



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

By Jan Brown Checco, Secretary

**Date: November 1, 2021 7:00 pm**

Location: Online Google Meet electronic meeting, invitations and links were sent out prior to the meeting for all to connect and listen in.

**Present:** *Peter Block, Jan Brown Checco, Joe Brunner, Gerald Checco, Brendon Cull, Brian Duffy, Robert Hamberg, Chris Harding, Mark Jeffreys, Malcolm Montgomery, Zeeshan Tayeb*

**Absent:** Naghma Malik, Ioanna Paraskevopoulos, Genet Singh

A quorum (11) is present, meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Brunner with statement of our mission. (U) below will represent a unanimous vote.

**Public Attendance:** (29) Captain Craig Gregoire, Sgt Todd Ploehs, Chief Michael Washington, Jayme Ritter, Mikaela Gregory, Seth Walsh, Tim Maxey, Loni Maxey, Mary Lienhart, Nestor Melnyk, Marianne Brunner, Jeanne Strauss-DeGroote, John Osterman, Carolyn Miller, June Schlipf, Julia Bonfield, Michael Roller, Molly Gray, Sophia Melnyk, Karen Noonan, Tim Tope, Leslie Mooney, Joyce Rich, Eric James, Patrick McDevitt, Mike Elovitz, Kevin Marsh, two phone numbers

**Welcome to our Electronic Meeting on Google Meet** – Pres. Brunner. Advice for participation. Invitation of new applicants to the Board, contact the CTM email at [contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org](mailto:contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org)

**October Meeting Minutes 10/4/21** (attached) Mark Jeffreys moves to adopt, Treas. Checco seconds (U).

**Police Report** – Capt. Gregoire/Sgt Ploehs (report attached)

**Fire Chief Michael Washington** – introduction and remarks; Chief Washington was stationed at our Fire House 34 earlier in his career. He has been Chief for 6 months. The fire department will be running programs concerning general risk reduction, senior fall reduction, car seat safety for kids. At daylight savings time change, please check your fire alarm batteries. Have an exit strategy in case of fires. And avoid the deep fryer method for turkey preparation!

**Clifton Branch Library report** – Jeanne Strauss-DeGroot; Since Sept. 26, overdue fines have been suspended and old records have been expunged. From HCPL website: Reminders to customers that their item is overdue are sent by phone, text, or email at five days and 12 days overdue. At 30 days overdue, customers receive a bill for items that have not been returned and have been classified as “lost.” The Library locks a customer’s account if any item is 12 days overdue, meaning no additional physical items (books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, etc.) can be checked out until either the overdue item is returned or the customer has paid the replacement fee for it. Customer accounts will also be blocked from renewing or placing holds until the overdue item is resolved. Once unpaid replacement fees reach \$50 and remain at \$50 or above for 30 days or longer, customers are referred to a collection agency. These changes do not apply to library cards that have never had late fees associated with them, such as Child-Only, Teen-Only, Adult-Only, Educator, and Book Club cards. Peter Block asked about the strategy for making this change. Jeanne said that fine-free is a practice that is popular now around the country. The Library Board needs to have a practice that incites return of materials, and that is the reason for blocking cards. Rental periods are still long – 6 weeks is the basic, with 8 automatic renewals. Peter Block said that it seems a little punitive, Jeanne said that it’s not the intention, she is sorry to hear his feeling. The Clifton Branch still offers the making of 20 free photocopies a day. They had a great scavenger weekend for families at Halloween.

