



**CTM Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2015
Clifton Cultural Arts Center**

Present: Adam Balz, Joyce Rich, Morgan Rich, Kevin Marsh, Tony Sizemore, Pat Knapp, Ben Pantoja, Eric Urbas, Rama Kasturi, Mike Schur, Adam Hyland, Shaun McCance

Absent: Michael Moran, Ashley Fritz, Nicholas Hollan

A quorum is present. President Sizemore called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Police Report

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick Hageman shared the most recent STARS report. No change in violent crimes from prior year – basically non-existent. Burglaries and thefts are down. Theft from auto is still an issue. Officer Hageman displayed a sign related to prevention of auto theft. District 5 is seeing favorable results from using these signs.

Jack Brand of Clifton asked about theft of catalytic converters – he had been advised that 8 were taken around UC/Clifton area. Officer Hageman indicated that this type of theft is always a risk, but it is not something trending upward.

Officer 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

Captain James Kettler from Engine 34 reported that his company had 1 major run - a structure fire on Lyleburn. Contractors struck wires. Lots of EMS runs – heroin overdoses are still an issue in the southwest Ohio region. Engine 34 carries Narcan – an important antidote for heroin overdoses.

Cpt Kettler is looking for some help on painting the logo on an inside wall of the firehouse. Several suggested ideas including UC DAAP students.

Captain Kettler can be reached at 513.352.2334; email is james.kettler@cincinnati-oh.gov; or visit the fire station on Ludlow Avenue.

Library Report

No library report was provided.

Recreation Center

Service Area Manager Tom Reese reported Summer Camp registrations are open now. They expect to fill up during April. Karate has restarted on Mon & Wed nights. After school program on track has started. Adult Volleyball has been added. Pickleball is become a more

popular program. Fencing is on Monday & Thursday. Teen basketball has been added on Thursday.

CCAC

CCAC Board member Fran Larkin reported on upcoming April events. Second Sunday Family Showtime on April 12 – Madcap puppets. Crafty Supermarket on April 25. Highly Improbable improve comedy on April 25. Probasco Fountain dedication ceremony on April 12 including reception at CCAC afterwards. Always check the CCAC website www.cliftonculturalarts.org for upcoming events.

CBPA

President Jack Brand reported Farmers Market starts again on Monday in April. Music starts in May on Friday & Saturday evenings. Other programming on the Clifton Plaza is being discussed. CBPA is in discussion with developers regarding the parking lot property. The discussions are in the early stages at this time. CBPA is hiring some additional off duty police patrols – schedule and cost are being reviewed. CPBA is providing free parking on the Clifton House Tour date of May 10 in exchange for an ad in the tour guide book.

Minutes of the March CTM meeting were approved as written.

Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) Recruiting

Fire Department representative Willie Jones reported on recruiting. Signups thru April 30. Test on May 16. Only requirement is 18-41 years old, driver's license, and high school diploma. CFD has 860 fire fighters – mostly men. Looking to recruit more women. Training lasts 26 weeks. Within the next 2 years, approx 130 fire fighters are eligible to retire. CFD is undermanned currently.

Explorers program is a fire fighter awareness program for school age children. Once the child reaches 14, they can become a Cadet.

Go to website <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/recruiting/> to apply for a position as a fire recruit.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GWCC) Water Main Replacements

Dawn Jackson, GCWW Community Liaison introduced representatives from the Engineering Department to speak about the projects underway and planned for Clifton. Leslie Moening & Jon Hunseder presented.

Project 1 – Ludlow Avenue – Jefferson to Lafayette. Water main replacement. Main is nearly done. Tying in service connections now. Expect to complete project by end of May. Road will be resurfaced afterwards. Only 1 or 2 complaints related to road plates, and they were addressed immediately.

Project 2 – Clifton / Joselyn. Water main replacement. Tying in service connections now. Expect to complete by end of May.

Project 3 – Clifton Avenue from Joselyn to Swiss Chalet. Water main replacement and service connections. Starting in June for duration of 6 months.

