

CTM Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2016
Clifton Recreation Center

Present: Adam Balz, Kevin Marsh, Michael Moran, Ben Pantoja, Eric Urbas, Adam Hyland, Nicholas Hollan, Shaun McCance, Ashley Fritz, Peter Block, Malcolm Montgomery, Cindy Oakenfull, Rama Kasturi

Absent: Erin Hinson, Joyce Rich

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

President Urbas described the new speaker's and community input process for the meetings.

Police Report

University of Cincinnati Director of Public Safety, James Whalen introduced himself. He recognized that there are many students residing in Clifton. He asked that he be contacted if there are any concerns that he can address. james.whalen@uc.edu is his email address, and we will put this on the Public Safety page on the Clifton Community website.

Neighborhood Liaison Officer Nick Hageman shared STARS report. Violent crimes down 33% year over year and to the point of almost non-existent. Property crime down 42% year over year including theft from auto down 82% year over year.

This past weekend there were some events of rape in the Clifton community. The victims knew the offender in both cases. The suspects are in custody now. Officer Hageman urged people to use caution when being out and about as the weather warms. Keep your windows and doors locked. Heroin continues to be issue in the region.

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 Ken Caldwell from Engine 34 reported that his company had runs, but no major structure fires in the Clifton area during the past month.

Captain 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

Clifton Branch Manager, Jill Beitz, thanked everyone for their support during the transition. She reported that new lights have been ordered for the 1st floor to improve lighting during the evening. Library is seeking teen volunteers to help with programs this summer. Mario

cart tournament is this weekend. April 30 is an outdoor event to celebrate Boss Cox's birthday. Jill can be reached at Jill.Beitz@cincinnatilibrary.org

Recreation Center

Service Area Manager Tom Reese reported hiring is now happening for summer staff. 14 years old is a junior staffer. \$8.10 / hr. 15-18 can also apply for 11am-1pm is now a pickleball time slot – and the popularity of this program continues to grow.

Online Rec Center Calendar is at

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

CCAC

CCAC Executive Director Leslie Mooney reported on various facts about the current discussions between Cincinnati Public Schools District (CPS) and CCAC for the potential of CPS using some of the building for classes. Mooney reminded of some of the history of how the CCAC became a part of the community. CCAC has made \$2.5 million of capital improvements in the building. She referred everyone to review the Frequently Asked Questions section online. CCAC is continuing to work with Fairview Clifton German Language School on options for

Online CCAC calendar of events is at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/events/coming-events/>

In addition, their schedule of classes is at <http://www.cliftonculturalarts.org/classes/all-classes/>

CBPA

No report was provided.

Minutes of the February CTM meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Michael Moran reported on February results. \$3,880.19 income. Expenses \$2,470.17. Net income of \$1,410.02.

CTM has total assets/reserves of \$72,990.65 with no outstanding liabilities.

Urbas moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Marsh noted that Pat Matson resent outstanding invoices from the 2015 House Tour advertising. They total about \$2770, and Pat will follow-up as requested to collect these missing funds. Motion passed.

Executive Committee

President Urbas reported on the resolution against advertising at transit stops. This was voted on by email due to timing.

Whereas,

Advertising at transit stops degrades the visual environment and character of neighborhoods throughout the City, and

Degradation of the visual environment and character of neighborhoods diminishes the quality of life, and

Diminishment of quality of life reduces desirability of working and living in the City, and

Property values are thereby lessened, causing harm to property owners, and

Property tax revenues are therefore reduced, harming all who work or reside in the City, and

Diminishment of quality of life is not consistent with Plan Cincinnati, and reduction of property values is not consistent with Plan Cincinnati, and

With regard to any purported lost revenue due to banning transit stop advertising:

Alternative opportunities have come into existence for transit agencies to generate advertising revenue, such as their websites, social media, etc.,

No justification exists for allowing transit agencies, any more than any other kind of business, to degrade the environment through street advertising, and

A financial hardship on the part of a transit agency should not equate to a change in law that will impact the character of our neighborhoods and harm all who own property, or who work or live in the City

Therefore,

Clifton Town Meeting urges every member of the Planning Commission and every Council Member to reject the current proposal and any other which would allow transit agencies to use shelters, kiosks, benches, or any other items positioned on public property for the posting of advertisements or promotions, other than fare schedules and prices.

The above resolution was approved by email and sent on February 19, 2016 to City Council, the Mayor, and the Planning Commission.

