



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

June 2021

Next monthly meeting:

June 15, 2021, Online Format, 7 p.m

CUF annual trustee election

Each year, a set of 3 trustees are elected to represent all members and residents of CUF, and election results are announced at the July neighborhood association meeting. Trustees are elected for a 3-year term and the board of all 9 trustees meets monthly (in addition to the monthly general membership meetings) to address issues/areas of concern and projects impacting the CUF neighborhood, and attend to business matters such as approving meeting minutes and expenses. This year's election will be conducted by mail, and ballots with return envelopes will be mailed to those members eligible to vote.

Trustees may serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms. The trustees whose 3-year term is expiring are Nathan Hess (term-limited), Jennifer Martin, and Carolyn Young. We thank them for their dedicated service to CUF! Candidates for this year's election are Jennifer Martin, Carolyn Young, Jack Martin, Tracy Schwetschenau, and Mary Singler. Below are introductory statements from the candidates:

Jack Martin

My wife, Lyn, and I have been residents of Clifton Heights since 1972, when we got married and I first attended the University of Cincinnati. I graduated from DAA (now DAAP) with a Bachelor of Architecture, in 1976. We have raised a son and daughter in the neighborhood and our son lives in Fairview with his wife, Jennifer.

I was a co-founder/owner of Builderness Design and Construction from 1979 until 1996, when I took a position as an Architect-Urban Designer with the City of Cincinnati. I retired from the City as the acting City Architect (2009 – 2011), serving as head of the Transportation Planning and Urban Design Division of the Department of Transportation and Engineering.

I am currently on the board of Queen City Bike,

a member of the University of Cincinnati Safety and Reform Citizens Compliance Council, and a community/non-scientific member of UC's IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee).

I continue to represent the CUF Neighborhood Association at Neighborhoods of Uptown, the Clifton Heights Business Association and their Parking Committee, the CUF Neighborhoods' CPAC (Cincinnati Parks Advisory Council) and am on the CUFNA/CHCURC Housing Improvement Program (CCHIP) Committee to promote homeownership options in the CUF Neighborhoods.

I would be honored to return to serve the CUF Neighborhoods through my work on the CUFNA Board.

Jennifer Martin has been a resident of CUF for about 17 years as a Student – Renter and Alumni – Homeowner. With a degree in Accounting, she is a Partner at a local CPA firm and participated on various boards as a trusted advisor and the Treasurer. The time spent on the boards of Over-the-Rhine Community Council (2009 – 2015) and Cincinnati Preservation Association (2013 to present) have shaped her desire to be in a community that is a clean, safe and diverse environment that embraces the historical fabric of the neighborhood. Through participation on these boards, she has gained experience in working with both developers and the community on projects that impact where you live, work and play. She understands there is a need for balance.

Mary Singler

I am a 30-year resident of CUF. I recently retired from public health and am pleased to be able to devote more time to my community. My work in public health gave me a firm understanding of the importance of neighborhood associations and local, grassroots initiatives. I currently serve as the site coordinator for the West McMicken Community Garden and recently participated in the Neighborhood Leadership Academy (class of 2020).

Carolyn Young

Hello CUF Community,

My name is Carolyn Young and I have lived in the Fairview neighborhood of CUF since first

purchasing my house, located at the corner of Halstead and Straight streets on September 5, 2002.

I am a long-time member of the CUF Neighborhood Association, the W. McMicken Improvement Association, and the W. McMicken Citizens on Patrol Group. Belonging to these organizations has provided me the opportunity of participating in a number of community enhancement activities, such as the Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Semi-Annual Cleanups; multiple W. McMicken Mosaic Projects; and actively patrolling our local streets as a Citizen Volunteer, assisting with the safety and livability of our CPD District 5 CUF and District 1 OTR neighborhoods.

As a resident homeowner, I am always concerned about the beauty; cleanliness; and safety of our neighborhoods, and I strive to do the best that I can personally do to exemplify this within my own little corner at the bottom of Straight Street.

I humbly ask for your vote in the July 2021 CUFNA Board Member Election.

Tracy Schwetschenau

Tracy Schwetschenau has been a resident and homeowner in CUF for almost 19 years. She currently serves as CUF's representative on the CANS elementary school LSDMC. She is an attorney and previously worked at City Hall for various councilmembers. Her areas of interest for the community council include walkability/traffic issues, safety, homeownership, and the parks. Specifically, she would like to work on establishing a dog park in the neighborhood and commissioning art murals to replace graffiti hotspots.

