



NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

December 2020

## Next monthly meeting:

January 19, 2021

Online Format, 7 p.m.

Dear Neighbors,

On a beautiful December morning, volunteers gathered in Bellevue Park. CUF residents were joined by students and Park Board staff to plant three trees, spread woodchips throughout the playground, mulch and water. The main event was to plant a tree in honor of Dennis O'Brien, our long-time CUF neighbor and friend who died last February. As a resident on Klotter, he was drafted early-on by Paul Gallagher to participate in the urban forestry program, which has been responsible for most of the trees in our community. We planted a paperbark maple, a favorite of Dennis's, in a prominent place near the city overlook. Two other trees were placed further back in the park.

Discussions are ongoing regarding further improvements in Bellevue Park. We had intended to hold another community picnic like the one we had last fall as a way to gather ideas and gauge community input on ideas such as adding more accessible picnic tables, blocking off the circular drive from car traffic, and a pop-up beer garden. Obviously due to the pandemic, many plans are on hold for the near future; but we will continue to explore ways to engage with citizens on this issue.

There are also improvements to Fairview Park to announce. The old switchback path from Fairview Park Drive up to Foxhall Court is getting a major upgrade to include an underlayment of weed control fabric on the path, crushed limestone at the trailhead, installation of signs at the top and bottom of the trail, split rail fencing to delineate park property lines, and painted lines on

the pavement to discourage blocking of the trail. This work is being completed with CUF volunteers in conjunction with Park Board resources. The path has been officially named the "Foxhall Trail".

There is one more community tree event in December: the "Founders Forest" public art project located in Imagination Alley between Vine and Republic Streets in Over-the-Rhine. Each Cincinnati neighborhood was invited to decorate a Christmas tree in a manner representing its unique character. Volunteers from CUF decorated our tree with images and symbols of our neighborhood. Explorers are invited to vote for their favorite tree. The month-long FOUND holiday celebration (from Nov. 30 through Dec. 24) spans from The Banks to Findlay Market, transforming the city with ArtWorks-decorated store windows, dazzling Christmas trees and weekly scavenger hunts, spreading holiday cheer while offering a socially distant way to explore the city.

Our next CUF general meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2021. Visit our website at <https://www.cufna.org/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CUFNA> for details.



Stay safe,  
have a happy  
holiday, and  
we'll see you  
next year!

*Tree planting in  
Bellevue Park*



CUF residents, students and Park Board staff gather in Bellevue Park after planting three trees, mulching, watering and spreading woodchips in the playground.



Maple tree planted in honor of long-time CUF member Dennis O'Brien



"Founders Forest" public art project in OTR. CUF volunteers decorated our tree with images and symbols of the community.

## CUF Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

Video Conference Platform (provided by INVEST)  
17 November 2020 - The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:02 pm, by Charles (Chip) Kussmaul (please note: The audio recording option available in this digital platform will only be executed to assist with the drafting of meeting minutes and will be deleted upon approved finalization of these minutes).

### Guests:

- UCPD (University of Cincinnati Police Dept.) – Officer Carra Sparks
- CPD (Cincinnati Police Department) District 5 – Captain Craig Gregoire, Sgt. Todd Ploehs, Officer Nick Hageman
- Trinitas & Associates – Aaron Bartels & Mark Becher
- DSD Advisors (Parking Solutions Study) – Colleen Reynolds
- UCURC (University of Cincinnati Urban Redevelopment Corp) – Megan Smith
- Clifton CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Center) – Tom Reece
- City of Cincinnati Quality-of-Life Division Attorney – Erica Faaborg