Urbas reported that Kip Eagen's Cincy Challenge Grant application was selected as a semi-finalist amongst 15 other applications. The City will announce the 5 finalists at this Saturday's Neighborhood Summit event.

Education Committee

Chairperson Nicholas Hollan advised background on the committee's forming last year. The Committee has been in discussions with CCAC and Fairview LSDMC in an effort to collaborate on possible ideas to use some of CCAC's space for classes. At this time, there are no ideas solid enough to present to the Board for discussion and/or vote.

Membership Committee

Chairperson Kevin Marsh reported on 2015 full year. Six new lifetime members. Donations above membership dues continued to come in for the 2nd year of this new process. 2015 was about \$432. Total membership dues intake was \$3,818. Many members did not renew despite getting automatic emails from the online renewal process, direct emails from the

Committee, and social media posts. Many members began to respond to their emails approx. 3-4 months later, which took their responses into 2016. Some responders clearly indicated an interest in pay 2015 membership dues in arrears, but some moved on and instead paid for 2016 dues in Jan and Feb.

Marsh presented goals & priorities for 2016 and moved for the Board to approve:

2016 goal – increase members.

Priorities

- Hold 2 membership drives: Spring and Fall
- Methods of seeking potential members
 - Email
 - Phone banking
 - Social media
 - Limited postal mailings to keep costs down
 - Any other idea that is determined.
- Update all correspondence to advise memberships run on a calendar year basis.
- Recommend at what age a “senior household” or a “senior citizen” membership is triggered.

Trustee Block asked if the Committee used NextDoor – Marsh confirmed this channel was used regularly. Audience member asked if they could go online to determine their membership status. Marsh advised that the online membership renewal “store” did not have the option by which a member could check their status; however, a member does get an email from the “store” if their online membership has expired.

Motion passed.

Transportation Committee

Trustee Marsh presented Committee Goals and Priorities for 2016 and moved for the Board to approve:

Objective of the committee: To make the streets of Clifton safer and more efficient for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, passengers, and drivers. Clifton will not remain a walkable community without planning and action.

Goals and Strategies for 2016:

- Engage with the Clifton Community to understand and prioritize the transportation-related needs and opportunities (continue to listen, maintain issues list)
- Meet regularly (quarterly) with City of Cincinnati transportation officials (DOT) and independent advocacy groups (e.g., Queen City Bike) to address existing issues and identify opportunities. Initiate a Clifton transportation plan.
- Take action via introducing CTM Board of Trustee Motions and Resolutions and by providing guidance to residents so they may address their transportation-related concerns (CTM to take action when there is community/resident consensus and help residents help themselves).
- Monitor nearby major road construction projects for impact to Clifton including I-75/Hopple interchange, I-74/I-75 Interchange, MLK West improvements, Elmore/Central Parkway Connector, Elmore redesign in Northside, water main replacement along Clifton Ave.

Priorities for 2016:

1. Traffic Calming

- a. Assure speed limit reductions for McAlpin, Ruther, and Vine are implemented
- b. Address continued need for partial barrier on Clifton Hills Ave once I-75/Hopple St interchange is complete
- c. Keep Speed Cart in Clifton as much as possible, work on enforcement with Safety Committee and CPD Dist. 5

2. Additional Crosswalks

- . Develop a prioritized list of locations for additional/enhanced crosswalks in Clifton
- a. Organize community support to influence DOTE for installation crosswalks based on priorities

3. Bicycle Infrastructure and planning

- . Work to make the streets of Clifton a safer and more welcoming place for bicyclists by maintaining and enhancing bicycle infrastructure.
- a. Advocate for the completion of and initiate planning for local connections to nearby bike lanes and paths including Central Parkway Protected Bike Lanes, Mill Creek Greenway, and Uptown Connectors to Wasson Way
- b. Plan a Clifton event for National Bike Month in May.

4. General Improvements and Projects

- . Investigate potential for street repairs on Jeurgens Ave

There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Marsh introduced the Committee idea to have a family friendly event in May in support of Bicycling month. Marsh made a motion as follows for CTM support of such an event:

Goal: Hold a kid-friendly, family-oriented group bike ride through the streets of Clifton during Bike Month in May.

