



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

June, 2023

Next monthly meeting: June 20, 2023, hybrid format, 7 p.m.

Google Meet and In-Person at Hebrew Union College, 1st fl., Herrman Learning Center

CUF trustee election

Dear Neighbors,

Each year at our annual meeting in July, three Trustees are elected to represent all members and residents of CUF. Terms are for three years, and trustees may serve two consecutive terms. The trustees whose 3-year terms are expiring this year are Maureen France, Andrea Schwallie, and John Stork. We thank them for their dedicated service to CUF! Maureen is term-limited; Andrea has chosen not to run for a second term; John is eligible for another term.

Candidates for this year's election are Kelly Ambrosius, Chris Donahue, Chip Kusssmaul, and John Stork. Below are introductory statements from the candidates:

1. Kelly Ambrosius

I have been a member of CUFNA for 4 years. Like all of us, I want to live in a sanitary and safe neighborhood. I am a member of the CUFNA Litter Group and have partnered with the UC Student Trash Collection group, as well as Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for litter supplies. I have reached out to the CUFNA Board and Zoning Commission in the past about a new building housing issue. I have participated with neighbors from different communities on a Connective Community session to learn how density affects neighborhoods. I have participated with various city departments on an Extreme Storms session to learn how they are working on preventing floods in our neighborhoods. I am interested in what happens in our community and in our city and would like to get more involved in CUF. That is why I am submitting my name for a position as CUFNA Trustee.

2. Chris Donahue

I grew up in CUF and returned here after leaving the Navy. I have a BA in History from UC. I retired from a career with the State of Kentucky where I provided employment assistance to veterans for 19 years and then moved into providing IT support for multiple agencies. My interest in the Neighborhood Association is to protect long-term residency in the CUF neighborhoods.

3. Chip Kusssmaul

Jan and I have been residents of CUF, in the same house, for a little over forty years. We raised our blended family here and are now grandparents, and even great grandparents! I've always seen CUF as a great community, in a central city location, with great neighbors. Jan and I are now retired and enjoying our community even more.

But we do have our problems, largely due to the influx of students from UC. While most UC students are conscientious neighbors, some are not. In any event, the sheer numbers affect our quality of life, in parking, litter, and graffiti. As the representative of the CUF Board, I sit on the board of CHCURC (Clifton Heights Urban Redevelopment Corporation). In that capacity I have done everything I can to influence UC to consider its outsize influence on CUF. There have been some desirable results. We now have the Housing Initiative, a formal cooperative agreement between CUF and CHCURC, which is bearing fruit, as abandoned and neglected houses are converted into owner-occupied and long-term rental homes. Additionally, I have previously served on the CUF board, seeking, as we all do, to make CUF a better place for all of us. CUF is surrounded by development. OTR has become almost legendary in its turnaround. Mt Auburn and Avondale are seeing significant improvement. We sit in the middle of this, sometimes wondering what our future is and whether we will decide it, or someone else will. I want our future to be our choice.

4. John Stork

I am John Stork, and I am running for reelection to the Board. I have lived on Chickasaw Street since 2003 and in and around Clifton Heights years prior to that. I work for the University of Cincinnati Libraries, so much of my life centers around the neighborhood. I hope to have a positive impact on the Board as we continue to work to address our needs as residents during this time of record enrollments at the University, increased building and housing developments, and limited city services.

Eligibility for membership in CUFNA and eligibility to vote for Trustees is defined in our by-laws. To be eligible to vote at the annual meeting, a Member 1) must be a resident of the community who has attained the age of 18 years, and 2) must have attended three general meetings as a paid Member in full during the Annual Period, which is defined as beginning May 1 and ending the following April 30. (The complete document can be accessed through the website at <https://www.cufna.org/>.) Our new Wild Apricot software system notifies members by email when their dues are due. Dues can then be paid on-line, in person at meetings or by mail.

