CUF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

June, 2022

**Next monthly meeting:** June 21, 2022, hybrid format, 7 p.m.

Google Meet and In-Person at Hughes High School, 1st floor

Dear Neighbors,

In 2019 and 2020, our Community Park Advisory Council (CUF PAC), operating under the Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview Neighborhood Association, was awarded $1,000 by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. We held Picnics in the Park in Bellevue Hill Park, which included volunteer work, food and live music.

This year, CUFNA received a $10,000 grant from the city's Neighborhood Activation Funds and a $1500 grant from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation to hold a series of events from May through October, which we are calling First Fridays in Bellevue Hill Park. We have partnered with the Cincinnati Park Board to hold additional events on several Sunday afternoons during the summer. Our goal is to make these events weekly and sustainable for the long-term, through additional grants, food and beer sales, taking advantage of the Pavilion's concession window.

Cincinnati Parks sponsored and administered a survey of Bellevue Hill Park in Spring 2021 that showed popular interest in closing the circular drive to vehicles, moving the picnic area to within the circular drive, providing live music, and making food and drink available.

We also are making efforts, through outreach and grant applications, to assist Parks with getting the Pavilion listed as an historic structure and implementing an historic renovation. Parks Planning and Design staff have reported to the Park Board that the Pavilion will need $1MM - $2MM worth of structural stabilization and general renovations in the very near future and are contemplating a closure of the Pavilion until that work can be completed. Knowing this has energized CUFNA to work as quickly as possible to raise awareness of the amazing asset that we have in Bellevue Hill Park.

First Fridays in Bellevue Hill Park Details: The City-provided Neighborhood Activation Funds will be used to secure permits to sell beer; sound, lighting and movie equipment and licensing; police security; and production and promotion staff (Monigold Studios and Genesis Events). How many additional events we are able to provide this summer will be dependent on how well we are able to fundraise and how much money we are able to make on concession and merchandise sales.

All $1500 of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation Grant will be used to pay bands and musicians. This money must be spent before the end of September, or the balance must be returned to the Foundation.

*Dates for Bellevue Hill Park events:*

- Friday, 1 July, 5 - 10pm - Live Music*
- Sunday, 3 July, TBD - Live music
- Friday, 5 August, 5 - 10pm - Live Music*
- Friday, 2 September, 5 - 10pm - Live Music*
- Sunday, 3 September, TBD - Live Music
- Friday, 7 October, 5 - 10pm - Live Music*
- Friday, 28 October, 5 - 10pm - Live Music

* These events have been asked for and approved by Parks. At least one of the Friday dates will be a Bike-In/Walk-In Movie night, with music until dark. If all goes well, we could add several more Sundays and possibly other weekends.

Hope to see you there!

## CUF Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Hybrid Virtual / In-Person Meeting Held Virtually on Google Meet, and In-Person at Hughes High School
Meeting Presider: Chip Kussmaul, President CUFNA
Meeting Commenced at: Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 7:04pm

Safety Update:

Cincinnati Fire Department: Not present
UC Police: Carra Sparks
• There are many high school graduations coming in the next few weeks to be held at UC.
• The UC police received an international Herman Goldstein award for their burglary reduction efforts. (This is the person who developed problem-oriented policing (POP) . The Cincinnati Police Department has also won this award in the past.
• UC officers will visit offending students at their off-campus homes. Call Carra at 556-4953.
• UC police are working on graffiti problems; the city does nothing if graffiti is on private property.

District 5 Police: Sgt Ploehs, Officer Dent
• CPD officers plan to resume in-person meetings at CUF.
• People are reporting problems at the U-Square parking garage: tire slashing, thefts from cars, etc.
• General discussion of residents' concerns with loud parties, disruptions, and garbage created by students, lack of enforcement for parking which impedes street cleaning. Police offered nothing of help.
• A question was raised whether someone keeps track of complaints from the Fix It Cincy app?

Guests:
Jill Schiller, Hamilton County Treasurer.
• Collecting taxes is the main responsibility of her office, after the Hamilton County Auditor sets property values and voters approve levies.
• There is an option of appealing taxes through the Board of Revision which includes representatives from the Treasurer, Auditor and County Commissioners offices.
• Help is available through Legal Aid, Pro Seniors, the Department of Job and Family Services, Homestead Exemption, and Covid relief funds for those having trouble paying taxes. Call the Treasurer's office.
• The Treasurer is also chair of the Hamilton County Land Bank.

Mark Becher of Trinitas gave a construction update.
• The hotel project at the northwest corner of Clifton and Straight is going to the Planning Commission in June.
• Construction is proceeding on the new parking garage at Straight and Stratford.
• Infrastructure work on Clifton and Straight continues requiring periodic sidewalk closures.

