



Clifton Town Meeting, April 3,

7pm

Trustees Present: Adam Balz, Peter Block, Christine Celsor, Ashley Fritz, Brad Hawse, Nicholas Hollan, Rama Kasturi, Kevin Marsh, Shaun McCance, Malcolm Montgomery, Michael Moran, Cindy Oakenfull, Joyce Rich, Eric Urbas

Trustees Absent: Seth Maney

Regular Reports:

Police: Officer Hagemann reported there have been a few auto thefts. He reminded everyone to keep an eye on your house and your neighbors', as the warmer weather often brings an increase of break-ins. Officer Hagemann thanked Rama Kasturi for the Burnet Woods cleanup.

CCAC: Summer camp sign ups are now available. Website is cliftonculturalarts.org for a full list of programs.

Clifton Recreation Center: Tom Reece announced there will be home school gym time on Wednesdays. There are 7 spots left for summer camp. Pickle ball is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The annual SOS art show will be held in June.

Library: "For children this month we have our normal preschool story times at 10 am every Tuesday and our Library babies (up to 2) story time every Wednesday at 10:30. We also have an Earth Day event on 4/22. For teens we have : Discovering Light and Lasers at 6 on April 4th and Making a Glass Photo Vase April 29th at 2. For adults we have Craft and Create (Artsy Sharpie Coasters) on April 8th at 11:00. We also have our ESL Conversation group every Thursday at 1:00 as well as our two book clubs.

Our regular branch book club meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 10:30. This month we are meeting on April 14th and discussing 'In Those First Bright Days of Elvis.' Our Fantasy and SciFi book Club, Space Wizards meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Lydia's on Ludlow at 6:30. This month they will be discussing "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep." Our Summer Adventure program will kick off on June 1st. "

VoiceScapes Announcement: Kip Eagen announced that Saturday April 22 7-9pm, VoiceScapes: A Storytelling Festival will take place at the CCAC, Storytellers from across the region will tell stories on the theme of "home." Sunday April 23, 4-6pm, A Magical History Tour of Clifton will be held. Three Clifton houses will be discussed - the Frank Lloyd Wright house, the Boss Cox House (where the current Clifton library is located) and the McDonald Residence (where Fairview sits now). Clifton residents will tell the story of the homes, plus the history of Clifton. Free child care is available for the Magical House Tour event.

Update on the Mural on Side of China Kitchen: Kip Eagen presented images of old Clifton that will be used for the mural. An artist who has worked on utility boxes who is a photo realist artist has agreed to paint the mural. China Kitchen agreed to let them paint, and they have received approval of the image from the China Kitchen, Clifton Community Fund, and Clifton Market. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is also sponsoring the mural. They would like to put a plaque next to the mural to describe what you're looking at. CCF has done a number of these

plaques. Kip asked for CTM to support a \$500 donation towards cost of the plaque, with CTM getting name recognition on the plaque. Eric moves to fund for \$500. It was seconded and discussed. Vote passes to give \$500.

Zoning Request from Buddy Goose: Christine Celsor presented a zoning request on behalf of Buddy Goose. He owns a Bed and Breakfast on Bishop and would like CTM to send a letter of support for his guests to use a parking garage for 1 car and 3 spaces in his driveway. No cars will block the sidewalk. His previous request to use street parking had a neighbor's objections. The neighbor has no objections with the new request. Motion passes to send a letter to the City that we have no objection.