Date: One Saturday in May (TBD)

Location: Somewhere in Clifton (TBD)

Support requested: CTM to help secure volunteers at start/finish/rest-spot (2-4), event promotion, funds for snacks/drinks (up to \$250)

Summary: Have kids with parents/adult meet at an open location in Clifton (parking lot such as CRC, Fairview, Annunciation, or Clifton Market). Have volunteer "mechanics" available to ready bikes for spring (pump tires, make minor adjustments) before the group ride. Just before the start of the ride, have a brief "lesson" on bicycle safety. The kids and parents/adults will then ride through the streets of Clifton on a kid-appropriate route (TBD). There will be a snack or treat provided either at a midway rest-point or back at the start/finish, depending on route. It will be clear that participation is voluntary, all those under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult, and no liability waivers should be required.

Trustee Kasturi requested the age for accompaniment be changed from 16 down to 12. Marsh indicated this was a friendly amendment and adopted it without objection.

Trustee Urbas requested that the Committee contact CPD D5 to advise them of the event. Marsh indicate no permission or permit was required for this event, but he would take this request back to Committee for action.

Trustee Montgomery asked if the Committee had determined where the money would come from to support this event. Marsh advised this no such determination had been made by the Committee at this point.

Several Trustees spoke that these are the types of events that bring community together and are a positive thing that CTM should engage in.

Motion passed.

Events Committee

Chairperson Nicholas Hollan provided an update on the Cincinnati Neighborhood Games. Memorial Day will be the day for most of the qualifying events: 40 yd dash, big wheel race, football accuracy, hoola-hoop endurance, etc. Two categories: Adults and Children. Must win the qualifier to attend the inter-neighborhood competitions. Volunteers to help run the events are needed.

Urbas updated on the Golf Outing event planning. Group has had its first meeting during February. Urbas moved the following for approval by the Board:

The 2016 CTM Golf outing benefactor will be a project in Burnet Woods Park. The project maybe one or more of the following:

- 1) Restore the railings in the fishing area on the north side of the lake.
- 2) Add a better walking path on the south end of the lake.
- 3) Improve/repair the lighting in the park.
- 4) Make an improvement at the Trail Side Nature center.

The final project in the park can be confirmed by the board if it chooses to do so by a subsequent resolution. The committee will inform the board of the final project details as they are confirmed.”

During discussion, Urbas added that the Director of the Parks Foundation would support the above proposal and the Golf Outing by using their mailing list for announcing the event, invite their Board members to play.

Motion passed.

Trustee McCance announced that the planning for the Memorial Day Parade & Cookout is happening. Trustee Hyland advised that Clifton Market would donate the use of a new grill it has obtained.

Beautification Committee

Chairperson Adam Balz introduced Katie vonErden, founder of “Clean Up Cincy” (CUC) from UC to present about an upcoming cleanup event on April 2nd. VonErden showed a video and a presentation. CUC is a UC student organization that does clean up activities once per

semester. Trustee Kasturi advised that CUC has agreed to take on a clean up activity around the CPD District 5 headquarters building as part of their upcoming clean up events on April 2. Kasturi indicated this area has a lot of litter and looks terrible. No CTM funds would be required to participate in this activity. CUC's website is at <http://cincycleanup.wix.com/cucincy>

Business Committee

Chairperson Peter Block presented the committee goals priorities for 2016 and moved that the Board approve them.

1. Make recommendations concerning feasibility and benefits of Clifton becoming an Entertainment District. This entails working with Lydia, CBPA and others. Also figure out ways to get more citizens engaged in the question.
2. Recruit new members to Business Committee.
3. Build greater co-operation with other groups of interest. Specifically: CTM Zoning Committee, CBPA, Ludlow 21, Uptown Consortium, Economic Development unit in City of Cincinnati.
4. Find ways to understand what neighborhood citizens and business owners want for the business district. Represent this to CTM. As part of this, create inventory of current businesses and contact information of owners.
5. In general, care for the interests of the neighborhood as a whole pertaining to business district. Take a position, with CTM approval, with city on relevant issues.
6. Work to make Clifton a welcoming place for new businesses. Help recruit new businesses to Clifton which retain a culture of family friendly and local ownership.

Motion approved.

Block noted that a working group between CTM Business Committee, Ludlow 21 LLC, and CPBA is happening to discuss the upcoming Ludlow Ave Corridor Study for which Uptown Consortium has granted money to Ludlow 21 LLC.

NBDIP application process is being discussed, and the plan is to put together an application for Clifton.

Urbas advised that CTM has been invited to send 2-3 Trustees to the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Program (TAP). Marsh made presentation describing what is ULI, what is the TAP process, and what is the specific goal of the program on March 16 that Ludlow 21 LLC has arranged with funding it obtained. . Urbas moved to send Trustee's Montgomery, Oakenfull, Block, and Hinson (if available) to the ULI TAP program on March 16. Oakenfull and Block indicated they would likely only be to attend about half the event. Montgomery indicated he would attend the full event. Motion approved.

