



**CTM Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2017
Clifton Recreation Center**

Present: Adam Balz, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Adam Hawse, Eric Urbas, Seth Maney, Christine Celsor, Peter Block, Malcolm Montgomery, Rama Kasturi

Absent: Nicholas Hollan, Shaun McCance, Ashley Fritz, Joyce Rich, Cindy Oakenfull

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

Police Report

No report was presented.

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick 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

No report was presented.

Captain Ken 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 report was presented.

Recreation Center

Service Area Manager Tom Reese reported that the summer day camp program is full. They go to the pool at Camp Washington 2 days a week and take other field trips throughout the week. You can recognize staff members because they wear blue shirts while on field trips.

Pickleball continues and interest is growing. Other new programming flyers are available downstairs.

Bailey Trentman is the new Center Director for the Clifton Rec Center.

Online Rec Center Calendar is at

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

CBPA

Treasurer Jack Brand noted that the City is proposing to raise the parking meter rates. He advised that CBPA is happy at the current rate of \$0.50 / hr, but they would be supportive of an increase that is applied to all business districts the same way. Some business districts (CUF, Heights, Corryville, Clifton) are all proposed for a \$0.50 / hr increase whereas all other business districts are proposed for only a \$0.25 / hr increase.

Brand also noted that there are discussions occurring regarding elimination of parking restrictions on Ludlow Avenue to allow cars to park there at any time. This would remove the restriction of parking of 7-9am and 4-6pm. Brand stated that CBPA would like to remove these restrictions.

Brand advised that the CBPA did vote to sell the property to Gaslight Properties. CBPA is awaiting the completion of the due diligence period. CBPA will be engaged with the community input sessions for this project at dates to be determined in the future.

President Eric Urbas asked about the recent concerns about loudness of the music on Clifton Plaza. Brand advised the band on this most recent Saturday played for longer than the 10pm agreed upon end time. Trustee Montgomery advised that a resident who lives in a building on Ludlow Ave did complain that the sound level was too high on the most recent Saturday.

Trustee Adam Balz advised concern about the difficulty in being able to get the Plaza planting beds mulched and watering system maintained. Balz thought it would be difficult to take on noise monitoring and enforcement.

Trustee Kevin Marsh asked how this would be accomplished every Fri and Sat night for the rest of the Summer Music Series. Montgomery advised that he would provide a meter for free use along with instructions on how to use it.

CCAC

CCAC Executive Director. Leslie Mooney reported almost 500 people attended the kickoff Wednesday on the Green last week. Lots of great music coming ahead. 7:00pm-8:30pm every Wednesday. Rain location is inside.

2nd annual community art exhibit will be on August 18. This is not a juried exhibit. Anyone can show up with their one piece. CCAC will display it and offer it for sale if desired.

No update of significance on property search for a new location. They are exploring both permanent locations as well as transition space(s). They want to stay in Clifton, and certainly in the Uptown area. Mooney advised they must leave the building August 31, 2018. They intend to hold home based meetings with residents to provide input for the future.

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/>

Minutes of the May CTM meeting

Minutes were amended to change the first sentence of the Trustee Announcements section per whatever Eric noted.

Housing & Zoning Committee

Chairperson Christine Celsor reported she attended a community forum where UC DAAP students are working on locations for yellow school bus shelters. Planning Dept is doing this location work, then other Depts will work on design and construction.

Celsor described the upcoming development at the Business District parking lot and some adjacent properties on Howell / Ormond.

Gaslight Property could be developing the lot.

- Development would likely include parking lot and adjacent properties, including 4 buildings. A zoning change would be required.
- Development could include 100 apartments units with some office or service use. Exact scope has not been determined, yet.
- Public Parking would be retained in a garage.
- Schedule has not been determined, yet. Construction could begin as early as next Spring.

Several public meetings are being planned as part of a visioning process.

- Meetings will be a partnership between CTM, CBPA, City of Cincinnati Planning Dept, and the Gaslight Property development team.
- Clifton Community will be notified of public meetings by communications such as email, NextDoor Clifton, and CTM Facebook Page.
- First public meeting anticipated to be in early August.
- Public will have a chance to express opinions and preferences.
- Design ideas and comments can be emailed to contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org, Housingandzoning@cliftoncommunity.org, or christinecelsor@gmail.com

Trustee Peter Block advised July 9 is the end of the due diligence period. There is a guarantee of public parking spaces.

