



**CTM Meeting**  
**May 5, 2014**  
**Clifton Cultural Arts Center**

In attendance: Adam Balz, Bruce Bernard, Tony Sizemore, Morgan Rich, Linda Ash, Kevin Marsh, Eric Urbas, Buddy Goose, Adam Hyland, Michael Moran, Pat Knapp, Ben Pantoja, Joyce Rich

Absent: Tom Dwyer, Ashley Fritz

**Police Report**

Neighborhood Officer Lisa Johnson reported she is being promoted to the Chief's Quality of Life Enhancement Team. Theft from auto is about the same, still a problem. Lot of people using NextDoor Clifton to report possible crimes, but it sometimes gets buried in all the other posts so be sure and use Crime and Safety tab to do those entries. She is also walking in Cat Walk and looking for donations. Please support me in my walk to help these kids. Because heroin is cheaper to buy. Something about this drug is they want to do it right away. They do it in bathrooms, bars, in cars. Some of the people who passed away due to overdoses, out of the 30, 25 were under 30 years old.

Bernard asked about the house on NE corner of Amazon and Clifton, with several windows and doors boarded up. Officer Johnson responded that the woman who lives there was taken out of the house for her own safety.

Ofc. Johnson also reported on the arrest of graffiti writer Caper Joist. This 43-year-old man has been known to tag with his teen-age son. The son is believe to be responsible for defacing the Shephard Fairey mural in Northside soon after his father was arrested.

Call 765-1212 for non-emergency police matters and Officer Johnson's direct phone number is 569-8507. Cell is 235-7597.

**Fire Department Report**

Captain Jim Kettler from the Cincinnati Fire Department reported that Engine Co. 34 has had about 750 runs for the year already. One structure fire occurred in Clifton during April (April 9), on Riddle Road. It was an accidental fire resulted from someone who was rehabbing a house and tried to burn off paint using an acetylene torch.

The firehall has new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors available free to the public.

### **Library Report**

Chrissy Bailey, manager of the Clifton Branch Library, reported that the library groundbreaking was April 21 at Parkview Manor. Renovations are underway and she will provide periodic updates. The new branch is slated to open spring or summer 2015. Building plans are in the Ludlow branch and on the library's website.

At the current location, there are a lot of programs going on. On Saturday, May 10, a Mother's Day card-making activity was scheduled; May 14, 4 p.m., children's poetry program; May 20, 4:30 p.m., teen crafting program on how to make paper beads; May 31, Summer Learning (formerly Summer Reading) kickoff program, with a bookmaking craft all day. Babies through adults can sign up to win prizes for reading over the summer. Prizes are free books, free school supplies, and entry into a grand prize drawing. The new branch will have dedicated space for children and teen programs.

### **Recreation Center Report**

Arnelle Dow, Clifton Center Director, reported that the Clifton center's summer day camp will be at McKee Center in Northside this summer during renovation. About 65 of our kids will be there. McKee is a newly renovated center with an outdoor pool on site. After-school programs are happening at the Fairview school across the street.

Renovation is moving along, on target. Hopefully interior finishing will begin by this fall.

Participants in the Art for Artists program have been working on a scrapbook/journal program, writing on themes and then making art to go with the themes. 30 of the books were on display at Kennedy Heights Art Center last month.

The Rec Center's third annual yard sale will be held Saturday, May 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The sale will raise extra funds for the center. Table space can be rented for \$15.

### **CCAC Report**

Barbara Sferra, CCAC Board member, reported that the CCAC garden was dug up because of digging for water lines. The prayer lags on the front lawn are starting to look tattered and are coming down in mid-May. The final Second Sunday program is Sunday May 11, The Short Tree and the Bird That Could Not Sing; 1 p.m. May 17, Madcap Puppets. Final Sunset Salon is May 21, focused on Cincinnati breweries (with samples).

The CCAC's current exhibit, *Ravel/Unraveled*, opened last Friday. The artists are joint winners from the Golden Ticket exhibit last fall. The exhibit goes through June 14.

