



**CTM Minutes - Group: CTM Board Meeting**

By Jan Brown Checco, Secretary

**Date: February 3, 2020 7:00 pm**

Location: Clifton Recreation Center

**Present:** Peter Block, Pat Borders, Jan Brown Checco, Joe Brunner, Gerald Checco, Brian Duffy, Robert Hamberg, Mark Jeffreys, Malcolm Montgomery, Ioanna Paraskevopoulos

**Absent:** Jennifer Krivickas, Vince Metzger, Buddy Goose, Catherine Hamilton Hicks, Rama Kasturi

A quorum (10) is present, meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Brunner, with statement of our mission.

- I. **January Meeting Minutes** – Malcolm Montgomery has changes to the minutes for the board to consider so we'll defer approval until next meeting.
- II. **Police Report** by Officer Hageman – Warm weather vigilance recommended, doorbells with cameras seem to be efficient security devices (Ring, Nest). Crime is still low in the Clifton area. Stats are running slightly lower than this time last year. The full STARS and other reports can be found at <http://cincinnati-ohio.gov/police/crime-analysis>.
- III. **Fire Report** – by Lt. Owens, who is new to Station 34, and reports that a new Captain has been appointed (*name?*) Lt. Owens gave a rundown on many alternative methods of heating, advised annual checking of systems by professional service. Signing up for Smart 911 is recommended, citizens can do so online. Caroline Miller asked how residents can know how efficient our hydrants are. Work is in progress for measuring pressure and flow, and work is in progress to devise a plan for managing this information. Pama Mitchell asked if fire detector installation will be done by Fire staff, and yes, that can be scheduled. Make fire prevention calls to 357-7584.
- IV. **Community Discussion Regarding Police Data/Information Requests** – Robert Hamberg asks Officer Hageman how we can better communicate what we'd like to know from Police. Officer Hageman invites us to send questions to him by email. Cynthia Duval would like to know what is happening in Parks, others might like to hear what is happening in their section of the community. He can respond to specific questions about precise locations. 569-8527 goes directly to his desk.
- V. **Ludlow Avenue Accessibility Discussion/Carol Talbot Presenter**, with support from Treasurer Checco's survey of thresholds on Ludlow – Carol Talbot spoke of the importance of being able to get into favorite places. She would like to encourage Clifton Merchants to have portable ramps available

for customers, and suggests that there are many kinds that are compact and affordable. An informal review of Ludlow Avenue business entrances shows about 1/3 have at least a one-step threshold (18 businesses). \$250 is an estimated cost of a portable folding ramp. Treasurer Checco suggests that next month we continue the discussion, and that he will work with Patrick Borders and Clifton Business Association to interview each business owner to know if they already have a ramp, and if so, encourage them to make it known by posted signage at their door. Carol Talbot suggests that this can be a marketing point for people living outside of "Accessible Clifton." Location of restrooms on first floor is also important. Q: Are some of the businesses not in compliance with ADA "reasonable accommodations?" Pama Mitchell is suggesting that we also don't have many handicapped accessible parking spaces. Lisa Hamerick suggests a listing and a CTM "Award of Accessibility" to businesses that are compliant. Treasurer Checco moves that he study the issue and comes back with a report, possibly including a rating system. Seconded by Secretary Checco. Passes unanimously (U)

