



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

November 2021

Next monthly meeting: November 16, 2021, online format, 7 p.m.

CUF Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

Held Virtually on Google Meet
Meeting Presider: Chip Kussmaul, President
CUFNA

Meeting Commenced at: Tuesday October 19,
2021, 7:00pm

Safety Updates:

UC Police: Carra Sparks:

- There are two upcoming home football games: 11/06/2021 vs. Tulsa (Game Time TBA) and 11/20/2021 vs. SMU (Game Time TBA).
- There are four upcoming home basketball games: 11/09/2021 vs. Evansville, 11/13/2021 vs. Georgia, 11/16/2021 vs. Alabama A&M, and 11/18 vs. Presbyterian. All will take place at 7:00 pm.
- UC Police are still looking for donations and eligible families to participate in the Shop with A Cop Event on 12/04/2021.
- The current director of UC Police, James Whalen is retiring in January. His replacement is not known at this time.
- UCPD is currently hiring police apprentices and certified police officers and also recently hired three new security officers.
- The explosives detective dog, a 9 year-old yellow lab, has retired. UCPD is working to train a new dog. Should anyone encounter a dog on duty, please ask the handler before petting the dog.

CPD District 5:

- Officer Shaun Dent reported an increase in theft from autos
- Sergeant Ploehs reported that CPD assisted the West McMicken Improvement Association with picking up debris during the Brighton Bridge cleanup and as well as a Saturday

cleanup.

- Jenn Martin expressed concerns about speeding on residential streets in the neighborhood. Sergeant Ploehs offered to continue the discussion offline.

Guests:

- Kurt Grossman, City Council Candidate:
• Introduced himself, placed his email address in the chat notes and announced that he would be available at the end of the meeting.

Trinitas:

Aaron Bartels and Mark Becher—District at Clifton Heights update:

- Working on permitting for parking garage and student housing.
- Starting the demolition of the Tri-Delta site and beginning work along Stratford Ave.
- Plan to have the new Tri-Delta building complete by Mid-December.

Hotel Update: Russ Hunter

- Working on the building design for the Tribute by Marriott hotel. The plan is to make it visually cohesive with the structure to be built on the other side of Straight St.

- They are still working on the branding / identity.

Hotel Update: Shawn Conyers, Meyers and Associates:

- Presented the latest plans for the hotel building design, with updates from July's presentation.
- There will be leasing spaces on the ground floor and second floor, with the hotel lobby on the second floor. Overall the building is 134,000 square feet. The majority of the units are standard hotel rooms, with 20% of the space allocated for enhanced stay with kitchenettes.
- The building has a large setback on Straight St. to allow for a gathering space and to accommodate the grading conditions of the site.
- There will be a rooftop bar open to the public on the seventh floor, at the intersections of

Clifton Ave. and Straight St. There will also be a lounge space in the lobby that will be open to the public.

Christian Huelsman—Ohio Ave Steps

- Shared online survey results with design selection for Ohio Ave. steps.
- Working to obtain permits and ordinances required to add the art to the stairs; on 10/26/2021 at 3:00pm there will be a virtual Equity & Arts Committee Meeting
- The artists will paint the risers, and not the treads.
- The art will be donated to the city, then it will be up to the neighborhood to determine whether the artwork should age gracefully or require regular maintenance
- Tony Walsh suggested not painting the railings, as it hasn't held up well on past projects.

Reports / Announcements:

- Treasurer's Report: Included on meeting agenda
- LSDMC/CPS (Local School Decision Making Committee):
 - Lyn Martin reported that the new principal provided a list of school needs including: more after-school clubs in STEM areas, funding to renovate the annex behind the building to accommodate high enrollment, and an interest with connecting with the business community. Lyn also reported that the innovation Lab would be available for CUFNA in-person meetings as early as next month. Chip Kussmaul expressed interest in conducting hybrid in-person / virtual meetings, but would need assistance from an IT person to help set up the equipment in Hughes' Lab.
 - CANS local school:
 - oJulia Bonfield introduced herself as the new resource coordinator.
 - Tracy Schwetschenau reported that CANS is currently pre-K through 4th grade, and that they are enrolling new students. They are also looking for food pantry donations of light items that students can easily carry such as cereal, oatmeal, and pasta.
 - CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation): Chip Kussmaul reported that UC is still working to rehab the old YMCA building on Calhoun St., but that it needs more work than initially anticipated. Also, SORTA will be testing running small busses that can be scheduled for pickup, similar to ridesharing companies.
 - CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association):

Nothing new to report.

• NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown): Linda Ziegler reported that there is a proposal to build an apartment complex at Vine St. below W. McMillan St., where the tennis courts currently exist, and to make E. Hollister St. a 2-way.

• Invest in Neighborhoods-
InvestInNeighborhoods.org Chip Kussmaul reported that IIN met virtually this month.

They sent a letter to candidates expressing concerns of neighborhoods to city hall. The city is currently working on the community engagement ordinance. Next month there will be a discussion concerning the increase of shootings in the city.

• UC Community Development: Megan Smith reported that UC is continuing with construction, that the University has implemented a hybrid work-from-home policy to reduce the number of people on campus, and that the football team is doing well this season.

• Tree planting, CPAC—Jack Martin reported that the Cincinnati Parks Advisory Council will be planting trees to honor Paul Gallagher in Classen Park and Bellevue Park, as well as possibly in Fairview Park near the playground. They will be planted in the next couple of weeks.

Old Business:

- Street Sweeping: Jack Martin reported that the CUFNA board asked Joel Koopman to expand the street sweeping pilot program to the following streets: Ohio Ave. Stratford Ave., McMicken Ave., Marshall Ave., and Straight St. Joel received no objection and is waiting on DOTE to issue orders for signs. Jack also reported that the DOTE director is going through unspent capital projects, including CUFNA's proposal to make the North-South Streets between W McMillan and Warner one-way. Also, unless directed otherwise, DOTE will be removing the temporary Clifton Ave. bike lanes.
- KCB-Safety and beautification: No updates at this time.

- Consolidate IT: Mary Singler, Craig Lloyd, and Linda will be discussing the consolidation on 10/20/2021.

New Business:

- Gateway Lofts: Jack Martin reported that City Planning required the developers to present the latest round of revisions to the CUFNA board, with a representative of City Planning present. The changes were minimal. The CUFNA board

sent another letter to City Planning expressing the concerns about the project, including the height of the proposed building on Lyon St.

- Brighton Bridge Overpass: Maureen France reported that the Zoom meeting about the Brighton Bridge Overpass, with Q&A session will be 10/20/2021 at 6:30pm and placed the link to the meeting in the chat notes.

Next General Meeting: Nov 16, 2021

Meeting adjourned at: 8:38 pm

Minutes taken by: Andrea Schwallie

Architectural rendering of the proposed *Tribute by Marriott* hotel for the NW corner of Straight Street and Clifton Avenue.



CUF Neighborhood Association financial report

Balance on: Sep 30, 2021 \$ 2,374.05

Income: 10/4/21

Dues	\$ 25.00
10/12/21 Dues	\$ 30.00
10/12/21 FY 2022 NSP advance	\$ 7,638.00
10/15/21 Urban Forestry donation	\$ 475.00
10/20/21 Dues	\$ 20.00
Total income:	+ \$ 8,188.00

Expenses: 10/22/21

GCWW	\$ 11.84
Total expenses:	- \$ 11.84

Balance on: Oct. 31, 2021 \$ 10,550.21

Energy Aggregation Program

Cincinnati is the 1st aggregation program in the nation to offer 100% carbon free energy for both natural gas and electricity. All electric aggregation program participants receive 100% green energy. It is the largest carbon reduction program in the City and abates approximately 250,000 tons of CO2 annually.

In 2017, the City of Cincinnati added

green natural gas option in the Aggregation Program. Customers must “opt in” to this program. Constellation will purchase carbon offsets generated from biogas sources such as landfills or farms. Not only does this option capture green house gas that would otherwise be released into the ozone, it also reduces our reliance on sources of natural gas that are captured through mining methods such as fracking. Residents who do not select the green natural gas option will not be charged a premium and will receive gas at the Cincinnati Natural Gas Aggregation rate.