Wednesdays on the Green summer concerts start June 4 and go through July; the schedule is on the CCAC website. This year CCAC is adding a charitable component. During June, CCAC is supporting CAIN, the Churches Active in Northside food pantry on Hamilton Avenue. They will be asking for donations of personal hygiene supplies. During July concerts, school supplies will be collected for Crayons to Computers.

CCAC will hold four summer camps: Camp Art Academy, My Nose Turns Red, Pro Moves Hip Hop, and African Drumming and Dance.

***Sponsorship of the Flower Pots on Ludlow***

(copy email from last week) 5 sponsors right now, 20 pots total.

Clifton Town Meeting and the Clifton Business and Professional Association (CBPA) are looking for sponsors for the 20 new flower pots on Ludlow Avenue. The pots are a result of a partnership between CTM, CBPA, and Cincinnati Parks.

Special thanks are in order to Scott Crawford of CBPA. Scott has volunteered many hours and resources toward making this project happen.

Scott and volunteers for CTM's Beautification Committee prepared the pots with gravel and soil a few weeks ago. Cincinnati Parks workers planted them with spring flowers. The city will provide watering, maintenance, and three seasonal plantings this year.

This partnership is a solution to a longstanding problem in the Ludlow Avenue business district, since it has always been difficult to keep flower pots on Ludlow watered and maintained.

CTM and CBPA each contributed about \$2,300 to the program. The organizations are now looking for businesses and community members to help support the program by sponsoring the pots for \$200 each. Each pot will have a small sign recognizing its sponsor. This sponsorship will help CTM and CBPA keep this and other beautification initiatives alive.

Other CTM Beautification projects include:

Maintenance of the Woolper and Vine gateway gardens, the flower boxes on the fire house, the black urns on Ludlow, and the Clifton Plaza gardens. CTM also decorates the gaslights on Ludlow Avenue for the holidays with greens, lights, and bows.

If you'd like to sponsor a flower pot, email Adam Balz at [balzda@gmail.com](mailto:balzda@gmail.com) or Scott Crawford at [scottuha@aol.com](mailto:scottuha@aol.com)

***Minutes of April 2014 Meeting Were Approved***

***Bike Lane Resolution—Ben Pantoja***

**Bike Lane Update for May 2014 CTM Meeting**

- April 18 Cincinnati Enquirer: risk of losing Central Parkway protected bike lanes if they did not agree to the program by a May 2 deadline they would lose 500K in funding if they did not approve by then
- Could not wait for CTM meeting May 5, so CTM did emergency email resolution
- April 19 resolution passed; 11 of 11 responses were “yes”
- April 19 sent Resolution to City Hall in support of bike lanes

- April 30, City Hall agreed to the bike trail (5-4 vote not to kill the project), Bike Trail but mentions possibility of removing funding for bike trail on Woolper
- May 1, Ben sent letter to City Hall explaining that Woolper bike trail was needed for Woolper repairs and that CTM had worked with the neighbors to create this plan
- May 2, letter from Cranley confirms talked to City Engineering and bike trail Woolper will be OK
- Ben recommends that CTM trustees and members work to modify CTM bylaws at June meeting to enable these email emergency votes. Ideally we make all these decisions in open meetings, but sometimes unexpected things come up and we need to be able to react to them. Eric Urbas noted that the bylaws allow similar emergency actions by the CTM Executive Committee.

CTM's 4/19 letter in support of the Central Parkway bike lanes is as follows:

(1) 4/19 Letter in Support of Central Parkway

Mayor John Cranley, City Manager Scott Stiles, and Members of Council:

First of all, thank you for your recent support for Clifton Town Meeting's "Resolution to Support Grocery Development on Ludlow Avenue". A grocery developer, the "Clifton Market" Food Coop now has a purchase agreement for the property. I don't think this would have happened without your support.

Now CTM has passed a resolution in support of the bike lanes on Central Parkway. When I saw the Enquirer article on Friday suggesting there was uncertainty that the bike lane project would proceed, I initiated a quick email survey of the trustees. 10 of 15 trustees responded over night. All 10 strongly urge the City to proceed with the project.