Trustees serve the organization in a fully volunteer capacity. We truly appreciate the extra hours they put in for meetings, administrative work, and the improvements that they advocate for - and often complete themselves! We are fortunate to have a vibrant neighborhood, with so many people who care about our neighborhood and are willing to actively contribute in a variety of ways.

There are always ways to be involved, so please consider ways you, too, might be able to contribute to the vibrancy of our neighborhood. Feel free to share your ideas, hopes, and dreams for CUF with the trustees. And please send in your ballots on time to make sure they will be counted!

CUF Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

Video Conference Platform (provided by INVEST)
18 May 2021 - The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:02 pm, by Charles (Chip) Kussmaul (due to technical issues, this meeting was not recorded).

Guests:

- UCPD (University of Cincinnati Police Dept.) – Officer Carra Sparks
- CPD (Cincinnati Police Department) District 5 – Officer 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
- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corp – Matt Bourgeois
- Clifton CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Center) – Tiffany Thomas
- City of Cincinnati – Matt Hulme

Safety Updates:

- UCPD Officer Sparks reported that UC has recently held 2 successful Commencements and there will be a few more High School Graduations scheduled for the remainder of May 2021. Officer Sparks also advised that UC's Summer Term runs between May 10 – August 9, 2021, and the Fall Term will run between August 23 – December 11, 2021. He also briefly commented on the University's construction efforts along Calhoun Street (including the old YMCA Building) and the old Church location at Probasco Street & Clifton Avenue.
- CPD-5 Officer Hageman provided the April 2021 CUF Crime Stats. Capt. Gregoire and Sgt. Ploehs both spoke of the plans for highly visible police presence around the UC Campus during the Summer Months which will also include UCPD Patrol Cars during the evening hours. Capt. Gregoire also asked that the community forward any specific street patrol recommendations to them and he advised of a District 5 wide Traffic Blitz scheduled for May 24 – June 4, 2021. Other points of discussion with the General Membership revolved around parking violations and a very loud generator at the W. Clifton Avenue & Warner Street (commercial businesses) intersection, and that D-5's 3rd Shift Patrol Officer has verified this.

Lastly, Sgt. Ploehs can be contacted for updates to pending investigations at: Todd.ploehs@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Guests Speakers:

- Matthew Hulme of the City of Cincinnati's Transportation Dept. who introduced himself as the one of the Street Car Coordinators and as a Liaison with other public transit systems such as Metro, SORTA, TANK, Uber & Lyft. He can be contacted at: matthew.hulme@cincinnati-oh.gov.
- Aaron Bartels of Trinitas & Associates reported that they met with City Budget & Finance yesterday and are going before City Council tomorrow regarding their next major development milestone. He also advised that they have hired a new Landscaping Developer and installed some new pet stations throughout their property.

Reports, Discussions & Announcements:

- The Treasurer's Report was shared by Chip Kussmaul.
- Tiffany Thomas representing the Clifton CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Center) advised that she recently toured Bellevue Park and took pictures of the basketball hoop rim and of Coy Field which didn't have much trash that day. She also advised that CRC is waiting for status on post Covid-19 constraints and that there is a max number of 45 Summer Campers allowed this year.
- LSDMC (Local School Decision Making Committee) Rep for Hughes High School, Lyn Martin reported that the new Principal is Dr. Jennifer Williams who will be leaving her position as Vice Principal of Taft High School. She is currently shadowing the outgoing Principal, Kathy Wright and will officially begin in July 2021, and that she would like to present at the June 2021 General Meeting. 8th Grade Earth Sciences Teacher, Heidi Yocum attended tonight's General Meeting and advised that she is also on the LSDMC. LSDMC Rep for CANS (Clifton Area Neighborhood School), Tracy Schwetschenau reported that their last day of school is next Thursday. She also advised that there are 45 children signed up for June School and that next there will be a 4th grade added to next year's school year. Lastly, Tracy advised that CPS does anti-littering educating in grade kindergarten which is also reinforced in the 1st & 2nd grades.
- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corp) updates: Chip Kussmaul advised that there are no new updates regarding

Block 1 development plans (Calhoun St.) or the recent sale of 2226 Wheeler Street. Lastly, Chip advised that Burnet Woods Disc Golf upgrade (from 9 to 18 holes) is still in progress.

- CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association) updates: Jack Martin advised that the CUFNA will be partnering with Adriatico's and Mac's Pizza to provide food at the upcoming June 2021 Bellevue Park Community Picnic and that their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20 May 2021.
- NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown): Linda Ziegler reported that go Vibrant lost last year's funding from P&G, CUF's new routes are ready but still pending the signage, and that the Million Step Challenge runs from May 15 – October 24, 2021.
- INVEST in Neighborhoods: Chip Kussmaul advised that he will discuss Neighborhood Boundaries later in this meeting.
- UCURC (University of Cincinnati Urban Redevelopment Corp): Megan Smith reported that the Return to Campus Committee is in work and the possibility of a 70/30 (In-person/Virtual) format for the August 2021 Fall Term. She also advised that the old YMCA Building located on Calhoun Street is under a funding review in order to stabilize the building and also determine best utilization ideas that will then be forwarded to the University President and Board of Directors. Nathan Hess also requested that Megan contact her supervisor to request specific details concerning Clifton Court Hall, of which Nathan will then share with the CUFNA Board.
- Street Sweeping: Jack Martin advised that there are no new updates to report and he plans to call Joel Koopman with the City Public Services Dept. for status.
- KCB Grants: Chip Kussmaul recapped this is a semi-annual \$10K matching grant opportunity and please forward any project ideas to the CUFNA Board.
- Community Council Boundaries: Chip Kussmaul and Linda Ziegler provided a recap of overlapping boundaries between Clifton, CUF, and Corryville (including Burnet Woods) and a sudden new City Council interest in trying to control/manipulate neighborhood community council boundaries, of which there is no precedent for in the City Charter (per the City Solicitor).
- Bellevue Hill Park Picnic: Jack Martin advised that it is scheduled for Sunday, June 13th (or if it rains that day, the following Sunday, June 20th). Please email Jack if you can volunteer (cleanup/litter, announcement banner, etc.).
- Gateway Lofts (old Pomodori site): Chip Kussmaul and Linda Ziegler advised that

a large- scale development plan is being proposed there (includes Lyon Street) which would require a PD (Planned Development) with Zoning Variance (currently zoned for 1-3 units, single family housing) and that the CUFNA Board is in process of proactively communicating opposition with this to the City Planning Department.

- Dog Park: Jack Martin reported that Rocky Merz and Steve Schuckman are considering 2 possible locations within Fairview Park but there is a list circulating of other possible locations. Cynthia Duval advised that the Cincinnati Parks is looking seriously at our immediate area and that CUF should let them know if we are interested in pursuing Fairview Park as the chosen location. Linda Ziegler also advised that CPS isn't interested in it being located in their upper owned portion of the Coy Field and many people aren't aware of the existence of the lower portion of Coy Field. Piggy backed off the dog park discussion item were comments and complaints concerning dog poop all over the CUF neighborhood with some specific reference to the sidewalks around The Deacon, Hughes High School, and St. Monica-St. George with one possible solution of installing more dog-poop mutt-mitt stations throughout the neighborhood. Previously in this meeting, Aaron Bartels advised that they have installed additional dog poop stations and also have signage located on their garage to remind their tenants to clean up after their dogs.

- PBW (Preserve Burnet Woods): Cynthia Duval advised that there is a survey listed on their website and Nextdoor.com regarding the BW Shelter and setting up a Reservation System for it to enable better accountability of users/visitors relative to trash/waste and would also provide better servicing of the Shelter site.

- July 2021 Trustee Elections: Nathan Hess provided a list of the current candidates for 3 open positions and asked each member to give a brief introduction of themselves at this meeting (all did so).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:18 pm

Next General Meeting: 15 June 2021, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Next Board Meeting: 1 June 2021, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Young.

CUF Neighborhood Association financial report

Balance on: Apr 30, 2021 \$ 11,639.93

Income:

Membership \$ 160.00

Total income: + \$ 160.00

Expenses:

City of Cincinnati - Pots \$ 2,700.00

Ziegler - Reimb Labels \$ 35.57

Decal Impressions - Newsletter \$ 413.70

USPS Bulk Mailing Permit \$ 245.00

GCWW \$ 32.19

Hughes STEM Donation \$ 500.00

Total expenses: - \$ 3,926.46

Balance on: May 31, 2021 \$ 7,873.47

Brood X

The Cicada emergence known as Brood X peaks during the month of June. Having lifespans of four to six weeks, the vast majority will begin to die off in late June and into July with some minor appearances lasting through the remaining summer months.



Trail system connecting to Uptown

The Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network (CROWN) is a vision for a 100+ mile active transportation network comprised of multi-use trails and on-road bike lanes. Stretching from the far west side to all the way east, it will connect more than 356,000 people in 54 communities to significant destinations like parks, schools, centers for employment, retail, recreation, and entertainment.