**Election Process Explained** – Pres. Brunner; The recommended process in the Nominating Committee report was screen shared. We have a strong list of candidates for this year. Location for in-person voting - depending on how we will hold the meeting: in person, virtual or hybrid - will either be at CRC or Fairview Clifton parking lot as last year. The election will be publicized on social media, on our website and in the Chronicle. We’ll use the same online tools as last year. Pres. Brunner moves that we approve the committee’s recommendation, seconded by Treas. Checco Vote: 10 Y (U). Annual membership meeting in December: conditions discussion – Pres. Brunner suggests that we seriously consider at least hybrid because of the work that needs to be done. Anyone who wants to remain virtual can. Malcolm Montgomery likes the idea of a hybrid meeting but wants to work out any technical bugs before the meeting. Peter Block likes the idea of having the choice. Treas. Checco agrees that hybrid is a good idea, and that in person meetings are important. Zeeshan Tayeb agrees that hybrid is a good idea. Molly Gray commented about hybrid meetings for her kids when they returned to school: the teachers said that it was very problematic for people who were not present in person. She does think that the pre-test of how we would do this successfully is important, to see if we can have focus spread throughout the entire audience. Pres. Brunner asked Montgomery how we would set up the connection at CRC? Montgomery said that it can be difficult to make the whole audience feel connected. Molly Gray suggested that a moderator be appointed to make sure that the remote people are looped in. Peter Block said that sound will need to be checked. Tim Maxie said that a strong moderator is

necessary, making sure that virtual participants use the hand raising tool, etc, to be successful. Brian Duffy asks how the agenda would work - traditionally the public only speaks at the end. Remote meetings allow for more community interaction and interjection during board discussion. Many community councils use the GoLive element of Facebook. Robert Hamberg would like to see in person meetings, and the December meeting is a good opportunity to try this out, however with voting as the main event, he proposes that we stay remote for the December meeting. Brian Duffy asks if there's a lot of community engagement that will be happening during the meeting? Pres. Brunner said that we'll have the Bylaws vote, and also the Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) discussion. Kevin Marsh says December is the best time to vote for NSP because of high attendance. Montgomery reminds us that all voters for NSP choices are required to be Clifton residents members. Pres. Brunner said that we can check against our list of residents. Treas. Checco said he doesn't think that we checked that last year and that membership verification is difficult online. Brian Duffy said that this seems to beg that we do this meeting entirely in person. Robert Hamberg said that logging in to the meeting could have a check-in box for if attendees are Clifton residents. Montgomery asked if we can use Election Buddy for the NSP vote, Pres. Brunner said yes, and that he is inclined to keep the meeting remote because it's not a good time to try something new. Peter Block moves for hybrid meeting. There was no second. Motion fails. In the Chat: Use this link to renew your membership if necessary.

<https://www.cliftoncommunity.org/products-page/>

<https://choosecincy.com/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-support-programs/>

**Nominating Committee report** – Pres. Brunner, Chair; (report attached) Presentation of the slate of twelve candidates for 2022 Board of Trustees. All attending candidates gave a short description of their reasons for wishing to serve. We currently have 8 open positions, but possibly 9, depending on City election results tomorrow. Malcolm Montgomery observes that the best board members have previously engaged with CTM, so would like to hear from the candidates what their past interactions have been? Jan Checco has been Secretary for the past 2 years, chairs the Chronicle committee, and has worked on several ad hoc committees projects as well as standing committee projects. Molly Gray volunteers and has listened with interest in the past to our discussions and positions. Mary Pat has 20 years of observation and has participated in past events, also reads the Chronicle and is a lifetime member, and finally has time to give. Tim Maxie has been a resident for 15 years, has served in projects, and has conferred with Treasurer Checco about the work involved when serving as Treasurer. Nestor Melnyk has served on the H & Z Committee and helped with events. Jayme has little experience with CTM but is experienced with other nonprofit orgs like Habitat for Humanity, and says that she is a person who commits. Michael Roller was on A&C for the past year and worked at OLG, he has conferred with Secy Checco to understand the general group dynamic; Zeeshan Tayeb has contributed to the Chronicle with an article, Tim Tope doesn't see it as a disadvantage to not have any experience with CTM, and recounted many other

volunteer experiences, and thinks that new blood is a good thing in an organization. Seth Walsh was previously elected to the CTM board, but he stepped down to allow his fiancée –also a candidate - to take his seat.

**Forty Under Forty** – Recognition of our neighbors who were honored in this program - Robert Hamberg congratulated and thanked Leslie Mooney, Pete Metz and Rebecca Cull for their work for the city. Siobahn Taylor, new Board President of DePaul Cristo Rey, was also mentioned as a leader in our Clifton Community.