Project 4 – Terrace, Evening Star, Morrison. Water main replacement and service connections. Project expected to start June/July. Duration of 5 months.

Project 5 – Clifton Avenue from Dixmyth to Woolper. Major water main replacement. This is a 30 inch diameter pipeline. Will be bid in mid-May. Start date intended for beginning of August. 8 month duration.

All directly impacted residents/property owners are informed in advance of the construction activity. Residents with lead piping are notified of the risks associated with this type of piping. GCWW replace all lead piping in the right of way. Property owners are responsible to replace lead piping service lines to their home/business if they want. Property owners can get lead filters free of charge from GCWW if they are on an impacted property.

The staging area for the piping is the streets around Dunore Park. This will likely continue to be the staging area for the all the projected noted.

To register a complaint related to construction including road plates – the best way is to call GCWW Customer Service at 513-591-7700. You can also contact the Construction Project Manager – Leslie Moening at 513-591-7773 or leslie.moening@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov.

GCWW targets to replace 1% or about 31 miles of water main each year.

Northside Farmer's Market (NFM)

Emily Diefendorf of NFM made a presentation. Market is open every Wed, year round, 4-7pm. Currently inside at North Presbyterian Church at 4222 Hamilton Avenue (next to CAIN). Hoffner Park at Hamilton and Blue Rock is the outdoor location, and it will be open on May 13. 25+ vendors year round. Vendors produce within 70 miles. Veggies, fruits, meat, eggs, bread, grains, honey, plant starts, and more. NFM participates in SNAP (digital food stamps). They also take cash, debit, credit, EBT cards, and WIC.

See the online shopping list that is updated every month at www.northsidefm.org
You can also signup for the weekly email newsletter at the website.

Programs: Music, Free kids' activities, Youth cooking classes, Adult workshops (smoothies, lotion making, etc.), Food demos with nutritionist, Produce Perks program.

Produce Perks program – if you use SNAP program dollars to purchase, they will get an equal amount of dollars to spend towards produce at NFM.

This summer a loyalty card program will launch.

Business Committee

Chairperson Morgan Rich introduced Len Thomas, a member of the Ludlow 21 Working Group (L21WG). Len is a resident of Clifton. He gave some brief history of how the Ludlow 21 Working Group came about – a result of the Ludlow 21 report commissioned by CTM, CBPA, Clifton 20/20, and Uptown Consortium. The report is available online at [http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Clifton Ludlow Final Report 10-14-14.pdf](http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Clifton_Ludlow_Final_Report_10-14-14.pdf)

L21WG meets about twice per month – once in a public meeting and once as a committee to continue working on topics. Len recapped some of the meeting topics. There have been 5 public meetings so far. See reports online at www.cliftoncommunity.org/news/ Len mentioned the survey highlights. Survey results can be found online at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/ludlow-21-survey-results/>

Next steps – evolving to the discussions that happen with the community.

Events Committee

Chairperson Nicholas Hollan was absent. Sizemore reported on the Clifton House Tour – tickets on sale now online at www.cliftoncommunity.org. Hard ticket sales begin this week at 4 businesses on Ludlow Avenue – Ace Hardware, Ludlow Wines, Hansa Guild, and Skyline Chili. Posters will start being hung this week and next. Save the Date cards are available now. House write-ups are being worked on.

CCAC Resolution for Capital Funds

CCAC Board Member Mark McKillip made a brief presentation regarding CCAC’s seeking \$400,000 capital funds from the City for continued roof repairs and completion of Phase 2 renovations. Roof repairs will not be completed with this amount of funding. CCAC seeks City funds for exterior work and other infrastructure improvements.

Sizemore moved that CTM approve the following resolution to be sent to City Council, the Mayor, and the City Manager:

----- Start of resolution -----

Whereas the Clifton Cultural Arts Center seeks to continue its phased renovation of the historic 1906 Clifton School building to further support its growth as the cultural arts center serving people of all ages and backgrounds in Clifton, Cincinnati’s Uptown neighborhoods and surrounding communities.

