



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

**December, 2023**

**Next monthly meeting:** January 16, 2023, hybrid format, 7 p.m. Google Meet and In-Person at Hebrew Union College, 1st floor, Herrman Learning Center, (no meeting in December)

## **CUF Neighborhood Association general meeting minutes**

Nov 21, 2023

Called to order at 7:03pm by Rob  
Present: All present-Kelly, Tracy virtual.

Guests: Toby Jackson, social worker & real estate developer is interested in working with the community.

### Old Business:

- Meeting Minutes from General Meeting October 17, 2023 were approved.
- The CUFNA Board of Trustees met on November 07, 2023 and meets the first Tuesday of every month.
  - o You can email the Board at thecufna@gmail.com
  - o Board Members: Robert Neel, Nathan Hess, Mary Singler, Kelly Ambrosius, Linda Ziegler, Chris Donahue, Chip Kussmaul, Tracy Schwetschenau, John Stork

### Reports / Announcements:

- Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CHCURC): (Chip Kussmaul)  
The Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, CHCURC, was established as a partnership between the Clifton Heights Business Association, CUF Neighborhood Association and the University of Cincinnati. The partnership is dedicated to the revitalization of the Clifton Heights neighborhood through various initiatives and redevelopment projects.  
<https://cliftonheights.org/about/about-clifton-heights-urban-redevelopment-corporation/>
  - o Block 1 Discussions

Clifton Heights Business Association (CHBA)/

### Uptown: Jack Martin:

- o There's an Oscar Robertson mural behind Dubois Bookstore.
- o TIF money should be approved for the Vine Street affordable housing project.
- o The CHBA Sign will up near the Shell gas station by the end of year.

Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC): Lyn Martin (Hughes High School) & Susan Heinrich (Clifton Area Neighborhood School, or CANS): Lyn Martin:

- o Teachers & students at Hughes like putting their cell phones in locked pouches. It's causing student interaction.
- o CPS May have to reduce \$96 Million from their budget next year. They are looking for community input.
- City Policy and Safety Liaison: Tracy
- NSP (Neighborhood Support Program). The City's Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) provides annual funding to Community Councils for neighborhood projects and activities. It is our main source of funding. A Community Council's NSP proposal must be approved in an open meeting which includes any residents living within that neighborhood, then a presentation to the NSP Review Committee made of other neighborhoods. See below:
  - Invest in Neighborhoods
  - Treasurer Report (below)
  - University of Cincinnati update: Megan Smith:
    - University Relations/Town & Gown: Tracy S, Daniel Cummings, Brooke Lipscomb: There are pending lawsuits for the parties that took place on Rohs Street a couple of years ago. The landlords were negligent. Landlords convert houses to have 5-6 bedrooms without parking. The City has reached out to see what the community & CPD would like as a resolution.
      - o Solutions: enforce the law as to the number of unrelated people who can live in a house; enforce the number permitted at a party; invite

landlords to engage with the community; have a replicable model of landlord lease terms. This is the first time there has been accountability.

- o A resident on Flora complimented the city with their litter efforts & would like the city to expand that to the parties & the loud noise in the neighborhood. A student remarked that landlords should be accountable for safety reasons.
- o A Community Action group at UC is looking for better relationships with the community & landlords. They are partnering with the City & CPD. Daniel Cummins, UC, is working with Brooke Lipscomb, City, to create conversations with the result being change. Brooke is working with multiple departments: Building, Fire, etc. & working to get students to be better neighbors. The City is also working with landlords. There was a landlord program back in 2008. Brooke would like this information from CUF.
  - Neighborhood Construction: Mark Becher and Betsy Hoying (Trinitas):
    - o Mark: the holes in the fence at the former Deaconess Hospital property are fixed. The gate is currently being fixed.
    - o Betsy: The Hub's garage is set to be completed next June. The hotel is on track for Sept 2024. There will be only one traffic lane open on Clifton until next Aug. The signage was approved by the City with 3 minor adjustments which Betsy will send to CUF.
    - o Betsy will follow up on the architectural pieces from the hospital that some were interested in through the email thread with Jack. Some of the items in photos previously shared have been disposed.
    - o A student reported that the barriers are inconsistent at Stratford & Straight. They move a lot causing pedestrians to walk in traffic. It's not clear where people should walk. Betsy will send Rob the MOT Plan of the area to mark up the area in question. Mark said Stratford should be open for pedestrians but it does change with deliveries. The CUFNA newsletter will show the accessibility of the area.