CCAC Update: Leslie Mooney thanked everyone for their support. On March 20, the School Board voted to terminate the CCAC's lease. On March 22, they met to deliver the notice of termination and discuss the purchase of the Rawson House. The School Board asked the CCAC if they would like to have the Rawson House deeded to them, and that they would have to make decision by April 7. The CCAC Board toured the house and determined it wasn't suitable for their needs. They would like to find a permanent, stable location, so chose to step away. Leslie expressed the CCAC has had great relationships with local schools, and hope to be able to serve kids at the new school. Their lease will expire in August, 2018. However, CPS would like to have the building available for the school year, beginning in August, 2018. The CCAC will work to recoup the community investment, as they need the money to move forward. Over 2.5 million has been spent on the building. Leslie apologized to those who put their time into making the CCAC what it is today. Audience member thanked Leslie for all the CCAC has done for the neighborhood. Audience also had questions about traffic, zoning, parking lot, and other issues that may arise with a new school. It was decided CTM will look into a public forum to address community concerns. Eric Urbas says we are going to discuss this later. Malcolm presented the resolution in response to CPS's termination of the CCAC's lease:

Resolution in Response to Cincinnati Public Schools' Revocation of Clifton Cultural Arts Center's Lease of Clifton School Building

Whereas the Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) emerged from a series of community engagement meetings in 2004 as a way to develop a cultural, educational, and recreational community learning center campus with Fairview School and the Clifton Recreation Center, and

Whereas CCAC has enriched the lives of children through educational arts programming for Rockdale Academy, South Avondale School, Annunciation School, Fairview School and underserved children throughout Cincinnati, and

Whereas CCAC and its community of volunteers and funders stepped up to undertake the Herculean task of mitigating years of deferred maintenance and the building's inevitable deterioration as it sat vacant, and renovated the building into a welcoming community hub for diverse children, families and adults of all ages, and

Whereas CCAC worked diligently to bring together into an ad hoc working committee the stakeholders of Fairview School, CTM, the CTM Education Committee, Spring Grove Village, CUF and CCAC to develop a plan for maintaining the high quality of education at Fairview, securing guaranteed access to a quality education for the communities' children, and the continued growth of CCAC in its current location, and to prevent division within the Clifton community, and

Whereas the Clifton Town Meeting (CTM) passed a resolution on April 4, 2016 and reaffirmed in the Joint Statement of July 21, 2016 that CCAC should remain in the Clifton School building and that a location other than the Clifton School building should be found for a Clifton area neighborhood school,

Therefore, be it resolved, that

CTM thanks CCAC and its supporters for the invaluable contribution they have made to the community of Clifton and the residents of the City of Cincinnati,

CTM supports CCAC in its decision to not relocate to the Rawson farmhouse, which would require a significant reduction in service, and to seek instead another location in Clifton that will enable it to maintain and grow its programming to the children, families, adults and schools in and around our community, and

CTM supports CCAC in its efforts to secure from CPS a fair reimbursement for the capital funds spent to renovate and secure the viability of the Clifton School building for its use again as a school and for the immense value created by the manual labor of volunteers throughout the city.

The motion for resolution passes.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve carries.

Treasurer's Report: CTM has a net revenue \$1375. The Treasurer's report passes.

CTM comments of CPS usage of the Rawson property and Old Clifton School Building for New School and hearing the public: Eric Urbas shared this statement from CTM

CTM Statement Regarding the use of the Historic Clifton School for a New Neighborhood School

Clifton Town Meeting has over the last almost 2 years worked on the issue of assured high quality education access for children of Clifton and keeping the Clifton Cultural Arts Center in its current building. Early on these two issues became intertwined due to the fact that Cincinnati Public Schools had suggested a new school as an option for solving the education access concern. Of course it was clear a possible location for this school could be the Historic Clifton School Building where the CCAC currently resides.

CTM worked with the several stakeholders and developed a position statement. Our board of Trustees unanimously passed supporting this statement last year. Two goals in that position were:

1) Assured access to a high quality public school

2) The CCAC remain in its current building.

This position was clearly and repeatedly provided to CPS.

Recently CPS announced they have terminated the lease with CCAC and also moved to purchase the neighboring Rawson Farmhouse property. Our understanding is both will be used for a new neighborhood school serving Clifton and possibly other yet undetermined neighboring communities or parts thereof.

This action was taken without for knowledge or consent of Clifton Town Meeting and in contrary to our stated position of support of which CPS was well aware.