Housing & Zoning Committee

Chairperson Adam Hyland reported that he had a meeting with Jennifer LeMasters from Parsons Brinkerhoff to discuss various planning issues in Clifton and how they might support CTM's efforts.

Hyland proposed 2016 goals and moved that the Board approve:

CTM - Housing & Zoning Committee - 2016 Goals

1 – Process and Forms: Develop a standardized system and forms for processing zoning and housing issues.

- A. Format for H&Z Reports
- B. Summery letter indicating objection, no objection, best use
- C. Letter to Neighbors
- D. Letter to Applicant – with timeline
- E. Applicant & CTM Zoning procedure
- F. Define a clear process for reaching out to affected parties.
- G. Assist institutions and developers in understanding and promoting Clifton's goals and objectives

2 – Community Zoning Alliance: Develop a closer relationships with a abutting community's zoning and land-use committees.

3 – Long-Term H&Z Plan: Develop a long-term and manageable system for identifying zoning and code violations. Determine expectations with a freezable balance between proactive and reactive engagement.

- A. By residence complaints to CTM
- B. By committee observations

4 – Recruiting: Recruiting additional H&Z committee members .

5 – Public Meetings: Hold community meeting/s regarding zoning and planning issues.

6 - Zoning Code Enforcement: Facilitate correction of housing and zoning code violations:

- A. By committee request to owner
- B. By committee complaint to city inspectors

7 – LDC Editing: Continue to work with the City on developing the Land Development Code by identify housing and zoning regulatory changes that are needed and request enactment:

- A. By residence request
- B. By committee review

8 – Project Review: Evaluate development proposals, zone map and text amendments and relevant variances and appeals:

- A. By review of compliance with regulations.
- B. By review of effect on community I.E. consistency with Clifton's adopted plans.
- C. By review of effect on character of the immediate neighborhood.
- D. By review of affect on the value of adjacent properties.

9 - CTM Representation: A clear process is needed for H&Z members to represent CTM's goals and objectives as an affected party during public hearings where testimony is required during legal hearings.

10 - Business Welcome Letter: Work with the Business Committee to create a business welcome letter with pertinent zoning information.

11 - Master Plan Research: Review standing community plans for implementation status and needed updates.

Trustee Balz asked if the goals implied that the Committee would be sending out communications without Board approval. Hyland confirmed that communications would be approved by the Board before sending.

Motion approved.

Trustee Updates / Announcements

Hyland – attended a meeting with UC Health. Topic was how to prevent trauma, and UC Health wants to figure out to how engage with the community on this topic.

Hollan – reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming primary election.

Pantoja – provided additional background on the NBDIP for Trustees.

Moran – NSP funds were approved by the City.

Block – perhaps the next Golf Outing could consider funding police patrols in future years.

Marsh – announced that someone had become a member online during the CTM meeting. The new member raised her hand. Marsh also advised that residents should review the online community calendar at www.cliftoncommunity.org/calendar/

Kasturi – advised that the metal plaque at the Lone Star Pavilion memorial in Burnet Woods was stolen in the recent past.

Pantoja – requested \$1000 for the potential to support grants related to Business Committee activities. Pantoja indicated these grants generally required leveraged funds so CTM would need to consider this in future months.

Public Q&A

Dr. Paul Sohi introduced himself as a Democrat running as a candidate for Ohio Representative for District 23.

Daniel Ames advised that approx. 200 years ago Clifton Avenue was between 12 and 22 inches lower than the current level of the road surface. He discovered this during the water main pipeline replacement digging happening this past week. Ames reminded residents that in the online version of the most recent Clifton Chronicle is a story on the history of Mt.

Storm including how the area was named. Link to online Chronicle:
http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/publication/spring-2016/wppa_open

Michael Burrill asked about the ability to view Committee members online as well as write to Committee members directly. He also indicated he would like to be able to check the status of his online membership. He also had a desire to see more parking.

Currently, Committee Chairpersons and Liaisons can be viewed online at <http://www.cliftoncommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-Committees-Liaisons-Motion.pdf> and generally all communications into CTM flow through the primary email address of contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org

Adjournment/next meeting

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

The next CTM meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2016, at the Clifton Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Marsh, CTM Secretary