#### Safety Updates:

- CFD Engine Co. 19: This is the busiest time of year with lots of cooking fires. Clean your ovens. Don't drink & drive.
- UC Police: Sgt Brinker and Sgt Valerius. Officer Valerius: UC's last football game is this weekend. Exam week is Dec 04. Kia's & Hyundais are still getting stolen. Dec 09 is Shop With A Cop with 32 kids participating this year.
- CPD District 5: Amanda Johnson, Neighborhood Liaison Officer, and Capt. Matt Hammer.
  - o amanda.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov

- o Redistricting Updates: There are 25 additional officers for District 1. UC is a great partner. Capt. Hammer is on the Civil Disturbance Team with 2 other officers. Capt. Hammer's email: matthew.hammer@cincinnati-oh.gov

#### New Business:

- NSP Vote on Projects
    - o Percentages: 1) Beautification 2) Communication 3) Quality of Life: NSP is the city fund we use for community projects supported by volunteers. Last year 55% of the funds were allocated for Beautification, 21% for Communication & 24% for Quality of Life. This year's proposal: 50% for Beautification, 25% for Communications, 25% for Quality Of Life. These percentages can be adjusted during the year. Each neighborhood should receive about \$7,000 next year. Anyone who is a resident of CUF can vote. Nathan moved that the community approve the above percentages. Linda seconded. The Motion passed.
    - The College, Career + Community Resource (CCCRC), is an initiative of Cincinnati Public Schools designed to work with High School Seniors as they graduate. For more information: <https://www.cps-k12.org/domain/1815>. Email: [3CRC@cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:3CRC@cpsboe.k12.oh.us). CCCRC webpage
    - Community Feedback on removing the McMicken cement barriers on Kottman, between McMicken and Halstead: The West McMicken Improvement Association originally worked on setting up the barriers to curb prostitution & drug deals in the area. Capt Hammer was given an overview of the history of the barriers and the reason they were installed. The request to remove the barriers came from a non-resident and was directed to the city. The city directed him back to the Neighborhood Association to get their feedback as to whether the barriers should be removed. The Association wants to keep the barriers, as do the residents. All of the feedback received has been not to remove the barriers.
    - Ideas for Block 1: It's a priority for UC & CUFNA to build on Block 1. Megan, UC, said the UC Board has approved buying the site from CHCURC, but they are still in negotiations. CHCURC wants something more in the space than just student housing. Suggestions for the space: a bowling alley, bar, restaurant, meeting place for the neighborhood, a Central Business District Section. The community can email their suggestions to CUFNA at [thecufna@gmail.com](mailto:thecufna@gmail.com).
- UC Student Updates: Students are attending community meetings. You can email them at: [cat@uc.edu](mailto:cat@uc.edu)

Next Board Meeting: Dec 05 at 7:00 pm at  
CHCURC Office

Next General Meeting: Jan 16, 2024 at 7:00pm  
at Hebrew Union College. No General Meeting  
in December.

Meeting adjourned by Mary. Linda seconded at  
8:19pm.