CUF Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Hybrid In-Person / Virtual meeting at Hebrew Union College and on Google Meet
Meeting Presider: Nathan Hess, Vice President of CUFNA
Meeting Commenced on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:03 pm

Safety Updates:

CFD Engine Co. 19:

Brett Dew provided the following safety reminders:

When using a barbecue grill:

- Inspect the grill before use.
- Keep the grill on a flat surface at least 10 feet away from the nearest building.
- Keep kids and pets at least 3 feet away.
- Never use a barbecue grill on a balcony without prior approval of the local fire department.

When using a fire pit:

- Fire pits are permitted in a commercial fire pit with a screen top, or a chimenea.
- The fire pit must be clean, contained and supervised at all times.
- A water source nearby is recommended.
- They should be more than 15 feet from any shelter and 25 feet from an apartment.

CPD District 5:

Officer Isaacs shared the crime statistics. He also reported that CPD will be reorganizing the police districts and there will be four districts instead of five. After the first of the year, CUF will be in District One. There is a meeting for public discussion on June 6th at the College Hill Rec Center at 6:00 pm.

UC Police:

Officer Sparks reported that:

- The University of Cincinnati is hosting high school graduations at Fifth Third Arena through

May 25th.

- UPCD has hired a new captain and is looking to hire dispatchers, police, and security officers.

Guests:

Update on the District at Clifton Heights:
Mark Becher of Trinitas reported that:

- They are working on streetscaping and will be closing lanes around the Deacon; it will be ongoing through the summer.
- The streetscape for blocks A1 and A2 will start in the beginning of 2024, for opening in the summer of 2024.

• They will be working on intersection improvements at Straight St. and Stratford Ave.

• They will also add pedestrian bump-outs at Clifton Ave. and Straight St. The ones on the west side will be permanent; the one on the east side will be painted onto the pavement and will have planters.

• The senior housing segment is on hold; they are still in talks with developers.

Betsy Hoying reported that:

• For the hotel in block A2, the poured concrete decks on level two are complete and they are ready to start on level three.

• They have been working on maintenance and clean-up on the site of the future senior housing development. There is a landscaping contract, which includes regular mowing and weeding.

Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition:

Rico Blackman reported that the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition is working on a grassroots campaign to put affordable housing on the ballot as a charter amendment. They have started a petition and are in the process of collecting signatures.

Old Business / Reports / Announcements:

• By-Law Changes: the CUFNA board worked on changes to the existing by-laws. All of the proposed changes were published in the newsletter. In order to amend the by-laws, the Board of Trustees needs to vote on the changes at a General Membership meeting. A motion was made and passed to approve all of the proposed changes.

• April Treasurer's Report: Attached to the meeting agenda.

• Trash and Litter Clean-up Committee: Tracy Schwetschenau reported that the CUFNA board voted to provide money for clean-up supplies. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) donated some supplies as well. If interested in participating, reach out via CUFNA's email address, thecufna@gmail.com.

• CUFNA Letter to City re: Quality of Life, enforcement. Tracy Schwetschenau reported that CUFNA sent a letter to the city. Clifton Town Meeting also wrote a letter to the city in support

of CUF. CUF has not yet received a response.

- Street Safety: Tracy Schwetschenau and Megan Smith attended a joint City / UC / neighborhoods meeting on May 1st. Megan Smith reported that they are still working with the city to determine options. UC plans to conduct a traffic study for MLK at Jefferson. The City of Cincinnati plans to do a traffic study for Clifton Ave.

- CBRs – Approved Community Budget Requests (FY 2022-23):

- One-Way Streets: Nathan Hess reported that the CBR was initially approved by the city. However, there are concerns about speeding if the streets are converted. The city would want to install speed cushions, and the additional cost of speed cushions makes it economically challenging.

- McMillan Sidewalk: Nathan Hess reported that they will be working on the McMillan sidewalk this summer.

- LSDMC/CPS

Clifton Area Neighborhood School (CANS): Tracy Schwetschenau reported that Susan Heinrich is the new CANS representative.

Susan reported that:

- CANS now has one preschool class, and two classes each for K-5.