In 2022, the Cincinnati Electric Aggregation Program will begin receiving 15% of its electricity from locally produced solar as part of the green energy offered through this program. A 1000 acre solar array is being constructed in Highland County, around 40 miles east of Cincinnati, to serve the aggregation program. This array represents the largest municipally lead solar array in the country.



Community engagement

The City of Cincinnati is seeking feedback from residents, community councils, community groups, and City partners about how to improve public engagement in the City, in order to develop a community engagement plan. Community engagement includes methods and processes of communication and convening that allow the City to inform, consult, involve, and collaborate with residents on City matters.

The City will hold a series of public meetings to facilitate small group discussions about current City community engagement tools and associated successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. To participate in a feedback meeting and/or for more information, please visit the Community Conversations website at the following link: [Community Conversations - City Planning \(cincinnati-oh.gov\)](http://Community Conversations - City Planning (cincinnati-oh.gov)). For information about City Council's request, please visit Council Online.

We look forward to having you join us at one of the following meetings (they will all be the same, so you can choose one that works best for you):

- Wednesday, November 17, 2021 – Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue – 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 22, 2021 – Via Zoom* – 7:00-8:30 p.m.*

Registration is required for the virtual meeting in order to receive the Zoom link (please visit the website here: [Community Conversations - City Planning \(cincinnati-oh.gov\)](http://Community Conversations - City Planning (cincinnati-oh.gov)).

Registration is encouraged, but not required, for the two in-person meeting.

You are also invited to fill out a survey on community engagement here: [Community Engagement Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](http://Community Engagement Survey (surveymonkey.com)). This survey will close December 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

Metro survey

Metro needs your feedback.

As part of the next phase of Reinventing Metro, Metro will pilot a set of Mobility On-Demand (MOD) services to connect fixed-route buses to and from neighborhoods that cannot be easily served with traditional transit services. Many MOD services have been implemented throughout the country and are now being considered for Hamilton County.

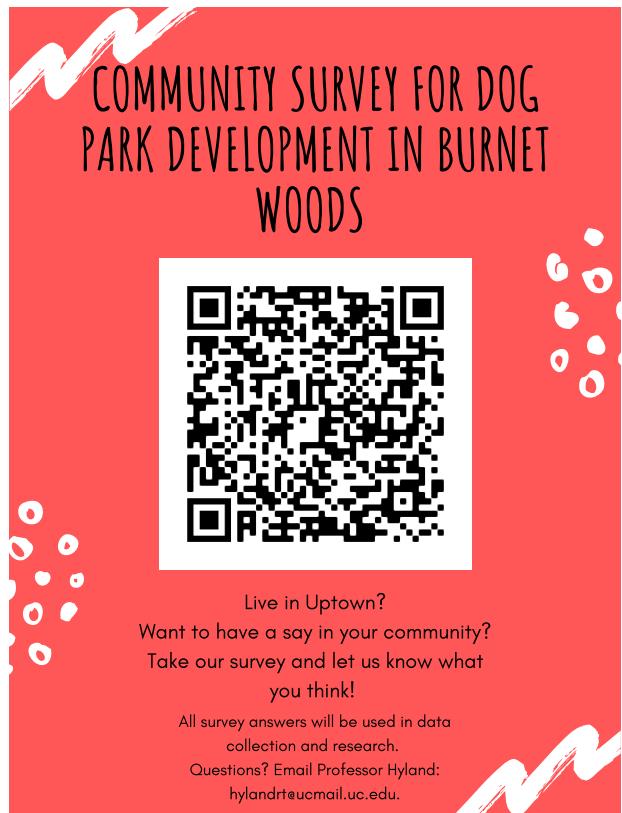
Reinventing Metro promised the Hamilton County region bold, new transit innovations to help drive economic development and better connect the community to jobs, education, health care and entertainment. In response, many improvements were made and will continue to be made to the fixed-route bus and Access paratransit network and services, including MOD service.