*Happy  
Holidays!*

### CUF Neighborhood Association financial report: November, 2023

Balance on: 10-31-2023 \$5,776.70

Income:

Dues, on-line	10.00
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KCB Reimbursement, garden	4,385.02
Dues	10.00

Total Income: + 4,415.02

Expenses:

Wild Apricot fees	2.21
Cincinnati Took Bank	44.97
Northside Bank VISA, garden	912.42
GCWW	10.08
CUF Community Fund, garden	4,385.02

Total Expenses: - 5,354.70

Balance on: 11-30-23: \$4,837.02

### Good Plates Eatery free holiday meals

If you or someone you know needs  
a holiday meal, **Good Plates Eatery**, 235  
West McMillan Street, will be serving meals  
December 24th. No charge, no questions,  
stop in any time after 12 p.m. and they  
will have meals ready for you. If you would  
like to support the cause, please Venmo @  
goodplateseatery today. Spread the word!

### Uptown Consortium survey

We launched an online community survey  
to gather important feedback from residents,  
workers, students and visitors to learn more  
about their attitudes and perceptions of Uptown  
Cincinnati. The survey is open through the  
end of the year. Click [here](#) for the story on our  
website, which also links to the survey. Please  
share.

Brooke Rapp  
Director of Community Development &  
External Relations  
Uptown Consortium, Inc.  
3440 Burnet Ave, Suite 130  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229



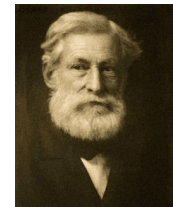
### Hillside Chapel

The CUF Neighborhood is full of historic  
buildings and memorable events. One such  
building is the Hillside Chapel, otherwise known  
as Cincinnati Cremation Co., located up a steep  
hill at 525 W. Martin Luther King Drive.



The Crematory was constructed between  
1885-1887 with the basement being added  
in 1888. The Cincinnati Crematory is the third  
oldest crematory in continuous operation in the  
United States and houses the remains of more  
than 11,000 people.

Benn Pitman, an architect,  
furniture maker and author, sold  
his house in Price Hill in order to  
create stocks for the building of  
the Crematory. The Crematory  
originally had 12 board members,  
including 2 women.



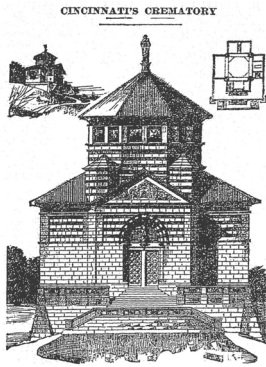
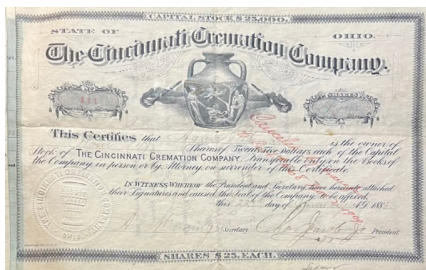


Illustration from the Cincinnati Enquirer, Aug 1, 1885

The stock price was \$25.00. Pictured below is an original stock certificate issued to the Pitman family.



Benn Pitman's wife was to be the first person cremated at the facility but because she was a woman, she was not allowed to be cremated first so an animal was cremated before her.

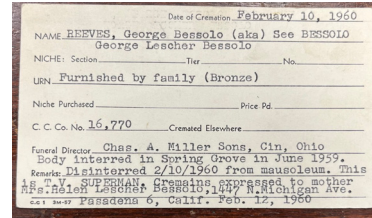
In 2009 bankruptcy was filed. According to a reorganization plan filed in bankruptcy court in Cincinnati, bidders had to maintain the Crematory and the 10,000 plus urns housed there. It was more economical to sell the property than to try to move all the urns held at Hillside Chapel. The crematory was purchased at auction by funeral director Don Catchen who is the owner of Catchen & Son Funeral Home.

The urns hold the remains of many prominent Cincinnatians, including TV talk show host Ruth Lyons, soap baron Andrew Jergens, department store heiress Mary Shillito, patron of the arts Patricia Corbett, Albert Vontz, founder of Heidelberg Distributing, & the Avery Meat Market family.