Whereas the Clifton Cultural Arts Center emerged from an extensive community engagement process in 2004 involving residents of the Clifton community and families and teachers in planning for the new Fairview-Clifton German Language School, and since the Clifton Cultural Arts Center’s opening in 2008 it continues to partner with local schools to provide extended learning opportunities for the children of Fairview-Clifton German Language School, as well as children in the Uptown neighborhoods;

Whereas the Clifton community has shown strong support for the Clifton Cultural Arts Center through volunteer and committee work, in-kind donations, and financial support since its opening in 2008;

Be it resolved that Clifton Town Meeting supports the request by the Clifton Cultural Arts Center to the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager for \$400,000 to further complete the Clifton School Renovation Phase 2, which will greatly enhance utilization of assembly and classrooms of the facility and continue growth of operating revenues that sustains the Clifton Cultural Arts Center as a proven quality of life amenity for Clifton and the Uptown communities.

----- End of resolution -----

Trustee Urbas asked for timing of the process. Mark advised City changed schedule and compressed the timing. Capital funding is being worked on now by the City.

Motion passed.

Housing & Zoning Committee

Variance 3423 Cornell

Chairperson Adam Hyland advised we needed to review a variance request for the property at 3423 Cornell Place. The variance is for a 4 foot setback for an attached garage. Zoning requires 7 feet for attached garage and 3 feet for un-attached garages. The property owner would prefer an attached garage. Hyland reported there are 4 abutters and none of them oppose the variance. A Committee report on the matter was shared with all Trustees.

Hyland moved CTM send a letter of no opposition as written. The motion passed. Committee report will be filed on the CTM Google Drive.

Ruther Avenue included in Clifton

Hyland reported that he obtained a petition from residents of Ruther Avenue to have both sides of the street be included in Clifton. The Committee will follow up on this matter.

Variance Review Process

Hyland will present a variance review process at the May meeting. This is the process that CTM began discussing & reviewing in 4th quarter 2014.

Website / Social Media Committee

Chairperson Eric Urbas deferred to Trustee Marsh to provide an update. Marsh reported that the transition to the new email system happened on March 25. 864 emails were brought over from the listserv. Of those 864, about 48 were identified as dead email addresses. Initial announcement of the change was opened by 348 email addresses - about 43%. We had 4 people that did not get the new email, and Marsh helped them resolve their issue. Several email campaigns sent since then. 33-41% open the email sent. We published the new sign up forms on the Clifton Community website, Facebook, NextDoor, Twitter. 21 new subscribers since launch. 10 have unsubscribed due to moving out of the area, no longer interested, or unspecified reason. Impossible to know comparable statistics to the old listserv system. It was not capable of generating any stats.

New system has ways to see who is not looking at our email campaigns so that we can do a special focus email to them if we want. Since about 60% of our subscribers appear to not be reading our emails, we should consider this.

We will continue to publicize the subscriber form monthly for awhile.

Transportation Committee

Chairperson Mike Schur recapped last month's meeting discussion & presentation on speed limit changes on Vine Street, McAlpin Avenue, and Ruther Avenue. Last month, Trustees desired to hear more from the community. Emails were sent in mid-March to CTM members. 30% response rate on the email. All responses favored reducing the speed limits. In addition, residents of McAlpin Avenue circulated a petition and obtained 50 signatures from residents on McAlpin. This was reported by residents to represent approximately 50% of the households on the street.

Trustee McCance shared a petition from residents of Ruther Avenue supporting reduced speed limits.

Schur believes that the community has voiced a clear support for the changes.

Trustee Marsh moved that CTM send a letter which had been drafted by the Committee before the end of April 2015 with additions that it be sent to all City Council, City Manager, Mayor, and further include the petitions and other backup information as suggested by Trustee Pantoja.

Resident Mary Schubauer-Berigan requested that CTM consider clearer and stronger language expanding the 25 mph zone on the curve of Vine Street.