- The inaugural class will be in their last year at CANS next school year.

- The school is currently struggling with space constraints and transportation challenges with the school bus provider.

- They are working on making an outdoor food pantry, similar in appearance to a little free library, and it will be coming in the fall.

Hughes HS: Lyn Martin reported that:

- The last day of school is 05/25.

- The 2023 -2024 school year will have earlier start and end times to the school days (8:00 am to 3:00 pm).

- Hughes will be going back to requiring uniforms next year.

- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation): Chip Kussmaul reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting.

- CHCURC/CUFNA Housing Initiative – Pre-development grant approval: Nathan Hess reported that the \$100,000 research grant that CHCURC received will be applied towards the Vine Street affordable workforce housing instead of potential graduate student housing at the corner of Sandheger and Riddle.

- CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association) – Nathan Hess reported that they are tentatively considering changing how bus passes are issued for high school students, to prevent students from loitering in the business district.

- Adriatico's Biergarten: Nathan Hess reported

that the owner of Adriatico's owns two additional lots on McMillan St. and is looking into the feasibility of constructing a public Biergarten.

- NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown): No updates at this time.

- IIN (Invest in Neighborhoods): No updates at this time.

- UC Community Development: Megan Smith reported that classes are scheduled in the new Clifton Court Hall for Fall semester. It is primarily for the college of Arts and Sciences and will have 24 classrooms.

- Block 1, CHCURC (Calhoun, Scioto, McMillan, Vine): No updates at this time.

- IT, Website Development: Mary Singler reported that the Plans and Studies page is up on the website.

- CBRs - Community Budget Requests (FY 2024-25):

- Warner Street Steps Reconstruction: Nathan Hess reported that the city is applying for grant money to get the Warner Street Steps restored.

- CUFPAC (Parks Advisory Council)

- Bellevue Hill Park: Nathan Hess reported that the bollards will be installed soon.

- Fairview Park – UC class (Dave Gamstetter)

- Natural Dog Park: Nathan Hess reported that CUF may have missed the final presentation.

- Volunteer Opportunities:

- Foxhall Trail cleanup: Nathan Hess reported that there will be a cleanup of the Foxhall Trail on a Friday in May from noon to 3:00 pm.

- KCB - Safety and beautification: Maureen France reported that they are getting to the end of the grant for the community garden and will have everything planted this month. One of the solar-powered lighted stop signs is partially blocked by a tree branch.

- Community Council Roundtable: Nathan Hess reported that there is a roundtable with the mayor scheduled for May 17. Mary Singler to represent CUF.

- Hallmar: Nathan Hess reported that the issue with traffic backing up at Central Parkway at Marshall has been discussed with the city. They will work to adjust the timing of the traffic signal.

- Town and Gown Agreement: Tracy Schwetschenau reported that the University of Cincinnati is potentially looking at creating a town and gown agreement with the city. There is an upcoming international town and gown conference in Colorado. A representative from CUFNA is not able to attend, but hopefully CUFNA will get updates.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:46 pm

Minutes taken by: Andrea Schwallie

CUF Neighborhood Association Financial Report: May, 2023

Balance on: 4-30-20223 \$17,977.20

Income:

KCB reimburse, garden & signs	\$11,471.85
2023 AIG	868.00
Wild Apricot dues	10.00
Wild Apricot dues	10.00
American on-line giving EDI	100.00
Total Income:	+ 12,459.85

Expenses:

Wild Apricot fees	1.76
CUF Community Fund	9,336.84
CUF Community Fund	2,135.01
HUC-JIR May meeting	125.00
Genesis events, 5-5-23 Bellevue	350.00
CANS PTO outdoor pantry	250.00
GCWW, meter for garden	229.92
GCWW	7.87
Northside VISA (Secy of State, Garden supplies, Wild Apricot)	998.06

Total Expenses: - 13,434.46

Balance: \$17,002.59

Balance to be reimbursed by KCB:
+ 3,000.00

Balance of Community Fund loans to be repaid:
- \$3,000.00

Balance on 5-31-20223 after loan repayment:
\$17,002.59

CUF Community Fund loaned CUFNA \$39,000 to cover costs from the two Keep Cincinnati Beautiful grants for a community garden and solar stop signs. CUFNA will repay loans to CUF Community Fund as KCB reimburses CUFNA for expenses submitted.