Anna Marie Hahn, was a female serial killer and the first woman executed in Ohio. She immigrated from Germany in 1927 and opened a bakery. Between 1933-1938, she met up with single, rich men whom she poisoned for their money. One of her victims is housed at the Chapel.

George Reeves, tv's Superman, had a mysterious death by gunshot. Was it suicide or murder? He was interred in Spring Grove Cemetery in June 1959, then cremated on Feb 10, 1960. His remains were then sent to

California. The mystery continues: why was he buried, then cremated?



Although it's been added to over the years, the original 19th century building is still intact. It includes the second-story rotunda with a trap door that once was used for lowering coffins to the cremation chambers below.

The interior fountain and many of the urns are made of Rookwood Pottery. The cost of the niche depends on the placement. Niches at eye level are the most expensive



Pictured below are the original retorts (ovens) in the basement, now replaced.



The body is placed in the double doors. It takes approximately 2 ½ hours for a cremation at 1700 degrees. Large bodies take longer. The ashes are swept toward the doors where there is a narrow opening that drops the ashes into the boxes underneath the retorts.

The Hillside Crematory averages one cremation a day. Today it is illegal to cremate animals in a retort that was used for humans.

Currently volunteers from the University of Cincinnati, led by Prof Anne Steinert, are inventorying the records at the Crematory which will eventually be housed at UC's archives.

Kelly Ambrosius

## Krohn Conservatory Holiday Show

Come visit Krohn's Holiday Show, Golden Days of Yule

This holiday season, Krohn Conservatory is filled with a warm glow as illuminated stars shine over colorful poinsettias, lush tropical foliage and holiday trees. Threading through the horticultural exhibit are the traditional garden railways and miniature Cincinnati landmarks made of locally sourced plant material by Applied Imagination. Joining the iconic collection this year is our newest addition, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.



[Buy tickets online!](#)

## Audubon Christmas bird count

Are you part of a cast (crows), party (jays) or charm (finches) of bird enthusiasts? Join over 47 million Americans, roughly 20 percent of the nation's population, who enjoy bird watching!

Whether you're an experienced birder or new to the flock, join our annual National Audubon Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 23 and 30, (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

[More info](#)

## Parks Foundation donation

Give Cincinnati Parks a high five by donating \$5 to Cincinnati Parks Foundation

It's the season of giving. If you love your Cincinnati Parks, consider giving us a high five by donating \$5 to Cincinnati Parks Foundation. No amount is too small to make a difference in the parks that we know and love.

[Donate!](#)

## Cincinnati Parks annual report

We have so much to be thankful for here at Cincinnati Parks. It's been an amazing year and that's all thanks to our staff, partners, volunteers, donors and City leadership. We couldn't have done it without all of you. We've accomplished a lot and can't wait for you to see what's in store for next year.

[Read the Annual Report](#)

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## Volunteer and event opportunities in Burnet Woods



• Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec 16, from 9am to 12pm, for the next Habitat Heroes native shrub planting! Habitat Heroes will meet in the parking area outside Trailside nature Center. We are also looking for more hike leaders if you have interest please reach out to [cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org](mailto:cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org) Thank you!

• Please complete the "community survey" the Park Board opened recently. The Park Board placed a sign at the proposed site for the dog park. Click the button "[take me to the survey](#)" to add your comment. If you don't support the dog park, we encourage you to use this opportunity to voice your wholesale opposition to the dog park rather than to comment on the design itself. The "survey" will close on Dec 15.

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**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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:00 p.m, Hebrew Union College (HUC), 3101 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, CHCURC office meeting room.
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July, 7:00 pm, Hebrew Union College (HUC), 3101 Clifton Avenue.

### **CUF Neighborhood Association**

2364 West McMicken Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

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

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

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership Type:

CUF resident \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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