Reports/Announcements:
• Treasurer's report is attached
• CRC: no report
• LSDMC Hughes: Lyn Martin reports the graduation occurred this evening. Seniors received about $1 million in scholarships. Hughes has received STEM accreditation.
• LSDMC CANS: Tracy Schwetschenau reports the recent Bellevue Park clean-up event with CANS students was successful. Another event will be scheduled in Spring Grove Village later in the summer. Next year the school will include 5th grade.
• CHCURC: Ongoing problems with development of Block 1, maintenance of which is very expensive for CHCURC. There has been talk of UC possibly buying the property.
• CHBA: No report
• NOU: Finally, after three years, signs for the go Vibrant walks in CUF, Mt. Auburn and Corryville are being installed.
• INN: Bloomberg Innovation Training to be held May 18, concerning community engagement efforts with the city. Councilmember Mark Jeffries is leading effort to control speeding.
• UC Community Development: Megan Smith reports that UC will not be buying Block 1 from CHCURC. Work on the YMCA building on Calhoun continues. UC has a "bicycle kitchen" which offers repairs to students and others for free. Megan will be leading this year's Uptown waste diversion

project during student move in/move out.
• Central Parkway/Marshall development: No report.
• Consolidate IT: CUF's website is in the process of being transferred from Square Space to Wild Apricot, which is a platform used by other community councils. It provides membership system, payment of dues, website and other features. A volunteer is working with trustees to make this happen. We will likely need co-administrators going forward. CUF files are being organized and put on our Google drive for permanent storage. Permission for viewing, editing, etc. to be assigned as needed.
• Street sweeping/parking: Signs have been put up on several streets. So far, no ticketing or towing has happened. Residents have become impatient with this lack of progress.
• Community Budget Request: CUF has the opportunity to propose three projects.
• Mural projects: Gfroerer's wall has been prepped. Concern expressed that someone has already marked on it. McMillan Street mural is almost complete. Work will start on the Ohio Avenue/Bellevue Park steps next week.
• TIF: CUF needs to explore using this funding source for capital improvements, possibly in our parks.

Old Business:
• There are new grant opportunities from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's Safe and Clean Fund.
• Clifton Avenue Compete Street: Cycling groups are supportive, but we have heard nothing new about further study of bike lanes, etc., down Clifton Avenue.

New Business:
• Dog Park in Burnet Woods: Preserve Burnet Woods and the Corryville Community Council oppose this project. They are asking for CUF's support in opposing this also.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:40 pm

Minutes taken by: Linda Ziegler

## CUF Neighborhood Association Financial Report: May 2022

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance on: 4-30-2021 | $14,597.96 |
| Income: | |
| Park Board grant | 1,500.00 |
| Dues deposit | 10.00 |
| Benevity Fund donation | 350.00 |
| Total Income: | + $1,860.00 |
| Expenses: | |
| Northside Bank VISA | 928.10 |
| Rbt. Jones Plumbing | 150.00 |
| Decal Impressions | 472.80 |
| N. Monigold | 154.73 |
| Hughes STEM High School | 500.00 |
| ACH GCWW | 31.71 |
| Total Expenses: | - $2,237.34 |
| Balance on: 5-31-2022 | $14,220.62 |

## LIFT Cincy

LIFT Cincy is looking for nonprofit partners across Greater Cincinnati and NKY. Need volunteers? LIFT Cincy has them. LIFT Cincy is a new, one-of-a-kind event igniting civic and community engagement while democratizing access to live music. Fans can volunteer three hours with a partnering nonprofit in every neighborhood of Greater Cincinnati or donate to attend an October 8 concert, details to come. Donations are funneled back into nonprofits doing the work to lift the city, day in and day out. The team behind LIFT are music industry professionals, nonprofit advocates, and community lovers. Find out more here.

## CUF trustee elections

CUF is holding its annual board of trustees election. Ballots have been hand delivered to all members eligible to vote. Completed ballots that are postmarked by June 30 will be counted. Results will be announced at the July general meeting. Candidates are: Jennifer Martin, Nathan Hess, Chip Kussmaul, Craig Lloyd, Tracy Schwetschenau and Linda Ziegler.
Candidates' statements appear below:

**Nathan Hess**: For 14 years I have lived in my house on Warner Street, and have been involved in our association for much of that time. I try to bring optimism and a positive outlook to serving in our diverse community. I believe it is better to be proactive than reactive, and I believe that building stronger relationships with city government and our local community stakeholders is to CUF's benefit. It appears that we have made some progress on this front and I would like to help ensure it continues. CUFNA's goals of increasing homeownership and improving quality of life for all residents are also important to me.

**Chip Kussmaul**: Jan and I have lived in the same house in CUF for a little over forty years. Cuf is a great neighborhood, with great neighbors, even with some of the problems coming from the north. We do continually face problems with loud parties, litter and graffiti. Fortunately, we are beginning to see a little more receptiveness to these issues at city hall, and at UC.
Additionally, our partnership with CHCURC on the Housing Initiative is beginning to bear fruit, as we concentrate on rehabbing rundown properties and in providing housing that is affordable to people with working class incomes.
We have seen significant change in this Cincinnati in recent years, especially in downtown and uptown.. People are moving in instead of moving out. We need to do all that we can to encourage development that is family friendly.