### Safety Updates:

- UCPD Officer Sparks advised that UC Students Move-Out dates are 18 October – 25 November 2020. He also advised that UC Football has 3 away games scheduled and could possibly host a (non-fan) playoff game at home and that the Cross-Town Shootout between UC and Xavier Basketball Teams is scheduled for Sunday 6 December 2020 at UC's Fifth-Third Arena (no fans but a staff of 200 personnel will be present). Continuing from last month's discussion of off-campus housing nuisances, Officer Sparks reported that there have been multiple Interim Suspensions since Halloween through the present. Lastly, Officer Sparks mentioned this year's Holiday Shop-with-a-Cop event and please email him at sparksca@ucmail.uc.edu if you would like to donate or if you know of a local family that would benefit (each child receives \$100.00 to spend as they wish). Times will be staggered and only 1 family at a time will be escorted in the store with mandatory masks and social distancing.
- CPD-5 Officer Hageman provided the latest CUF-YTD Crime Stats and advised that there is currently a manpower shortage at the City Impound Lot, help is on the way regarding speeding issues, Holiday PDLs have been

authorized, and police are unable to intervene relative to a downed gas light in the Clifton Heights Business District.

### Guest & Special Guest Speakers:

- Aaron Bartels of Trinitas & Associates and other Development Partners (Joe Antunovich, Eric Lucas, and Brent Crawford) provided a quarterly update for the retail/hotel/streetscaping/student housing sections of "The District at Clifton Heights" including a conceptual design with drawings presentation by Joe Antunovich and Greg Gorski for the Block A-1 Student Residence Project. Additionally, Aaron Bartels reported that the Permit Filing for the Block A-1 Student Residence & Streetscape is scheduled for January 2021 and that the Hotel portion will round-out Block A-1 early next year 2021. Aaron also responded to a question from the General Membership regarding possible Trinitas plans to develop the Hillel Building site. Aaron advised that the Jewish Federation owns Hillel site and any future development of the site would also involve a relocation similar to that of the Tri-Delta Sorority and that it is only listed in the overall Final Development Plan (if a future opportunity were to present itself). Lastly, he touched on last month's discussion regarding a Survey of Community Interest in a Senior Housing Project and that he will contact Chip on how to outreach to the CUF Community.

### Reports, Discussions & Announcements:

- The Treasurer's Report was shared by Chip Kussmaul
- Tom Reece representing the Clifton CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Center) was absent from tonight's meeting.
- LSDMC (Local School Decision Making Committee) Rep for Hughes High School, Lyn Martin advised that there is a CPS District wide virtual meeting scheduled for tomorrow. LSDMC Rep for CANS (Clifton Area Neighborhood School), Tracy Schwetschenau reported that CPS is working on a fix for the outdoor playground flooding and the fix should be starting this month.
- Parks updates: Jack Martin provided a brief history of the Fairview Park Switchback Trail and the most recent efforts to clean it up/remove honeysuckle, etc., the Parks Department will be installing some signage to help people locate the trail, the next door neighbor will be removing her fire pit that is located on park property, and the Parks Department plans to implement methods to prevent residential

garbage/recycling bins from being located on park property. Linda Ziegler reported that she has recently spoken to Druffel Landscaping about a possible maintenance contract that could be funded from either NSP or Tower (CUF Community) funds for the St-Monica triangle plantings and Chip Kusssmaul stated that we should try obtaining bids from multiple vendors.

- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corp) updates: Chip Kusssmaul reported that they met last month in October but not this month November 2020 and that they are reaching out to an Architect for the Block 1 design.
- CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association) updates: Jack Martin advised there are no new updates to report.
- NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown) updates: Linda Ziegler and Jack Martin advised that there are no new updates to report.
- INVEST in Neighborhoods: Linda Ziegler advised that there are no new updates to report.
- UCURC (UC Community Urban Redevelopment Corp) updates: Megan Smith reported that the Spring 2021 Semester will be held the same way as the Fall 2020 and that there are various Covid testing sites on campus and a drive through site over at the Goodman Garage. Megan also responded to a question from the General Membership concerning the lack of landscaping and building maintenance crews and ongoing litter (that is only being picked up by neighborhood residents) at the corner of MLK & Riddle. Megan advised that \$40K was just spent on landscaping and that facilities maintenance will resume mowing soon. She also advised that the City of Cincinnati owns a small triangle of land at this intersection and that they are pushing back on UC's design to add trees at the curb because it will block a proper line-of-sight for traffic but perhaps the trees could be planted inside of the parking lot as a solution. Additionally, the discussion revolved around the curb-cuts which were there when UC bought the property and they would also like to have them removed but the City currently forbids this. Lastly, Megan reported that \$140M Clifton Court Hall (part of an on-campus development project) had been stalled for a while and she will be checking to see if it has been placed back into the Budget.
- Founders Forest: Nathan Hess explained this program in which all 52 city neighborhoods will be asked to help decorate their own neighborhood tree downtown, each community will receive a tree and \$250.00 for the design and materials. CUFNA is scheduled for the Sunday after Thanksgiving, 29 November 2020.