Pantoja moved to amend line 9 of the letter to remove "remaining or" and adding "with improved signage" at the end of the sentence. Motion to amend passed.

Amended motion passed and final letter language is below.

----- Begin approved letter -----

To: Michael Moore

CC: Jon Harmon, ozie3@a-cdc.org, Erin Murphy, All City Council Members, the Mayor, the City Manager

CTM supports the recommendations proposed in the January 2, 2015 email from Jon Harmon regarding the section of Vine Street between Erkenbrecker and Mitchell in that it be reconsidered for a maximum speed of 30 MPH, not 35 MPH with the 25 MPH curve near Glenmary & Bishop slightly expanding in either direction with improved signage.

Also, in order to improve the safety and to maintain the walkable character of Clifton, we recommend McAlpin Ave and Ruther Ave be prioritized for consideration of lower posted speed limits. McAlpin Ave and Ruther Ave are outliers in Clifton. The other streets in Clifton with 35 MPH speed limits are wide, 4-lane roads with adequate sidewalks and parking lanes. McAlpin and Ruther are narrow, hilly and/or winding, residential, and pedestrian-heavy. There is positive resident support for these changes.

CTM requests that the McAlpin Ave. between Lafayette Ave. and Middleton Ave. be reconsidered for a maximum speed of 30 MPH, not 35 MPH. Request that the McAlpin Ave. between Middleton Ave. and Clifton Ave. be reconsidered for a maximum speed of 25 MPH (outside of the time period when "School Zone" speed limits are in effect).

CTM requests that the Ruther Ave. between Jefferson Ave. and Glenmary Ave/Vine St. be reconsidered for a maximum speed of 30 MPH, not 35 MPH.

Respectfully,
Anthony Sizemore
President, Clifton Town Meeting
----- End approved letter -----

Resident Kip Eagen suggested some follow-up steps be organized such as meeting with City Council members and the City administration

Cross walk at new Library location

Transportation Committee has started discussions on pursuing a cross walk across Ludlow Avenue at the new Public Library location.

LLC Committee

Chairperson Tony Sizemore reported that the Clifton Plaza LLC met to review ideas for summer programming at the plaza starting in May. Some of these have been funded, and additional funding is needed for all the ideas. All will be publicized at www.cliftoncommunity.org/calendar/

Probasco Fountain Committee

Committee member J.Rich reported on plans for the April 12 dedication ceremony. There will be an actor performing as Henry Probasco. There will be speakers, festivities, and a reception following the ceremony at CCAC.

NSP Funding Increase

Sizemore reported that Vice Mayor Mann is seeking all community council's support for an increase in NSP funding from \$4,800 to \$10,000 per year.

Sizemore moved that CTM write a letter in support of this increase. Urbas will draft the letter to be sent by Sizemore by end of April 2015.

Motion passed.

Treasurers Report

President Sizemore reported on February results in the Treasurer's absence. Income \$6,691.19. Expenses \$1,284.00. Net income of \$5,407.19.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$75,311.55 with one outstanding liabilities of \$1,10.47 for Plaza LLC expenses that are still being discussed within the Plaza LLC. Equity of \$73,901.08.

The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Trustee Updates / Announcements

- Editorial deadline is April 24 for articles. Send them in to vblack1@cinci.rr.com.
- Pantoja met with Good Sam hospital regarding resident noise complaints. Follow-up noise testing will be done.
- Beautification Committee prepared the planting bed at Ritchie's restaurant.
- Gift for outgoing Engine Co 34 Fire Captain was a framed photo of the "Lady" in the fountain at Digg's Plaza in Clifton. See March minutes for approval vote on this item.
- Kasturi reported that the ad hoc Trash Can Committee is working. More news next month.

Public Q&A

Michelle Murphy from Rue de la Paix asked if the fence put up at the bus stop was conforming to zoning code. Hyland advised it is. Murphy has asked SORTA to install a bus rider waiting area / bench / shelter.

Adjournment/next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2015, at the Clifton Recreation Center.