Now that this situation exists it will begin to have many impacts on our neighborhood, other Clifton education institutions, the immediate surrounding property owners, traffic on Clifton Ave, etc. CTM wants to start today to reach out to our community and begin a process of collecting input for the property use a school. This input will help us formulate the positions we want to take as community with regard to the future development of the property as a school. Our intent will be to again reach out to CPS and advocate these positions with the purpose of helping make this a successful high quality public school.

We expect to invite CPS to next months meeting so they can share information about their plans with us. We will forward questions and comments from today's meeting to them so they have some time to prepare replies.

Based on the need we may set up additional discussions with the community on this topic which would be announced later.

Community Input was then received. Questions and concerns voiced included:

1. Can Clifton get access to Fairview now while old school is renovated?
2. Need traffic study for Clifton Ave.
3. Is it possible to add on to Fairview for now while the school is renovated?
4. CPS has history of acting without notice, please ensure this is considered when negotiating with them.
5. How to prevent losing community support for Fairview.
6. Could the school lead to another attempt to widen Clifton Ave.? How can this be prevented?
7. All zoning changes or variances should be well vetted before they are granted.
8. Can access to the property be kept off Clifton Ave.? A member of the community responded later in the meeting that the CRC property is owned by CPS and therefore McAlpin access may be possible.
9. How feasible is it for emergency vehicles to access the old Clifton School?
10. How will CPS work with us in regard to Rawson property usage?
11. When will CACC get the community funds back from CPS?
12. Did the school advisory group come out of the CTM Education Committee? Was this okay?
13. What is CANS? (Clifton Advisory on New School)
14. Is there a conflict own interest between CANS and CTM when their positions may be in conflict?

Bylaws Pro-Bono Lawyer Assign: Malcolm Montgomery announced lawyer has been found who will go over CTM's bylaws, and will begin this month.

Save the CCAC Mission Change: Malcolm Montgomery would like to help CCAC find a new home in Clifton. To become involved, talk to Malcolm.

Discussion for Carrying out CTM's Financial Support Intent by Membership for the Clifton Market : CTM's membership voted to loan Clifton Market \$20,000. After meeting with lawyers, and receiving legal advise, it was determined there is no conflict of interest. To keep in good standing with the IRS, it was suggested CTM lend no more than 10% of our assets. They recommended a maximum of \$8,000 as a loan. Peter Block would like to have this noted in the

bylaws so there will be no question in the future about fiduciary responsibility or conflict of interest.

Trustee Updates: Christine Celsor of Housing and Zoning reported that Will and Leslie Sikes are sharing their plans to build a LEED home on Evanswood. CBPA and David Taylor agreed to 50 year lease agreement of the Merchant's Lot. Peter Block said there will be a 90 day due diligence on the property. Joyce Rich reported that the restaurant Harvest has been sold to the owner's of Red Feather, and that some changes will be made. Rama Kasturi had another successful cleanup on Burnet Woods with UC students. UC Biology students are working on getting rid of invasive species. Shaun McCance has accepted a position on Board of Clifton Market, as Treasurer. Shaun would like to stream meetings over the internet to help engagement and would like to know how community feels on this issue. Kevin Marsh said the Transportation Committee had a meeting about intersection with the Assistant City Manager and DOT about traffic concerns on Glenmary. Kevin reported that by the end of the year there will be at traffic light at the intersection of Brookline and Jefferson. There is also now a place on the Fix it Cincy App to report bicycle and pedestrian incidents. The Inclusion Statement was also discussed, insofar as to who it should be sent to and how this will be accomplished. Eric Urbas will add a cover letter. Adam Balz will have a house tour meeting soon. They will be looking for homes for the tour. If you have a home you would like to have on the house tour, talk to Adam.

Community Q&A: Ben Pantoja thanked CTM for the Clifton Market loan. He is concerned about parking during construction of Merchant's Lot. Rodney Harris, a candidate for judge, introduced himself. Morgan Rich thanked the Board for taking time on Clifton Market issue to make sure it was handled correctly.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.