How high can the building be? Zoning code sets this limit to 50 ft on the frontage of the lot.

When are the sewers being redone? Will this impact this project? No one knew the answer.

Are the new apartments at The Whitfield being utilized? Urbas stated they are approximately 90% full.

Will the Clifton Plaza have some interaction with the new development? Celsor advised that this is an area that will be involved in the discussion.

Various Community Input Topics

Trustee Peter Block shared his opinion that we need to find ways to obtain more community input on various topics including, but not limited to, parking, development at the , education, the CPS purchase of the Rawson Farmhouse property

Block proposed that once a quarter we get together to have a discussion rather than a meeting

As a second topic, Block wants to change how community input is obtained at all CTM meetings rather than how it is done today. He also suggested we sit in circles rather than Board members at front and an audience sitting in rows of chairs facing the front.

Hawse and Celsor both advised support for making changes to get more community input.

Marsh shared Open House concept that was used successfully to get input in the past; it allowed people to come & go at different times and still provide input and feedback.

Montgomery shared Come Early concept to allow for input before the main meeting.

Balz shared some history regarding the changes to add timers to keep the business moving along. He also noted that he had previously proposed a quarterly “meet and greet” to have a less formal interaction process. Balz noted we do have sign-ups for any topic on the agenda as well as open topics at the end.

Kasturi shared that providing food and drink would draw more to the meeting.

Maney liked the efficiency as compared to his experiences on other community councils. He likes quarterly get togethers, but is not sure we need to make significant restructuring of the monthly Board meeting.

Residents’ feedback:

1. Having more organized meetings keeps everyone from saying the same things over and over.
2. What’s going on with the US Post Office relocation topic that is included in this topic? Tom Reese advised there will be a meeting June 19 or 20 with the USPS from 6-7pm with the USPS and the community. The request is to relocate, not close, the Clifton post office. More details to follow soon via email, NextDoor, website, etc.
3. Reese advised meeting early is not easily accomplished because the room must be cleaned after kids are done with afterschool or after camp days.

Block closed with noting that the current process encourages speech making rather than input.

Business District Committee

Trustee Seth Maney advised he participated in the NBDIP tours that included one major (cross walk lighting with LED lights) and one minor project (Plaza lighting) application for Clifton.

Urbas advised no Trustee vote happened on the NBDIP application process as he was provided no time to sign the letters of support. Urbas moved for CTM to support the two letters written by CTM in April acknowledging and support the two projects Maney had described. The motion passed.

NSP Funding

Urbas advised that the NSP funding is being proposed for reduction from \$7700 per community council to \$5500 per council in the new City Budget proposal. Urbas sent an email to City Council, City Manager, and Mayor advised that CTM had previously supported to increase community council. Urbas moved to approve a letter for delivery to Council, Manager, and Mayor requesting no reductions be made.

Daniel Ames advised that the cuts likely have to be made to support no tax increases.

Board agreed to table the matter for an email vote between tonight and Wednesday.

Leslie Mooney asked if there had ever been discussion about funding based on population rather than an equal amount for all. No one had an answer.

Parking Meter Rate Increases

Trustee Kevin Marsh provided some background regarding the City's budget proposal to raise parking meter rates up \$0.50 / hr to \$1.00 / hr – a 200% increase. Other neighborhood business districts (such as Oakley & Hyde Park) are proposed for only a \$0.25 / hr increase. Marsh indicated he brought two motions for consideration by the Board:

- 1) Opposing any increase until further community and business association input could be provided.
- 2) Supporting only a \$0.25 / hr increase as recommended by the City's parking contractor, Conduent.

Trustee Balz moved to vote on the resolution with \$0.25 / hr increase.

After some brief discussion, the Motion passed for \$0.25 / hr increase.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Shaun McCance emailed a report to the Trustees due to his absence. Urbas presented the report.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$85,528.15 with no outstanding liabilities.

Monthly activity \$11,574.07 gross income including NSP Grant of \$7,700. Expenses \$6,086. Net income of \$5488.