- VI. **Safe and Clean Neighborhood Grant Discussion and Vote** – Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is offering \$50K in allotments of \$10K grants. We have two projects proposed, and are allowed to submit both. **Project 1:** Chair Sean Mullaney presented the Arts and Culture Committee's proposal for an art-enhanced alleyway between exterior walls of the Hookah Café and D Raphael, including lighting and mural painting on the ground surface and walls. Samples were shown of strung lights and neon. Robert Hamberg asks if there is any prohibition on neon signage. Mullaney says this would not be a sign, but art design. Malcolm Montgomery wants to know if the lights would be on during the day, is this basically a wintertime display? Mullaney suggests that LED lights can be seen at twilight and night year round, and can be programmed, and will not be flashing. Building owners Dave Taylor and Sam Bagdaddy (*sp? who represents his building's owner*) are in discussion to complete this proposal. A budget is being developed. **Project 2:** Stephanie Gilbreath's Benches Renewal and Replacement along Ludlow Avenue will require a match from the community in both money and volunteer hours. Motion made by Sean Mullaney to allow A&C to apply, Malcolm Montgomery seconds (U). Benches Project by Stephanie Gilbreath - President Brunner moves to approve this application, Robert Hamberg seconds (U). **Another New Funding Source: Invest in Neighborhood Summit Grant** applications are due Feb 21. Treasurer Checco moves that the **Invest in Neighborhoods Summit Grant** application be prepared for purchase of accessibility ramps. Robert Hamberg seconds. (U) Brian Duffy suggests that we should ask businesses to pay for their own ramps, and that the Benches could benefit from more funding by applying for this Invest in Neighborhoods Summit Grant. Patrick Borders suggests that the deadline of Feb 21 is coming fast, we should proceed with the accessibility ramps application to be prepared by Treasurer Checco. It would be helpful for the Strategic Planning

Committee to gather many options for community improvement projects so that we have a list ready to consider as funding opportunities arise.

- VII. **Next Generation Library Update Discussion** – Lisa Hamrick submitted the 2019 Year in Review Report, and suggests a visit to the Hamilton Co. Library website to see the entire plan for the Next Generation Library at <https://www.cincinnati.library.org/NextGenerationLibrary/> There are 5 Planning Zones, the Clifton Branch is in the Central Zone. Four levels of improvements are projected over the next decade (see Powerpoint slide show is attached to these minutes). Community input sessions will serve to expand on the current wishlist: Historical programming is happening monthly (see flyer presented); movies planned that will be cooperative/cross promoted with Esquire; quiet seating; celebration of diversity within Clifton; ESL practice group; International Children’s Day June 14 (event committee includes Rama Kasturi, Bob Herring, Tom Reese, Jim Goetz); New lights in solarium; eating and drinking is allowed (already allowed provided that spill-proof cups are used and no mess is left behind); space delineated for kids and teens. Peter Block asked about status of installation for the offered Shakespeare bench. The downtown library board has not yet decided, but Sean Mullaney said the sculpture has already been purchased and is currently stored in Clifton.
- VIII. **Treasurer’s Report and Budget Discussion and Vote** – Treasurer Checco describes the discrepancies from last month’s budget presentation, and the problematic vote that approved it. Changes to the new budget include: Arts & Culture now has a line item, and previously did not have one. Treasurer Checco has established line items for all incoming and outgoing funds. His studies revealed a \$17 K difference between expected revenue and expected expense, not the \$2K gap previously assumed. Also, the 2019 budget included \$7000 held in reserve that was not entirely used. The budget has traditionally been approved with a \$7000 difference between revenues and expenditures, but this year’s budget has a gap of \$17,000. Treasurer Checco mentioned the line item of \$10K earmarked for potential Parklet design and build, action for which must be preceded by a community survey and report to CTM board. Mark Jeffreys suggests removal of some projects from the budget. Robert Hamberg asks if there is something in Bylaws that requires us to balance our budget. Malcolm Montgomery reminds us that occasionally there is a need for matching money for projects, requiring us to spend cash from our reserves. He suggests making cuts from across all line items in the 2020 budget. Mark Jeffreys suggests we amend the budget later this year to balance it. Brian Duffy doesn’t see the benefit of removing any line items, suggests we vote on the motion to pass the budget. Treasurer Checco moves that we approve this corrected budget, Malcolm Montgomery seconds. Vote (U). Treasurer Checco announces that the Chronicle Advertisers Plan shows \$16K has been received which exceeds the target, thanks to Rama Kasturi’s

initiatives in visiting business owners and asking for them to advertise. He suggests that all of us follow Rama's example.