This bikeway promotes public health and recreation, reduces pollution, reduces parking issues, and encourages people to explore other neighborhoods. For the many people like myself who love to live in an urban environment but are scared to ride bikes in heavy traffic, these protected bike lanes may be the ONLY way we will get out of our cars and on to our bikes. These bike lanes are what will get me to ride to Findlay Market, Washington Park, the Gateway Quarter, and the Banks. By connecting the biggest population centers from Uptown, Northside, and other neighborhoods to Downtown, this project probably will spell the difference between success and failure in giving Cincinnati a bicycle friendly reputation.

Given that the Federal government is funding the vast majority of the project, CTM urges you to let the project proceed on its original schedule.

- Ben Pantoja, President of CTM

### *Grocery Store Resolution Update—Ben Pantoja*

- On 2/16/2014, CTM learned that Steve Goessling, owner of the building formerly occupied by Keller’s IGA, was negotiating with the Clifton Market Food Coop and also with a local developer for purchase of the property. Reportedly he was leaning toward the developer, who probably would NOT build a grocery store.
- From 2/16 through 3/10, CTM learned that other developers were interested in the property. Odds of ANY grocery getting the winning bid seemed low.
- On 3/10, CBPA and CTM aligned for a CTM Resolution that a grocery store is the “best use” regardless of what form of grocery
- 3/11 CTM Resolution sent to City Hall
- 3/15 Food Coop meeting at Esquire announces Goessling signed option to purchase with a developer on 2/15. Scheduled to close the deal 5/15
- 3/26 City Council approves the CTM resolution
- 4/6 and 4/8 additional City Council discussions about resolution
- 4/11 developer withdraws from purchase agreement with Goessling
- 4/11 Food Coop has purchase agreement with Goessling and has until 10/11/14 to raise \$1.6 million to buy the building. Will need to raise more after 10/11/14 to get building ready to open in 2015 (likely no sooner than July-Sept)
- One outcome: City Council asked City Planning to work with CTM/CBPA to update Clifton’s Neighborhood Business Plan (NBP), which has not been updated since 1983.
  - Likely to increase City support for projects that fit NBP
  - Good way to leverage Ludlow Business District study (“Norris report”). It becomes a good starting point for developing a new NBP.
  - Ben Pantoja wants to make sure the CTM Board is OK with continuing to explore a new NBP. The process is unknown.

Trustee Adam Balz asked, Do we know anything about the developer who got scared away? Pantoja responded that Brandicorp was the developer. He noted that if you look at their website, you will see that most of their projects involve Kroger. “I don’t buy into conspiracy theory, but if my client was Kroger, I don’t think I’d be interested in putting a grocery store in that space.”

Pantoja moved that CTM continue exploring a NBP with the city planning department,

jointly with CBPA. Trustee Buddy Goose said he would like to see the 1983 plan before we commit. Trustee Bernard suggested CTM post the plan on its website. The Board voted to continue exploring the NBP.

Anne Marie Kerby from the City of Cincinnati noted that a Business District Plan looks at existing conditions, so with the study recently completed by Kathleen Norris, much of that work has already been done. Kerby noted that she spoke with CBPA a few weeks ago and they are interested in doing a survey of surrounding property owners and businesses. NBP looks at strategies for improvement and priorities and uses those recommendations to try to acquire funding from the city. NBPs also include ideas for new types of businesses.

Goose posed a follow-up question: Does an NBP specify the types of businesses that will be located in the business district? Kerby replied no, but it might identify desirable businesses for when there are vacancies.

***Food Coop Update—Shaun McCance, Clifton Market Coop***

Shaun McCance, Treasurer of the Clifton Market Coop, reported that the cooperative will be a consumer-owned entity but that people do not have to be members to shop there. The group's first public meeting was March 15. As of this CTM meeting the Coop has 250 owner, mostly Clifton residents but also residents of Northside and Fairview Heights. Shares are \$200 each.

