



Clifton Town Meeting Minutes, August 7, 2017, 7pm

Trustees Present: Adam Balz, Peter Block, Christine Celsor, Ashley Fritz, Brad Hawse, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Cindy Oakenfull, Malcolm Montgomery, Seth Maney, Rama Kasturi

Trustees Absent: Nicholas Hollan, Seth Maney, Joyce Rich, Eric Urbas

Regular Reports:

Police: Officer Hageman reported that violent crime is down. Theft from autos is still their biggest struggle, but there were only 6 reported in July. Call police about rogue white corvette in the neighborhood if you see it. UC is about to start Fall classes. Keep eyes out for new people and burglaries. There is no news on district 5 renovation.

Fire: Engine 34 on Ludlow had more runs in the past month. They were mostly EMT runs. Abandoned buildings are an issue they are working on. If you see a building that doesn't look secure, contact the City at 591-6000 so it can be covered up. Covering openings helps cut down on fires and people entering the buildings. Make sure to have an escape plan for your pet in case of a fire. Keep leashes handy.

Library: Kevin Marsh reported the Clifton Branch Manager has retired and they are interviewing for new branch manager. Eric Davis, the Children's Librarian, is the interim manager.

CRC: It is the last week of summer camp. If you know anyone who would like to work at the CRC, stop by to apply. CCAC is going to do have after school programming, as CRC is already full. CRC will have a waiting list for after care. Look on their website for updates, at cincyrec.org

Jon Harmon - Pedestrian, Bike Safety in Clifton, Business District Reinvestment: Jon Harmon came to fill in for Council Member Chris Seelbach, who had another meeting to attend. City Council has added \$500,000 for pedestrian and bike safety. He wanted to know what the biggest interests are in our neighborhood, which intersections need attention. Problem spots mentioned included Woolper at Clifton. Cars at the intersection honk their horns at kids crossing in the crosswalk, and there is concern that it is very dangerous because of the way the intersection is structured. The intersection at the library is getting a traffic light installed. Another concern was that the buses drive too fast on Ludlow. The intersection of Middleton and McAlpin is a concern, with many cars not stopping at the stop signs - flashing lights were suggested as a possible solution. Kevin Marsh said to send any other concerns to the Transportation Committee and they will be shared with City Council. Jon Harmon later announced that District 5 will be moving to the former permit center on Central Parkway before December 2018.

Mark Mussman - Homelessness and Poverty Solutions: There are many people without permanent housing, or who have a home but aren't getting a number of other things they need. Cincinnati needs to help create and sustain affordable housing. The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition attend many speaking engagements in the region. Melissa Mosey shared her personal story. She explained that when she found herself in a difficult situation, that many of her friends avoided her. She emphasized the need to connect with one another on a human level, to treat those experiencing homelessness with compassion. Speaking engagement cost is \$80 for speaker fees, but they can also come speak at no charge. There is currently a 40,000 shortage of units of low income housing. The government is building more senior and veteran housing, but not much housing for families. Most housing being built is only one bedroom. The average age of someone experiencing homelessness in the US is 9 years old. To learn more about this issue, visit www.cincihomeless.org

Karen Amend - Little Sisters of the Poor: Since 1868, the Little Sisters of the Poor have been helping care for the poor and elderly. Medicaid and Medicare do not cover all costs of nursing home care. Little Sisters of the Poor are bringing to Cincinnati *The Art of Visual Perception*. Amy Herman is speaker and author of the book, *Visual Intelligence: Sharpen Your Perception. Change Your Life*. This workshop teaches people to see what's actually there, with an emphasis on being a part of your neighborhood and being aware. Proceeds from this event will benefit Little Sisters of the Poor. For more information visit www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org

CCAC: Leslie Mooney announced the CCAC is searching for a new home. They will remain in their current building until August 2018. Look online for classes and events at cliftonculturalarts.org

Cliftonfest Update: Alexis Cain reported Cliftonfest will have larger chalk drawings this year. The footprint will be about the same as last year. The 5k will be flattened out. Music is all lined up. Their website is cliftonfest.com. Cliftonfest will be the evening of October 6, and all day on October 7.

