming accessory structures as they consolidate from three separate lots into one combined lot at 4025 Egbert Ave, as the plans have been presented to the CTM board as of (September 12, 2016). See attached documents and site plan for reference.

It is the opinion of the Clifton Town Meeting Housing & Zoning Committee that:

- The addition to the home maintains the original architectural aesthetic of the home and will complement the design of neighboring homes.
- The planned addition will create little to no sightline obstructions or otherwise decrease aesthetics in the area.
- The unconventional arrangement of the properties and topography necessitates the nonconforming uses that currently exist.

- No abutting neighbors or others have protested the nonconforming uses or the variance. Additionally the vast majority of neighbors have signed a petition indicating no objection to the requests.

Motion to send letter of no objection passed.

3414 Bishop Street: Bed and Breakfast

Malcolm referred the Board to the various emails he sent on 9/12 containing **ZHE meeting 9/23.**

1. Particulars of the request

1. the gist of the issue is that the code requires four parking spaces, but there is only room for two on the property
2. it is unclear how the situation arose or whether it was foreseeable
3. it is unclear whether a parking problem exists in the immediate area, as the density varies widely
4. there are many neighbors who support the request, and there are some who oppose it
5. an attempt to bring the requestors and objectors together failed
6. the requestor intends to pursue the variance request in a public hearing, and the objector intends to challenge it there; each seeks CTM's affirmation of its position
7. Both parties have accepted an invitation from the committee to present their case exceedingly briefly during the Housing and Zoning report time slot. The committee will give an overview and summation (3 minutes), and each party will have 3 minutes to address the Board. Any additional time for presentation, questions, or deliberation will be at the discretion of the Board.

2. The Board has options for its response:

1. Vote to object to the variance request, which will be communicated to the Zoning Hearing Examiner for consideration in deciding whether to approve or deny it
2. Vote not to object [as above]. CTM does not customarily endorse or support such requests, but only "objects" (with reasons) or "has no objection."
3. Take no action (either by vote or simply by not passing a motion)
4. Do something else permitted by CTM's bylaws. For example, the Board could recommend that a compromise variance be approved for only one of the two parking spaces.

Buddy Goose made a brief presentation to the Board on why they should support the request including some pictures showing open parking spaces on the street at various times of the day / days of the week.

John Alexander made a brief presentation to the Board on why they should oppose the request.

Discussion / Questions by the Trustees:

We have two existing B&B's in Clifton. Do they have conditional use / variances?  
Audience member – those B&B's are in different zoning area. Bishop Street is SF-4.

Can the variance be withdrawn in the future if someone else purchases the home at Bishop Street? This was not made clear with an answer of certain facts.

How many residents favor? Approx. 12. How many residents are against? Approx. 2.

What if the variance is not granted? A different way to have the required parking would be needed, and this would increase the cost of doing business.

This current situation/process does not give CTM enough time to evaluate the situation. Trustees are presented with large numbers of documents on the day of the Board meeting, and the Committee has not had time to review and make a recommendation to the Board.

Without objection, Trustee Urbas moved to send this matter back to the Housing and Zoning Committee. There was still potential to have an email vote by Trustees on the matter.

### **LLC Committee**

Chairperson Eric Urbas advised there remains a possible income tax liability for the Clifton Community LLC (organization that owns and operates the Plaza). CBPA has contacted the tax preparer, and no feedback has happened at this time.

### **Events Committee**

Trustee Rich reported the event was a success despite a lot of rain that caused a late start. She will be sending thank you notes to all sponsors and vendors who were involved.

Trustee Hinson reported that CTM will have a booth at CliftonFest booth & planning was ongoing.

Trustee Balz reported Lantern Walk would likely be on Nov 6 and that volunteers are needed in order to produce this event. An organizational / planning meeting would be forthcoming. The event route may be shortened this year.

### **Transportation Committee**

Trustee Marsh reported that the Committee would be holding an open house style community input meeting on Oct 18 towards preparation of the Clifton Bicycling Infrastructure Plan. Open House style means no presentation and community members can drop in when they are available. There will be "stations" where input will be gathered on maps and flip charts.

Marsh advised the Committee has a recommendation to remove the traffic barrier on Clifton Hills Ave after receiving input from the neighbors & community over the last 2 months. The input was about 50:50 ration on remove: leave the barrier. There are approx. 200 students that walk on Clifton Hills Ave to/from the Metro 17 bus stop on Ludlow Avenue in the morning (often before sunrise)/ afternoon. There is no sidewalk on this road so pedestrian safety is a concern. DePaul Cristo Rey High School has advised they are not opposed to removing the traffic barrier.