The most recent public meeting was last Saturday. The big news is that the coop now has a contract with Goessling to purchase the former Keller's IGA building. The group is now working to get the funds together. In a few weeks, they will be kicking off a capital campaign, looking for loans from some of the owners. McCance said the group doesn't expect that everyone has large amounts of money to kick in. The coop now has regular office hours at the store. Hours are posted at [cliftonmarket.com](http://cliftonmarket.com). You can come by and buy a share.

***Neighborhood Business Plan—Ann Marie Kerby, City Planner***

Anne Kerby reported the last NBP was done in 1983. We want to be very inclusive and we are setting up a Task Force and people have already signed up to be on that. We will be using Kathleen Norris' study to help start the process and we will also use Plan Cincinnati, city's comprehensive plan completed in 2012. Ben Pantoja says everybody is welcome in the process.

Anne Kerby...if the city is involved, we will make sure that if people want to be a part of the process they can. I will send out an invitation to find out the best meeting times and place. As far as city planning staff goes, I'll have limited ability to attend until the fall. Effort will begin in earnest in the fall.

***City of Cincinnati CPR Funds—Ann Marie Kerby***

[annmariekerby@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:annmariekerby@cincinnati-oh.gov) or 352.4886

The Community Priority Request process happens every two years. Each community is allowed to submit up to three projects to the city for suggested improvements or projects in their neighborhood. We ask that you work with the appropriate city departments to figure out if they already have that project coming up. The program is a two-year cycle, so FY 2015 and 2016 is the next cycle. The City's budget cycle changed this year. The CPR orientation is May 14, 5:30 p.m., at 2 Centennial Plaza, 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room downtown.

Trustee Joyce Rich asked if CPR projects are just for the business district or for the neighborhood overall. Kerby replied that eligible projects include building construction, safety improvements, etc., throughout the neighborhood.

Deadline for submitting for the 2015-16 cycle is early August. You won't know if you got the funding until next April.

Trustee Pat Knapp asked if there is a cap on amounts requested. Kerby said no but expensive projects often don't get funded. She advised working with appropriate city departments to determine if projects are already on their schedules or planned.

Trustee Kevin Marsh noted that for the last cycle, Clifton requested a pedestrian crosswalk across from the library and also for traffic control on Woolper and Clifton avenues (that was rejected). Art on the utility boxes was approved but later rejected when the city said it didn't have any money for CPR; the project was later funded by private arts grants.

#### **Land Development Code—Ann Marie Kerby**

Ann Marie Kerby also reported that the City of Cincinnati is updating its zoning code and maps. It was awarded \$2.5 million by the federal government in 2011 to do this.

Cincinnati Zoning Code determines where different kinds of buildings and uses (homes, offices, manufacturing, etc.) can exist. The city is revising its zoning code and maps to help achieve the plans that residents, businesses, and developers have created for their neighborhoods.

She said zoning for most single-family properties will not change.

The City will hold public meetings this summer at various locations to provide more information about the process.

#### **Report on MLK Development Plan—Steve Kenta/Uptown Consortium**

Steve Kenta from GBBN Architects, which completed the Cincinnati MLK Corridor Study, reported on the status of the study.

Construction on MLK is starting in July and traffic will start to come on line in about 20 months. The study focused on how to turn it into an asset and economic development tool.

Recommendations from the 12-month study are being presented to Uptown Consortium neighborhoods, including Clifton. GBBN is going to community council meetings to get buy-in and “make sure we haven’t missed anything.”

There are 55,000 jobs in Uptown and 51,000 residents. MLK is going to increase traffic. We’re already seeing the impact on Hopple Street and we’ll see the same thing at I-71. Reading Road also offers great connections from downtown to Uptown. Since the ramp at Taft and McMillan will remain, there is an opportunity to manage traffic on Reading at same time. The streetcar may also expand to Clifton and the zoo area. Also Plan Cincinnati is here and the city’s new zoning code is coming on line.

The city is now embracing more mixed-use development, so we’re putting some parameters in place for that.