We need your help to identify areas that would benefit from MOD service to provide localized travel and connections with the traditional bus network. Please complete the online survey and share this link with your friends, family, neighbors - the more feedback we receive the better!

The survey will be active until Nov. 30, 2021:

- [Click here to take the survey](#).

Thank you for helping Metro identify and select the first few areas for its initial pilot services.





Help for Ohio customers with higher winter bills

Winter brings colder weather, which can bring higher energy bills. That's especially true if you use natural gas for heating – as natural gas prices are rising across the globe. These rising prices could have impacts for some electric customers, too. Our money-saving programs, tips and guidance can help you control your energy usage and reduce your energy bills.

WHY IS YOUR ENERGY BILL INCREASING?

Several factors can impact your bill. It's important to know that:

- As the weather turns colder, you may be using more natural gas.
- The commodity cost of natural gas has more than doubled since January 2021, impacting overall market prices for energy supplies.
- This cost is set by financial markets that are influenced by national and international events such as weather events, exports and changes in supply and demand.
- Duke Energy does not control the commodity cost of natural gas and does not make a profit on it.
- Duke Energy purchases energy at the best possible price and then passes this cost directly to customers.
- If you are an Ohio customer using a non-Duke Energy supplier, check with your supplier to understand how rising natural gas prices could impact your energy bills.

LOW- TO NO-COST ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

Natural gas use usually spikes in the winter since it is typically used as a heating source. Here are some tips to help prepare for cold weather and manage your energy use.

- **Learn how to reduce energy use.** The first step to reduce energy use in your home is to identify and prioritize energy-saving improvements. This can be accomplished through a certified auditor or by performing your own energy audit.
- **Seal your home.** One of the quickest energy-saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal and weatherstrip all seams, cracks and openings to the outside. This can save up to 20% on your heating and cooling bills.
- **Seal air ducts.** Make sure the air ducts from your home's furnace and central air conditioner are properly sealed. Ducts that leak into the attic or crawl space can substantially increase your heating and cooling bills.
- **Manage water heating.** Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or consider installing an on-demand or tankless water heater that only heats water when you need it.
- **Change air filters regularly.** A dirty air filter makes a heating system work harder, which uses more energy.
- **Operate ceiling fans in a clockwise direction,** which pushes warm air back down into the room.
- **Leave drapes or blinds open** during sunny winter days to allow the sun to warm the house. Close them at night to help insulate your home.
- **Install smart thermostats.** Install a "smart" or programmable thermostat to reduce your energy use while you are asleep or away.
- **Consider insulation.** Consider whether you need to add insulation to your ceiling, floors and walls. Insulation between the indoors and outdoors reduces energy demand, saving you money while improving the comfort of your home.

DUKE ENERGY PROGRAMS

Budget Billing

Budget Billing allows you to pay a predictable monthly amount to help better control your budget. Your monthly Budget Billing amount is based on the average of your actual bills over the last 12 months and is periodically reviewed and adjusted. Learn more at duke-energy.com/BudgetBilling.

Pick Your Due Date

With Pick Your Due Date, you can choose the date you want your energy bills to be due each month. Learn more at duke-energy.com/PYDD.

Installment Plans/Payment Plans

Installment plans give you more flexibility to pay back balances over longer periods of time. You can request a few extra days or restructure your entire balance into a monthly payment plan. Learn more about the options available by visiting duke-energy.com/MoreTime or calling us at 800.544.6900.

Find more information to help you manage winter bills at duke-energy.com/WinterBills

Old CUF

A photo of Wm. Howard Taft Road near Vine Street with Old St. George Church in the distance, taken in 1942. The water towers and wall on the right are where the Kroger store and parking lot stand today.

source: University of Cincinnati Libraries
Digital Resource Commons





CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Presorted Standard
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Funded by the City of Cincinnati



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: 3rd Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:00 p.m., Hughes High School, 2nd floor, 2515 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Hughes High School, 2nd floor
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3rd 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.

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