Marsh moved the Board approve the following resolution and send it to DOTE Director Michael Moore:

**Whereas:**

Clifton Hills Avenue, a winding and hilly residential street in the Cincinnati neighborhood of Clifton with no sidewalks and no streetlights, has a long and documented history of excessive motor vehicle volume and speed. A speed bump was installed in 2009;

Hundreds of students from DePaul Cristo Rey High School walk in the Clifton Hills Avenue roadway each school-day morning and afternoon to and from the METRO bus along Ludlow Avenue, often before sunrise;

A temporary lane-restricting barrier was installed on Clifton Hills Ave in 2014 subsequent to safety concerns raised by nearby residents in response to the extraordinary volume of vehicular traffic on the street associated with the reconstruction of the I-75 and Hopple Street interchange;

The primary source of cut-through traffic on Clifton Hills Avenue, the eastbound I-74 ramp to Central Parkway, was closed in June of 2016;

The ramp from Central Parkway to northbound I-75 is expected to close and the Hopple Street Interchange project is planned for functional completion in the last quarter of 2016;

Resident and stakeholder input on the traffic barrier, requested by the City of Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) prior to any action, found that approximately half of the respondents were in favor of removal of the barrier, with the remaining concerned that the removal of the barrier would threaten pedestrian safety and lead to a return of excessive motor vehicle volume and speed.

**Be It RESOLVED THAT,**

Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) recommends the removal of the temporary barrier on Clifton Hills Avenue and restoration of two-way traffic once the ramp from Central Parkway to northbound I-75 is permanently closed.

CTM shall continue to work with nearby residents and stakeholders of Clifton Hills Avenue and the City of Cincinnati DOTE to implement solutions that improve pedestrian safety and calm traffic along Clifton Hills Avenue.

Discussion: Montgomery – can action be reversed? Yes, a barrier could be re-installed or different traffic controls could be deployed in the future.

Hinson – Need to consider sidewalks. Marsh noted that this consideration has been brought up in the past (about 2 years ago and maybe even prior to that) and residents do not want to be financially responsible for the high cost of installation. This lack of sidewalk financial support may change over time.

Motion to send the resolution passed.

### **Parks Committee**

Chairperson Rama Kasturi – advised that the community is showing some interest in having a dog park in one of the neighborhood area parks. Kasturi contacted Steve Schuckman of the Parks Dept. to get his feedback on the idea. Previously, Steve advised there was no possibility to put a dog park in any park in the Clifton area.

### **Community Budget Requests Ad-Hoc Committee**

Urbas advised the Committee had been unable to meet to make a recommendation. CTM has been seeking input for ideas to submit as part of the 3 submissions that a community council can send.

Urbas prioritized the list of input and presented suggestions for Board review and approval.

Projects that received a majority of Trustee support:

Idea #1 – Redo Juergens Avenue including sidewalks the entire length and removal of open culvert.

Idea #2 – Replace and add benches to the Telford seating area. Add public drinking fountains to three locations (Telford at Ludlow, In front of CCAC, at the corner of McAlpin and Middleton). Additional Sidewalk Seating on Ludlow

Idea #3 – Lighted cross walks in business district. Three crossings Ludlow x Clifton, Ludlow x Telford, Ludlow x Middleton. These are specially designed led lights that would also help to define the business district.

Deadline for submission to the City is Sept 23.

### **Trustee Updates / Announcements**

Fritz – Chronicle editorial deadline is Oct 28. Ads due a week earlier. There is graffiti on the glass on message box at the Plaza. Can be removed with a straight razor blade.

Kasturi – Parks did not find suitable site in Burnet Woods. Inwood Park may be a more suitable area.

Montgomery – Plaza lighting project has become more complicated than originally expected: design issues, code compliance, etc. We need an electrician

Marsh - asked for a show of hands who has a dog. Several hands went up.

Balz – seeking volunteers for planting bed maintenance. Also seeking maintenance for the water system on the Plaza. Quote was prepared and we are still waiting on response from the Clifton Community LLC. Urbas agreed to follow-up.

Rich – Last BIG Night Clifton of the summer happens on Sept 19. Jake Speed & the Freddie's will play music and then a movie, "UP" will be shown. Ludlow 21 is producing this event.

Urbas reminded that we will discuss budget modifications in October to realign funds as needed to ensure certain committees do not exceed their budget by more than \$500.

Clifton Community Fund annual dinner is Sept 24.

**Public Q&A / Concerns**

Daniel Ames presented some history on University of Cincinnati which was long ago known as the Streetcar College.

Alexis Cain noted that long ago a dog park was mentioned by Cincinnati Parks Dept. for Inwood Park, and it still does not exist.

**Adjournment/next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, October 3, 2016, at the Clifton Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Marsh, CTM Secretary.