The Crown is anchored by a 34-mile, multi-use paved urban trail around the City of Cincinnati. This trail loop will connect existing bike trails, and it will create new and safe pedestrian features in communities. The most prominent trails being linked are the Wasson Way Trail in Hyde Park, the Little Miami Scenic Trail, the Ohio River Trail, and the Mill Creek Greenway.

According to Wade Johnston, Director of Tri-State Trails, an initiative of Green Umbrella, one section of the trail that will make the most significant difference in functionality is in Uptown. “It will link up areas where we have dense populations, the second-largest employment hub. The trail connection is going to be a game-changer because all these people who live near the trail will then have a safe way to walk or bike to the Uptown area.” Johnston said.

Green Umbrella is the regional sustainability alliance of Greater Cincinnati, with over 200 member organizations and over 200 individual members passionate about enhancing the environmental health and vitality of the Greater Cincinnati region. Under Wade’s leadership, Tri-State Trails has grown from a grassroots coalition to the leading advocacy organization for active transportation issues in Greater Cincinnati. The group is leading a team of advocates, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses, and institutions, helping to bring The CROWN to fruition.

“I think it’s going to be a beautiful connection,” Johnston continued. “It will make [the innovation corridor] more viable and competitive because then people can bike there.”

A key to the trail’s success in Uptown is connecting to the recently completed Wasson Way trail. By working with SORTA, the group utilized a section of an old railroad to connect the Wasson Way Trail to the innovation corridor. Uptown Consortium Inc. (UCI) has also wrapped this bike trail network into designs for the Innovation Greenway. This multi-acre green space is designed to increase connectivity between developments and the surrounding neighborhoods and provide recreation and gathering space for community members and tenants.

“It’s essential to connect the Innovation Greenway with other projects in the community, including the Wasson Way trail and the CROWN network,” said Beth Robinson, President, and CEO of UCI. UCI prioritizes community engagement throughout the planning and development of all projects and, in recent weeks, shared the latest plans with Wasson Way/CROWN bike enthusiasts. The portion connecting Uptown to the CROWN network is expected to be completed in 2023, with the entire loop being finished by 2024.

Johnston was uniquely optimistic when asked about the impact the last year has had on the organization and planning for the network.

“The pandemic has been a real testament to how important these green spaces and trails are for our mental health and physical health,” he said. Johnston hopes that the public will take greenspaces into higher consideration for use, and private entities will begin investing in them as well after a year of heavy use.

CROWN received two grants to help with the development of the trail network and is relying on donations for funding. For more information on CROWN, the network of trails, and how to contribute, visit their website:

<https://crowncincinnati.org/explore/>

The District video

To view animated renderings of the planned development on Straight Street known as The District, by Trinitas Ventures and Columbus-based developer Crawford Hoying, click on the link below and then click on the “watch video” link in the lower right corner of the webpage:

<https://www.thedistrictatcliftonheights.com>

Plant donations needed

If you are splitting full or partial shade plants this season, consider passing your extra plants to the West McMicken Community Garden.

Last year, the garden was full and we had a waiting list of potential gardeners. A motivated gardener next on the list lobbied to turn a weedy & shady corner of the garden into a garden plot. This corner was unused because it was shaded by a tree. Our motivated gardener cleared the weeds, dug the soil, and planted a fabulous vegetable garden. Unfortunately, the shady plot yielded very little vegetables, since vegetables take full sun. On the upside, our garden has a tremendously energetic new member who graduated to a full sun plot this year.

Another positive is that the garden also has a corner that has been cleared, tilled, and amended with compost. This spot will very quickly revert to a weedy spot unless we plant. The community garden is looking for partial to full shade plants such as Hosta, Astilbe, Solomon’s seal, Hellebores, Jacob’s ladder, Columbine, etc. If you have plants to share, text Mary at 513.460.5182 or email her at mary.h.singler@gmail.com. To check on available spaces in the garden, or to volunteer at one of the garden work parties email maureen.france@uc.edu.

Bellevue Park Survey

The Cincinnati Park Board, Clifton Heights, University Heights, and Fairview Neighborhood Association (CUFNA) and volunteers of Bellevue Hill Park are seeking feedback on ways to enhance the park for the enjoyment and benefit of all users.

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey, that will be used to inform efforts to improve Bellevue Hill Park. We would also appreciate your assistance in sharing this opportunity with any groups of members with which you have access.

[Bellevue Park Feedback Survey](#)



SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK
Cincinnati Parks is working with area residents to collect feedback on potential enhancements to Bellevue Park such as parking, picnic areas, amenities, concessions and more.

Visit cincinnatiparks.com & click surveys by June 21 2021.



**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: 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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