- IX. **Parks Committee Update** by Mark Jeffreys. Burnet Woods: He met with Steve Schuckman and Kara Kish re: the Burnet Woods Master Plan which is 10 years old. The road connecting the lake to the bandstand is going to be closed as a test to see how vehicular traffic will react. Caroline Miller wonders if a specific study has been done on past/current traffic on this segment of road. There will be an opportunity for citizens' input. Frisbee golf will be expanded to 18 holes near UC. Dunore Park: A dog park has been suggested, \$150K is the projected cost to build it. Dana Dubay has been working on this. A formal community engagement meeting is suggested by CTM Parks committee, and the community requests that it be well advertised. Gerald suggests that a park the size of Dunore is incompatible with a dog park and that operation in proximity to residential properties is problematic. Mark Jeffreys assures Parks are committed to informing President Brunner when issues come up that affect Clifton. Peter Block asked for an update on the Camping Education Foundation building project. Cynthia Duval said that Burnet Woods Advisory Committee meets tomorrow and all are welcome to attend.
- X. **Golf Outing Beneficiary Vote** – Vince Metzger suggested last year that the next beneficiary be CANS PTO. Peter Block moves to table this, Malcolm Montgomery seconds. Passes (6) Abstentions (4). President Brunner suggests that selection of a beneficiary can wait until next month, but then must be made because fundraising has to begin. Brian Duffy asks for a discussion of how the money is managed from this project. Kevin Marsh explains past practices: Net proceeds up to \$8K have a 5/8 split, with 3/8 going to CTM operation, 5/8 goes to the beneficiary. Money beyond \$8K also goes to the beneficiary. President Brunner suggests that we spend 20 minutes at the March meeting to resolve all questions.
- XI. **Off Ludlow Gallery Office Hours Discussion** – The A&C Committee offer is for a Thursday or Sunday presence of CTM board members for 2 hours in the gallery. Peter Block suggests that we might ask for CTM Board presence during the already established Friday or Saturday 4-8 pm hours. Robert Hamberg suggests that we might ask other businesses if they would like to host us. CBA will discuss this local government "community conversation opportunity" at their February meeting.
- XII. **Google Drive and Document Management Discussion and Vote** will take place next month.
- XIII. **Discussion and Vote on Motion Regarding Use of Park Property for Private Business** – Malcolm Montgomery wants CTM to make a recommendation about use of Parks property by private entities. Text: "Use of Public Parkland for Private Purposes – The Parks Committee is directed to consider whether it is appropriate for City public parkland to be converted to private use, and to recommend a position for CTM to adopt." Brian Duffy wants to know if

this stands for every situation that comes up. Malcolm Montgomery says yes. Brian Duffy says there are too many variables. Treasurer Checco agrees and suggests that Parks adopted the Bishop Triangle when it was only “left over right-of-way” property, agreeing to take care of it. Peter Block is uncomfortable with directing a committee to do anything. Malcolm Montgomery wants for us to have a discussion about this question, and he feels that the Bishop Triangle decision was made by the City without benefit of CTM’s consideration. Malcolm Montgomery withdraws his motion.

- XIV. **Community Questions/Concerns** – Caroline Miller presents information about Hamilton County’s Issue Seven. An issues-only ballot can be requested for people who don’t want to vote on other ballot items.
- XV. **Trustee Announcements including updates from Liaisons** – Malcolm Montgomery suggests a Resolution of Appreciation to businesses that help CTM to convene the community. Specifically this alludes to the Esquire Theatre’s hosting of Clifton Plaza Design Presentations. Malcolm Montgomery has drawn up a letter, President Brunner will sign and deliver. Peter Block moves, Mark Jeffreys seconds (U)
- XVI. Motion to adjourn by Pres. Brunner, Seconded by everyone (U)

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Brown Checco, Secretary

Attachments:

Agenda for 2-3-2020  
CTM NGL powerpoint by Lisa Hamrick, and Library 2019 Report  
Master Plan Burnet Woods graphic plan  
CTM Budget for 2020  
Chronicle Schedule 2020  
CTM Golf Outing Beneficiary Guidelines  
Accessible Clifton Grant Application (Neighborhood Summit Mini Grants)  
CBA Liaison Notes from 1/26/20