Please email Nathan if you are interested in volunteering.

- Street Sweeping updates: Jack Martin advised that he will contact Joel Koopman with City Services to request an update.
- KCB (Keep Cincinnati Beautiful) Safe & Clean Grants: Nathan Hess recapped the semi-annual program and advised that no response has been received from the owners of the Ravine Street Market Building regarding a possible mural to deter graffiti tagging.
- Bellevue Park Circle close-off: Chip Kusssmaul and Julie Murray recapped the idea of installing "temporary" picnic tables attached to the asphalt to prevent illegal parking and other activity (drug dealing) and advised that so far CRC, CPD-5, and possibly the Parks Dept. are supportive of this. Jack Martin recommends that "drug dealing" not be mentioned as a problem or it could offend some people/visitors and he used Eden Park Drive as an example of recent community backlash against closing off a park road circle. Chip Kusssmaul suggested possibly surveying/petitioning both park visitors and the CUF community for input (as many have pointed out, it's a crown jewel physically located within CUF and CUF spends the most money, time and volunteer labor, and advocacy to keep the park clean, beautiful, and safe for "everyone").
- Dog Park updates: Jenn Martin is currently researching this possibility.
- Western Hills Viaduct: Maureen France reported that the public meeting has been postponed to Thursday, 3 December 2020.
- Bellevue Park Tree Planting: Linda Ziegler reporting on behalf of Mark Bambach advised that 3 new trees are scheduled for planting on Saturday, 5 December 2020 at 9:30 am. 1 of the trees will be planted in honor of Dennis O'Brien and we are hoping that his Sisters will be able to travel down and attend this.
- City Motorcycle Ordinance: Carolyn Young provided a brief recap of the incident which took place last month on Saturday, October 10, 2020 where 200 plus riders drove through several neighborhoods, illegally driving more than 2 abreast (per Ohio law) and caused major traffic disruptions by blocking stop light intersections to right-of-way traffic and Maureen France attested to witnessing the entire Western Hills Viaduct traffic blocked at both ends while motorcycles travelled the entire width and length span of the bridge. Despite dozens or more of 911 calls, "no" police presence was ever deployed throughout the day per social media outlets including Nextdoor.com and the original thread posting that started that day on Nextdoor.com was "mysteriously"

removed by an unknown administrative source.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38 pm

Next General Meeting: 19 January 2021, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Next Board Meeting: 1 December 2020, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Young.

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## CUF Neighborhood Association financial report

Balance on: Oct 31, 2020           \$ 2,587.53

Income:

Membership                         \$ 70.00

Total income:                     + \$ 70.00

Expenses:

Paypal Fee                         \$ 1.47

GCWW                               \$ 16.78

Total expenses:                 - \$ 18.25

Balance on: Nov 30, 2020       \$ 2,639.28

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## Your year-end update from Preserve Burnet Woods

Dear CUFNA and CUF neighborhood residents,

Despite the many challenges 2020 has brought with it, we've had another successful year of helping to make Burnet Woods a community-supported greenspace and urban oasis. In addition to our consistent advocacy for the park at public meetings and with the Cincinnati Park Board, we've donated and provided the following this year alone:

- More than 600 volunteer hours toward invasive species removal, litter pick up, and programming (this is an estimate \$30,000+ savings to parks in labor costs alone)
- Regular small-batch nature hikes led by botany and birding experts and free to all
- Continued collaboration with stakeholders, including UC students and faculty, to build strong community support for the park

We were overjoyed to see increased use and recreation in the park when, as a community,

we needed to find past times that could provide proper social distancing and adherence to public health recommendations. Walks along the trails of Burnet Woods and relaxing respites on the benches around the lake have provided solace for so many in our neighborhood during these stressful months.