CUF Community Fund loan activity:

Solar stop signs:

\$12,500 KCB grant; \$9,336.84 total cost paid, leaving \$3,163.16. Total \$9,336.84 reimbursed by KCB. \$9,336.84 reimbursed to Community Fund. CUFNA asking to transfer remaining \$3,163.16 to community garden grant.

Community garden: \$26,500 KCB grant; \$21,503.24 expenditures. \$18,503.24 has been reimbursed by KCB. \$18,503.24 has been reimbursed to Community Fund.

go Vibrant neighborhood challenge

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.

The go Vibrant Million Step Neighborhood Challenge officially began Saturday, May 27th. Registration is now open; CUF residents are encouraged to download the go Vibrant app via Google or Apple, so that all can begin logging steps as of the 27th.

2023 will see the expansion of the go Vibrant Million Step KIDS Challenge. In order to give every opportunity to kids who do not live in a neighborhood that features go Vibrant walking routes, we are partnering with Cincinnati Public Schools "CPS Moves" initiative, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the YMCA to allow participation in and through those organizations. Recognition will be given to the top-performing school, CRC location and Y location. See our website at www.govibrant.org for details.



Bellevue park live music

Live bands perform at the pavillion in Bellevue Park on the first Friday of each month during the summer, 6:30 until 10:30-11 pm.



Cincinnati ranked #6 for parks

Cincinnati was named the #6 city for parks out of the largest 100 US cities, once again in the top 10. The annual ranking of park access, quality, and equity was compiled by the Trust for Public Land, whose mission is to “create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.”

[Read more](#)

- Krohn Conservatory's Butterfly Show is almost over - Plan Your Visit Now!

Krohn Conservatory's Butterflies of the Meadow ends on June 18, so if you haven't seen it, plan your visit now. It's a great family outing or day date. It's also the perfect gift for Father's Day!

Stay tuned for Krohn's next show, Dinosaurs of Krohn, First Flowers.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

- Riverfront Music Events

The start of summer means FREE, family friendly outdoor concerts for you along Cincinnati Parks riverfront with over 40 live music events to choose from. Each series has big-time local and regional bands and brings its own unique appeal.

[Check out all events](#)

- Share your PRIDE story

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cincinnati Pride we're looking for YOUR stories of PRIDE in parks. Did you attend a protest, get engaged or married, participate in a program or event where you felt welcome, have a simple contemplative moment, or more?

Please feel welcome and safe to direct message us your stories and photos. We look forward to hearing from you.

[Message us on Facebook](#)

[Message us on Instagram](#)

- Transform your lawn into a native plant sanctuary.

Now that the weather is warm, there is lots of time to spend outside gardening and working on your lawn. Whether you have a huge area to work with or a small section, you can transform your lawn into a safe haven for local wildlife by planting native plants.

Why should you consider planting native species?

[Read more](#)

Old CUF

In 1882 Robert Burnet and William Groesbeck sold 163 acres of their Clifton area land holdings to the City of Cincinnati. 74 acres of that sale was designated for the University of Cincinnati in 1895. The remaining land was used to create a new city park named Burnet Woods after Jacob Burnet, Robert's father, a successful attorney who at one time held seats in the Ohio General Assembly, state Supreme Court and the US Senate.



The drive in Burnet Woods, 1906



Old McMicken Hall and Van Wormer Library, UC, 1906

The university's Van Wormer Library and the original McMicken Hall were designed by Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford. Hannaford also designed Old Saint George Church and Cincinnati's City Hall.

Sources:

- United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division
- cincinnatihistory.org.



**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, Hebrew Union College (HUC), 3101 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, CHCURC office meeting room.
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3rd 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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