**Craig Lloyd**: I have been a CUF resident for over 40 years and have served on our neighborhood association as a trustee, newsletter editor and NSP manager. Like many of us I am a UC alum. Among the issues that I am interested in for this community is increasing home ownership, which calls for continued residents' involvement in enforcement, crime prevention and improving/maintaining both the streetscape and the housing stock to encourage home ownership. Finding permanent solutions to traffic and bicycle interaction is a current priority that is now being studied. CUFNA's sustained efforts have made a difference in a part of the city that has tremendous possibilities. Due to the positive changes that have occured in the nearby downtown area we should be seeing increasing interest in this community based on its location and potential character if supported by committed individuals with a vision, working together.

**Tracy Schwetschenau** has been a resident and homeowner in CUF for 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.

**Linda Ziegler**: I have been a resident of CUF since 1974 and a home owner since 1983. Although I did not grow up in CUF, four generations of my family have lived in this neighborhood since shortly after the Civil War. I am very interested in our history and in preserving historical buildings. Today, the most serious threats to the viability of our neighborhood are the lack of homeowners / permanent residents and the absence of citizen engagement in our community.
The Covid pandemic has presented us with challenges these last two years, requiring adaptations to our usual way of doing business. Yet we have continued to strengthen relationships with various community partners to improve parks, green spaces, community gardens, public services, and bike paths. I would like to see CUFNA continue such efforts in promoting us as a vibrant urban neighborhood connected to surrounding communities and downtown. It is up to us to determine the quality of life in our neighborhood; one way to accomplish this is through participation in CUFNA.

**Jennifer Martin** has been a resident of CUF for 20+ years as a Student – Renter and Alumni – Homeowner. With a degree in Accounting, she is a former 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– 2019) 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.

## Bellevue Park Clean-up Day

On Sunday, May 15th, CANS elementary students and neighborhood residents cleaned up Bellevue Park in preparation for the Spring in our Steps mural on the Ohio Avenue steps. Participants collected about 45 gallons of litter and 15 gallons of recyclables.

Thanks to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Panera, CHCURC and all the volunteers who brought fresh fruit and treats. We also had a wonderful visit with our District 5 Neighborhood Officers.

## Bellevue Pavilion Music

On Friday, June 3rd, from 6 to 10 pm five bands participated in the music series scheduled for Bellevue Park's Pavillion: *Trauma Illinois, Sunmates, Fruit of the Island, Jack Blair and Jack Burton Overdrive*. The event also featured food, beer and vendors.

More bands are being scheduled for the summer. Also, the park is having events on July 2 (family movie night), July 3 (afternoon Jazz, etc.), and July 4 (cookout with DJs). (See message on pg. 1)

*Jack Burton Overdrive* performs (CUF trustee John Stork on guitar)

## FY 2023 NSP program

At our annual CUF meeting on July 19th, in addition to voting for new trustees, we will be setting our goals for the FY2023 Neighborhood Support Program (NSP). All permanent residents of CUF, not just paid members, are eligible to propose projects and vote on categories.

Beginning last year, Invest In Neighborhoods (IIN) took over administration of the NSP program. They have standardized category names to allow comparisons among the various community councils. For FY 2022, we had three categories: 1. Beautification, 2. Communication Activities, and 3. Quality of Life Partnerships.

Our proposal for FY 2022 included 1. Beautification (60%); 2. Communication Activities (28%); and 3. Quality of Life Partnerships (12%). We ended up spending 76% in Beautification (community planters, trees, water source maintenance); 15% in Communication Activities (mailing newsletters, website and membership updates); 9% in Quality-of-Life Partnerships (UC police, Hughes STEM High School).

Since we do not yet know the amount of our FY 2023 NSP allocation, we will again vote on percentages. We are proposing the percentages that we actually spent last year. Below are examples of projects from previous years:

| | |
|---|---|
| Beautification | Newsletters/Communications |
| Community flower pots | Newsletters |
| Burnet Woods disc golf | Postage, envelopes |
| Maintenance of community water outlet | Upgrades to website/membership data base |
| Tree planting | Community Partners |
| Benches at bus stops | Go Vibrant Walking route |
| Deer cameras | Holiday Shop with a UC Cop |
| Mutt Mitts | Hughes STEM High School |

We encourage all CUF residents to propose projects for the coming year.

---

Once again CUF is participating in the Million Step Neighborhood Challenge sponsored by the go Vibrant organization.

CUF is a small but mighty participant, and we urge all to sign up and start walking! Below is information on how to get started:

Go to www.govibrant.org or download thegovibrant app via Apple Store or Google Play

Rules:

- Steps cannot be backlogged more than 2 weeks
- 20,000 steps or 10 miles a day is the max you can enter on the website drop-down menu. Apple Health and Samsung Health will record the exact number without limit
- Start date is May 28th. Steps cannot be logged prior to this time. Cut-off date for logging steps will be October 8th, one week from the official contest end of October 15th.
- Two categories of winners will be announced - one for large and one for mid-sized neighborhoods, based on the number of residents, in order to make the Challenge fair and equitable
- Winning neighborhoods will receive bragging rights, a winning certificate and extra publicity from go Vibrant
- Individuals who reach 1 million steps on their own will receive a loud shout-out from go Vibrant

---

CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 4834

*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.

*W W W . C U F N A . O R G*