Unfortunately, we do also need to report that the Camping and Education Foundation (CEF) has recently submitted a proposal for new construction in the park. Breaking with community feedback that any construction be limited to necessary improvements to the Trailside Nature Center, CEF has submitted plans for a new, stand-alone structure in the park. It is our belief that no private entity should be building, and holding lock and key to, a structure on our public land. We are also disappointed that CEF and its allies have reneged on commitments to robust public engagement in their planning processes and helping with improvements to Trailside Nature Center.

In response to this proposal, we are calling for your support and ask that you let the Cincinnati Park Board know that private entities shouldn't be building for their private use in a public park. We encourage you to attend any upcoming public meetings on the matter, and you can stay informed and get involved by visiting our website: <http://www.preserveburnetwoods.org/>

You can sign our petition in opposition to the CEF proposal by clicking [this link](#).

As always, we appreciate your continued support of Burnet Woods park and Preserve Burnet Woods, and we are confident that reasonable minds will prevail, no new private construction will damage the fragile ecosystem of Burnet Woods, and 2021 will be the park's best year yet. Until then, happy holidays and stay healthy everyone!

Sincerely,  
Preserve Burnet Woods



## Western Hills Viaduct update

For a number of years various stakeholders have participated in planning for a new Western Hills Viaduct, CUF included. A virtual update was presented by the city on December 3. The new viaduct will be constructed south of the current one. There will be only one level with four lanes in each direction, a sidewalk on the north side, and a shared path on the south side. While details are not finalized, it appears that no property will be taken from CUF for the connection at McMillan and Central Parkway.

A major stumbling block has been financing; the new viaduct is estimated to cost about \$335 million dollars. Resources from the city, county, state and federal governments are being assembled. At present about one-third of the total funding has been secured. Officials anticipate construction will begin in 2021 even without all funding in place. The railroads will continue to operate 24/7 during the entire construction period.

For more information, see the presentation on the city's website: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote/dote-projects/western-hills-viaduct>.



## Yoga at Burnet Woods

Through Dec. 26 (Saturdays), Burnet Woods, 11am-11:45 am

[DETAILS HERE](#)

## Cincinnati Zoo visits

Reserve Your Spot!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL VISITORS

<http://cincinnati-zoo.org/support/>

For the best value, become a Zoo member!  
A membership pays for itself in just 3 visits or less, and all levels are ON SALE NOW!

Everyone visiting the Zoo, including members, needs to make a reservation. The availability per timeslot will differ between member reservations and admission tickets.

All sales final. There is currently no re-entry.  
Members: to cancel a reservation please email [membership@cincinnati-zoo.org](mailto:membership@cincinnati-zoo.org)

*Happy  
Holidays!*



**CLIFTON HEIGHTS  
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
FAIRVIEW  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

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## CUF membership



Any person subscribing to the purpose of the CUF Neighborhood Association, Inc. and paying dues set by the Association may become a member. Election of Trustees is held at the annual meeting in July. Eligible voters are residents of the community who are at least 18 years of age and who are fully paid members of the Association and who have attended three general meetings after payment of dues during the year prior to the annual meeting. Non-resident members have voice but no vote in Association meetings and may not hold elective office. Annual CUF dues are \$10.00.

- CUF general meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:00 p.m, Hughes High School, 2nd floor, 2515 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, Hughes High School, 2nd floor
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July, 7:00 pm, Hughes High School, 2nd floor, 2515 Clifton Avenue

CUF Neighborhood Association  
2364 West McMicken Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:

Voting Membership: CUF resident \_\_\_\_\_

Non-voting Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

CUF organization: \_\_\_\_\_

CUF business owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-resident: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-resident property owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee: \$10.00 per year.  
Make checks payable to CUFNA.