Taking Root, Make a Difference Day: Warren C. High of Taking Root is looking to plant trees in Cincinnati. They would like to replace the Emerald Ash trees that have been cut down with native trees and plants. Taking Root is looking to organize communities to get this accomplished. Trees are delivered and sold below wholesale. Support is also given planting the trees. The program could be implemented through schools, CTM, boy scouts, or other organizations or groups. Warren wants to provide support and trees. They will be posting on NextDoor soon. Gaslight Properties have been working with them. Kevin Marsh motioned for CTM to support this, it was seconded, and the motion passed. For more information on Taking Root, visit their website at takingroot.info

Treasurer's Report: Shaun McCance presented the report for June and July. The sidewalk plaques were repaired by the city, so CTM did not have to provide funding. Adam Balz said we need more flowerpot sponsors. This can be advertised in the Chronicle, as many businesses aren't spending the money on them anymore. Motion to accept the treasurer's report passes.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve carries.

Golf Outing: Michael Moran reported the golf outing is set for August 26. They have a full group of sponsors and it should be a fun event.

Post Office Relocation Meeting Follow-Up: Peter Block reported that we do not yet know what the post office will decide about relocation, or staying in their current location. If they relocate, it will be kept within half a mile of its current location, as they want to remain in the business district.

Entertainment District Meeting Follow-Up: About 30 people attended the meeting. CBPA is planning to apply for CED designation. Liquor licenses for businesses would be less expensive if this happens. Shaun McCance asked Peter Block if there will be a financial ask of CTM on this issue. Peter said it may be something that CBPA would ask for. Soon CTM will be asked to send a letter in favor.

Bylaws Committee Update: Malcolm Montgomery reported they have a number of people on the committee, both CTM trustees and others. He would like the board to share any questions and concerns about the bylaws. Malcolm's email is mail@edutech.us.

Education Committee Update:

Kevin Marsh reported that CANS (Clifton Area Neighborhood School) will open this year at Rising Stars Academy. CPS has officially set the boundaries to include Spring Grove Village, Clifton, and CUF. The CANS Advisory Group has been knocking on doors, calling people, working on partnerships, discussing curriculum. They have a Facebook page, and CPS will send out a mass mailing this week. A preschool and kindergarten teacher have been hired. A back to school carnival will be held on August 11, and on September 9 there will be an ice cream social at the Rawson Estate. They have identified multiple grants to help with with school. The pdf file of the Education Committee report is attached.

Kevin shared the following motion:

Education Committee Motion

The Clifton Area Neighborhood School is opening August 2017 to receive & educate children from CUF, Spring Grove Village, and Clifton. An associated Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is forming with a mission to foster the relationship between school, home, and community to provide for the academic success of all the students of the school. To that end, the PTO works in partnership with the school's administration, staff and committees and organizes events, programs, and fundraisers in support of that mission.

CTM will act as the fiscal agent for the Clifton Area Neighborhood School PTO to allow it to gain the opportunity to receive charitable contributions for its mission. CTM will cease to act as the fiscal agent once the PTO receives a decision from the IRS on a 501c3 determination.

In support of the school, the children, and the PTO's mission, CTM will commit to spend up to a maximum of \$499 during the period Aug - Sept 2017 to allow the PTO organization to incorporate and file for it's own 501c3 application with the IRS.

CTM supports providing guaranteed access to the children of Clifton, CUF, and Spring Grove Village to the newly opening public neighborhood elementary school that will have an eventual permanent location at 3711 Clifton Avenue. CTM supports all (parents, teachers, community members) who are working to achieve quality education at this new school.