**Holidays on Ludlow** – Secy Checco; The event is coming back, produced by Clifton Business Association on Nov 27 (Small Business Saturday); Ludlow lampposts will be decorated by a CTM team led by Eric Urbas and Adam Balz, please volunteer for this work on Sat. Nov 20 around 8-9 am until completion; CTM will help with promotions; Holiday Tree project for Clifton Plaza – invitation to the community to help decorate the tree with homemade ornaments (Nov 26) has been sent schools, churches, library, CRC and CCAC; The HOL Tree Lighting will be Nov 27 at 6 pm with Ludlow shops open and a DJ on the Plaza. Leslie Mooney added in the Chat column that CCAC will provide Live Music on site of CCAC's new home, along with screening of a short movie and crafting. To help contact HOL Project Manager: Patrick Borders [patrickborders9642@gmail.com](mailto:patrickborders9642@gmail.com)

**Transportation and Public Safety** – Mark Jeffreys; Community Planning report and Clifton Avenue Bike Lane update; Good attendance to the Transportation and Safety planning meeting, next time will be Nov 15, 7-9 pm at the CRC. Bike Lane update: City Council has passed a (U) resolution to keep the temporary lane in place for the next 2 months while awaiting a meeting with UC to discuss future plans.

**Clifton Chronicle Distribution Problems, update** – Jan Checco; Clifton Chronicle delivery challenges update – Our own mail carrier said today that things are not improving; 3000 postcards were mailed to Clifton addresses, we'll send electronic newsletters via Mail Chimp the same day we go to press which will be in the second week of November. Thanks to Kevin Marsh for providing results of our request for updated email addresses – from the postcard and other online messages sent: 101 clicks, 77 responses, 33 new members. Those who don't want paper copies can email to [ctm.chronicle@gmail.com](mailto:ctm.chronicle@gmail.com)

**Trustee, Committee and Liaisons announcements:** Pres. Brunner announced that tomorrow is Election Day, and that while we can't endorse any candidates, we do endorse voting. Peter Block/Joyce Rich invite everyone to see the new mural in the alley between Los Potrillos and the Esquire created by Tenzing. 26 artists have signed up to participate in Holiday Gifts III show at Off Ludlow Gallery, Nov 19 is the opening, they invite everyone to come do shopping there. Treas. Checco thanks the volunteers who came to Fall Clean Up; Brendon Cull thanks Mark Jeffreys for putting his name on the City Council ballot, and notes that we have 2 mayoral candidates from Clifton, requesting

removal of yard signs by tomorrow evening. Robert Hamberg thanks all CTM candidates for stepping up, this is the time for new things to happen as we continue recovery; Malcolm Montgomery thanks the candidates and the Nominating Committee for a great job this year.

**Community Questions/Concerns:** Mikaela Gregory - a student at UC - is going to create a project for the neighborhood and is interested in what we might suggest. Patrick McDevitt at 3630 Clifton Avenue wants to know how the new crosswalks on Clifton Avenue were established, one is now in what he considers to be a dangerous location. At the Mosque about 100 yards north there's a crossing with a signal that is not lit, so a crossing guard is necessary there. He thinks that mistakes have been made, suggests that things can be improved, and that he feels that his property value has been devalued because of a nearby newly installed crossing. He wonders what can be done, and how a crosswalk can be established without consulting nearby property owners. He believes the installation of the crossing near his property is in violation of city code because of proximity to a fire hydrant. Mark Jeffreys says that in general, DOTE does communicate with us. CTM did not submit a request for the crossing in question. Patrick McDevitt is invited to the next Transportation and Safety committee meeting. Malcolm Montgomery asks if the Transportation and Safety Committee can be virtual and open to everyone, Mark Jeffreys says that they are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, access to a link to meetings can be had via Pres. Brunner at [contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org](mailto:contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org).

**Motion to adjourn 9:00 pm by all, seconded by everyone (U)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Brown Checco, Secretary

**Attachments:**

November meeting Agenda  
October Meeting Minutes  
Treasurer's Report part 1 and 2  
Police Report  
Nominating Committee Report  
List of Candidates for 2022  
Call for volunteers for Holidays on Ludlow  
Distribution plans for Chronicle