Urbas presented a Memorial Day Event summary that showed the event made approx. \$70. Police presence costs were up slightly from prior year. Total expenses were \$1309.10. There may be a second bill coming from the police.

Urbas presented a VoiceScapes Event summary showing we spent \$1000 plus grant pass through dollars of \$750.

Montgomery asked about the food for Memorial Day. Urbas advised Clifton Market sold the food to CTM at cost and allowed for return of any unused / unopened.

Motion to accept the Treasurers report passed.

Memorial Day Parade & Grill Out Event Recap

Urbas advised that we had one of the largest turnouts at this event. Urbas thanked everyone for the volunteering and participation. We sold 180 hamburgers / veggie burgers and 120 hot dogs. Some people bring their own food.

Trustee Updates / Announcements

Balz weeded the planting bed at Ritchies including removal of some poison ivy. Beautification Committee will mulch this bed soon.

Kasturi and Lisa Haglund led a TriHealth sponsored walk through Burnet Woods recently.

Marsh shared that he was involved in a cleanup and mulching Burnet Woods thanks to Mike Amann's coordination via Crossroads Church GoLocal event. Cincinnati Parks Dept brought the tools and the mulch and about 30 volunteers contributed the hard work to spread it around the picnic areas, playgrounds, and bottom of stairwell slide.

Marsh advised that the City's Cleanup Blitz is coming the last week of July for Clifton. This means large dumpster at Clifton Rec Center, greenspace work, litter collection, and roving trash truck to take care of any dumped items. Now is the time to report areas that need attention by using the FixIt Cincy app or calling the City. Marsh will ensure this gets communicated during June and July via email, etc.

Montgomery advised activity on putting up the lights in the Clifton Plaza is continuing. The open topic is finding a professional installer to remove concerns of liability.

Montgomery has been working on improving the Bylaws with outside support from a probono attorney that CTM applied for last year. Montgomery will provide an update and request for feedback to all Trustees soon.

Urbas advised the City Manager's and the Mayor's Capital Budget requests including money for studying feasibility to make improvements to Juergens Ave in conjunction with MSD. He is hopeful City Council will approve this in the budget. The other two community requests: lighted crosswalks and common area water fountains & benches were not recommended for approval in the next capital budget.

Balz shared that House Tour planning is moving along well. Kasturi has prepared a list of proposed houses.

Urbas shared that he was presented a Champion of Clifton award by Uptown Consortium in May. He advised he got the award because of everyone else in the room and thanked them for their support and collaboration.

Kasturi asked Kip Eagen to provide some updates on various projects. Eagen advised that the mural on side of China Kitchen is almost done. It shows what Ludlow Ave looked like in the 1930's. CTM has paid for a plaque dedicating the mural. There will be a second plaque added to describe what life was like in the business district in the 1930's. Kasturi shared that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful provided grant money to Clifton Market for the surface prep / base paint coating for the mural.

Eagen advised The "Quiet on the Set" project is having success raising funds and Eagen advised he will come back to CTM in August to provide a more detailed update.

Eagen advised the Utility Box artwork will be cleaned and sealed again.

A resident requested community input on any approved NBDIP project. Trustee Maney advised that community input was a part of the application submitted for approval.

Public Q&A

City Council Candidate Pastor Lesley Jones spoke to the audience about her platform and asked for everyone's vote. She said she would be around for discussion.

Stephanie Gilbreath shared that she is circulating a petition to address redistricting such that they are redrawn fairly and to remove existing gerrymandering.

State Representative Brigid Kelly commended the group for running a well-organized meeting. Kelly shared that gerrymandered districts in Ohio is real. She advised that none of her amendments to the Ohio state budget were considered – all were tabled immediately. She voted no on the budget from the Ohio House, but it passed. It is currently being considered by the Ohio Senate. She said she would be around for discussion.

Leslie Mooney asked what are the next steps regarding the Education Committee. Urbas stated that this would be a topic for the August meeting.

Resident asked about the work being done at the Rawson Farmhouse property that CPS owns. Kasturi stated they had poured a new concrete driveway around the front of the home that looked very good. Marsh stated that they have recently removed several dead trees.

Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, August 7, 2017, at the Clifton Recreation Center.
There is no meeting in July 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Marsh, CTM Trustee.