Project goals.

The client for the study is Uptown Consortium. While the new interchange is desired, the plan will enhance the corridor, achieve a mix of land use, transportation infrastructure, urban design, and guiding economic development.

Project Steering Committee includes the neighborhoods of Uptown, businesses, Metro, the city, and other stakeholders

Key questions.

How should the traffic be managed? A “Grand Boulevard” approach is the preferred scheme by the study group.

Research and office uses would be on main corridors, with a 10-minute walking radius to business districts. The core gateway would be along MLK: Eden, Reading, and Burnet as the core (“top of the hill”). Burnet becomes the core north/south access past UC Health to Children’s Hospital and Avondale.

Guiding Principles

1. tiered approach: planning and design, traffic management, and economic development
2. create better connectivity for pedestrians and bikes (enhanced mobility with complete streets)
3. establish identities at gateways...Reading, Burnet, MLK
4. increase pedestrian access to public open spaces...courtyards along Reading Road for respite from traffic...some passive, some more heavily programmed...use some spaces to engage the public better
5. define an urban street edge with well-defined sidewalks
6. placemaking with programming and event spaces
7. stabilize the housing fabric, i.e., including promoting residential infill including workforce housing, market-rate housing
7. improve access through transit coordination, community investment, and “local living”



initiatives

The full report is on the Uptown Consortium website.

**Cincinnati Lead Poisoning Protection Program- Alexandra McPherson**

Alexandra McPherson from the City of Cincinnati Lead Poisoning Prevention program reported the city has a \$4.5 million grant that ends in June; they are asking for extension for another year. We are trying to identify participants for the study. The project gives \$8,000 per unit or home, under certain income limits, to do lead abatement.

Trustee Bruce Bernard said we have several streets in Clifton that would qualify and we should get word to them. We could summarize the program in an article for the Clifton Chronicle and for the CTM website.

McPherson noted that lead poisoning results from lead paint found in old houses. 93% of Cincinnati's housing stock was built between the 1890s and the 1920s, so many of those homes have lead-based paint. Lead poisoning affects children's behavior, learning, family interactions...even very low exposure can cause lead poisoning. It has been shown that decline in lead results in decreases in homicide and violence in communities.

**Treasurers Report Approved**

Trustee Michael Moran reported April income of \$87 and just under \$1,000 in expenses, including plantings, mailings, and facility rental for CCAC/CTM meetings. CTM's cash/cash equivalent reserves are \$81,000.

Open liabilities include Clifton Fest, the Ludlow avenue business district study (final payment), and Clifton Plaza LLC taxes, all totaling about \$12,000.

Moran also reported membership equity of \$68,000.

**CTM Events –Anthony Sizemore**

Clifton Memorial Day Picnic and Parade is Monday, May 26. CTM will grill out burgers, hotdogs, etc., and CTM trustees are asked to help serve the food. CBPA will co-sponsor the event this year.

CTM's next House Tour is in 2015. A kickoff planning meeting will be held May 19, 7 p.m., at Olives.

**Website/Membership/Nominating-Marsh**

The CTM Nominating Committee is required to be formed by vote of the trustees. The proposed committee for this year is Kevin Marsh (current trustee), Michael Moran (current trustee), Eric Urbas (current trustee), Karen Imbues (past CTM president), and Michael Levitz (past CTM member).

**Business Committee Report – Morgan Rich**

Consultant Kathleen Norris promised her final report documenting the Ludlow Avenue business district study by end of this week.

**Green Committee—Bruce Bernard**

Bernard is working with Paul Buckley, a neighborhood resident who has been suggesting the addition of trees to the neighborhood for years, to do a coordinated tree sale in the fall to encourage Clifton residents to plant trees in their yards. The drought and severe winters recently have resulted in substantial tree loss. The committee plans to get a volume discount at a local greenhouse and sell the trees to neighborhood residents. This will help get good tree stock in the neighborhood. Bernard also spoke with a representative from OKI, which has a tree initiative ongoing, to help the committee specify which types of trees would be suitable.