Individuals involved with CANS have spent a lot of their own money on the work they have done. They are asking for \$500 from CTM. Adam Balz asked if there was any money in the

Education Committee's budget. There is money in the budget. Christine Celsor asked CTM could get CANS update at every meeting. Kevin said yes. Peter Block would like to see it expressed that our mission should be the highest quality education for all Clifton children. Cindy Oakenfull expressed concern this will set a precedent for other organizations to ask for money. Kevin replied that it's not every day a new school opens and that it's a one time ask for money. Kevin has written to the other community councils about helping the new school's PTO, but they don't have the funds that CTM does. After discussion, the motion passed.

Standing Rule on Mandatory Reading Requirements for Trustees: Kevin Marsh would like incoming trustees to be more informed, by having a short list of things that need to be read to get new trustees up to speed. He didn't get much response on email, so he would like to hold off to discuss next month.

Nominating Committee Update: Peter Block is amended take Michael Moran's place on nominating committee. The Nominating Committee members are Peter Block, Ashley Fritz, Cindy Oakenfull, Ben Pantoja, and Mike Schur. Motion to approve Nominating Committee passes.

Proposal for CTM's Response to CPS Decision on Use of Rawson Property: Malcolm Montgomery shared a motion to create task force to get CTM's appropriate committees involved with the future of the Rawson Property CPS recently purchased

The motion is as follows:

Whereas:

Clifton Town Meeting is "the residents' planning and policy organization for the community" recognized by the City as the neighborhood's representative,
and

CTM anticipates that the decision by Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) to reactivate the old Clifton School and develop the Rawson property next door will affect Clifton in profound ways that the community has the right and duty to influence,

Therefore, be it resolved:

CTM hereby creates a Task Force to lead CTM in determining the community's response. Its duties shall be to engage the Clifton citizens, CPS, City government, pertinent neighborhood councils, and other relevant entities.

The Task Force shall consist of the chairs of the Traffic, Education, and Housing and Zoning Committees, and its chair shall be a board member unaffiliated with those committees.

The chair is charged with engaging the board in discussion leading to proposing a formal mission statement to the board at the September board meeting.

Motion to table, will be postponed until next month.

Trustee Updates: Rama Kasturi will meet with the new Parks' contact in September. She has also found Clifton residents who have agreed to have their homes on the House Tour. Adam Balz cleaned the flower bed at Richies. He will try to at organize a 2 hour cleanup at Clifton Plaza. Eric Urbas and Jack Brand have contract with Tippy to turn the water on at Clifton Plaza. The Lantern Walk will be held on November 5. Kevin Marsh reported there are many transportation issues happening. He had a productive meeting in July on how to come up with ideas to get some of the money for projects here. You can hire a police officer, who could work on some of these issues for only \$40/hour. Kevin also found that you can get an abandoned

police officer to slow people down. It was asked how much the red bikes are used in Clifton? Kevin said not as much as downtown, but we are a hilly neighborhood.

Candidate Introductions:

David Brenner is running for School Board. He is a lifelong Cincinnati resident, and attended Walnut Hills. He has 4 kids who attend CPS schools. David is on the LSMDC at his children's school, and understands education issues. Employed in strategic planning, he wants long term planning with all stakeholders involved. He currently sees this as problem with CPS.

Ryan Messer, running for School Board, served 2 terms as OTR's neighborhood council president. He has 3 children and works for Johnson and Johnson. The number of children in poverty is a major issue, and he believes more engagement is needed in schools. He also believes CPS needs to understand their budget and invest wisely.

Greg Landsman is on Mt Washington community council and running for City Council. He is a former public school teacher, and big believer in getting big things done. Greg would like to get wages up to reduce child poverty, expand preschool, youth employment. He believes we need new leadership and problem solvers in city hall.

Community Q&A: A resident would like to see a list of potential uses for Rawson Property. It was voiced the art center (CCAC) being taken away needs to be addressed, and that CTM should have a discussion about the benefit of the Arts. It is hoped the CCAC can be relocated in a permanent, great location. Peter Block expressed we should look into having an Arts Committee. Greg Landsman question whether the CCAC will get reimbursed for the money invested. Carolyn Miller would like for CTM to stand up for CCAC.

Motion to adjourn 9:00pm.