



**NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

July, 2020

Next monthly meeting:

July 21, 2020

Online Format, 7 p.m.

CUFNA Annual Meeting

Dear Neighbors,

Each year in July the CUF Neighborhood Association holds its annual meeting during which voting is held for trustees and Neighborhood Support Program categories.

As you are all aware, this year we are experiencing extreme challenges due to the Covid 19 virus. Our meeting location, Hughes High School, is closed for an indeterminant time at this point. Large in-person meetings are currently not allowed. Since April, our meetings have been held virtually on a platform provided by Invest In Neighborhoods. So, to ensure confidentiality of voting, this year we are conducting the trustee election by mail. Members eligible to vote will receive a ballot in the mail, with no identifying information, and a return-addressed envelope. We ask that you return the ballots postmarked by Friday, July 17, in order for the results to be available at the annual meeting.

The second activity at the annual meeting involves voting on categories for the NSP allocation. All residents of CUF, regardless of membership status, are eligible to participate. In FY2020, CUF's proposal was presented and approved in September; therefore, we received 100% of our allocation, \$6,078. A number of other communities, who did not have their proposals completed on time, saw their allocations cut by 25% due to the city's budget deficits. Our projects for last year were divided into three categories. 1. Beautification: city flower pots, a tree in Fairview Park, landscaping supplies, and MuttMitts; 2. Newsletter: printing costs for two monthly newsletters, postage, and bulk mail permit; and 3. Marketing and Membership: CUF website development, yard signs.

The city's budget for the coming year has

not been finalized; however, each community may receive \$8,000. We will only have rough guesses for projects for our proposal, but we can always make adjustments during the year as need dictates. Some ideas for FY2021 include: city flower pots, a memorial tree for Dennis O'Brien, landscaping, newsletters and required postage costs, and development of our go Vibrant walking routes. Attendees are encouraged to suggest other projects.

Meantime we are trying to figure out how to make meetings accessible for all. The day before each meeting information on how to join by computer or phone will be published on CUF's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CUFNA> and on CUF Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/cuf--cincinnati--oh/>. Please contact Linda Ziegler at zieglerl@fuse.net if you have questions or concerns.

"See" you July 21st.

CUF Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

Video Conference Platform (provided by INVEST)

16 June 2020 - The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:03 pm, by Jack Martin (please note: The audio recording option available in this digital platform will only be executed to assist with the drafting of meeting minutes and will be deleted upon approved finalization of these minutes.).

Guests:

- UCPD Officer Jim Vestring
- Aaron Bartels and Mark Becher – Trinitas & Associates

Safety Updates:

- UCPD Jim Vestring reported that the University of Cincinnati's that Jim Whalen will be acting in both roles as Chief of Police and Public Safety Director. He also advised that the Fall 2020 UC Term (In-Person/On-Campus) begins on 24 August 2020 until Thanksgiving 2020. After that the remaining Semester's Classes & Exams will

convert to On-Line only. Students will “not” return to the main campus until the next term beginning in January 2021, and the AAC Sports Conference Games will resume but no details are available at this time. Officer Vestring also provided some recap regarding a big rash of burglaries back in March & April of 2020 at several Off-Campus Housing Units (including the AEPi House & The Deacon Student Apartments). This has resulted in several new improvements to off-campus housing safety including a series of “hard-target” assignments, new fencing around the AEPi House, and the Hillel House has hired a new landscaper to perform continuous maintenance & beautification of their area. These efforts have resulted in a reduction of burglaries at these locations. Officer Vestring also reported that UCPD and CPD-5 are working together to address the off-campus partying nuisances and this has resulted in several Citations being issued which has helped over the past couple of weeks. He noted that 517 & 518 Fortune Street are on record as “problem” properties and that 2371 Victor Street just received a Citation. Officer Vestring proceeded to report this additional information: (1) thefts of “running” vehicles have drastically increased over the last 30 days in CUF and that a Student Door Hanger/ Information Flier for this problem is forthcoming, (2) the 2 UC Student brothers charged in the murder of another UC Student were recently cleared of all murder charges (a decision of self-defense was awarded) by a local Grand Jury, (3) he’s trying to get more off-campus student members to get to know their neighbors better, (4) he advised PBW (Preserve Burnet Woods) Cynthia Duval that UCPD is “not” allowed to patrol in Burnet Woods, and (5) he asked Jack Martin to email him a request for community gatherings at Nippert Stadium.

- CPD-5 Representatives were not in attendance at tonight’s Video Conference Meeting, nor have any replies been received from them. Additional chat notes also state that several CUFNA members have noticed the lack of CPD-5 representation (including no explanations as to “why” the absences) at our Virtual Meetings from April – June 2020, and are dissatisfied with this situation.

Guest Speakers:

- Colleen Reynolds representing DSD Advisors was absent from this meeting due to attending the Cincinnati City Council 2021 Budget Hearings.
- Aaron Bartels representing Trinitas & Associates reported that they have received

Letters-of Intent from potential Investors (4 for the Hotel & 2 for the Senior Housing). Marketing efforts for the Multi-Family Housing portion are still ongoing and that Trinitas itself, is working on the Student Housing Development to be located at Stratford Street. They also reported that efforts are under way to identify a prospective developer for the Master Plan portion which includes all street scaping & infrastructure. Trinitas is currently working with the City Planning Staff on all design development phases and anticipates that they should be in the construction phase 1 year from now. Parking for the Senior Housing will be on-site and the Hotel parking would be located at the corner of Straight Street & Clifton Avenue. Mark Becher, also representing Trinitas reported the following items for The Deacon: (1) move-in/move-out dates are scheduled between 31 July – 18 August 2020, (2) the pool & fitness center has reopened for Residents (by reservation) only, and (3) limited number of tours & leasing activities which all require masks & social distancing.

Reports, Discussions & Announcements:

- The Treasurer’s Report was shared by Jack Martin (on behalf of Nathan Hess).
- AIG 2020 Grant: Linda Ziegler reported that CUF received \$800.00.
- Tom Reece representing CRC was absent from this meeting.
- LSDMC Hughes High School: Lyn Martin spoke about the Senior Graduation Driving Parade held last month (May 2020).
- Neighborhood Parks & CPAC: Jack Martin reported that there has been no work done on the Bellevue Hill Park Sauer Steps but the Switchback Trail has been cleared. Otherwise, no communications or updates have been received from the Parks Department. PBW (Preserve Burnet Woods) Cynthia Duval reported that the Parks Department is ready to allow “small” groups of Volunteers to work in the parks and to please send in desired ideas & projects for both Fairview & Bellevue Hill Parks. There is also a UC Student Planned Protest scheduled for this coming Thursday, 18 June 2020 at 1:00 pm located at the corner of MLK & Clifton Avenue. PBW plans to perform “Litter Mitigation” after each one of these protests. She also reported that Parks Maintenance Personnel have been working in the parks and there are opportunities for coordination of Community Beautification Projects with Sigma Pi. Megan Smith representing UCURC (UC Urban Redevelopment Corp) reported that UC is trying to get the contract for maintaining the Clifton Avenue Green Space renewed with the Parks

Department but there have been delays due to recent COVID-19 furloughs. She also advised that there is another Planned Protest scheduled for the Green Space on Friday, 19 June 2020 from 6-7 pm. Jack Martin advised that the Easement Request for lower Fairview Park (at W. McMicken Avenue) is listed on the City Planning Commission's Agenda for this coming Friday, 19 June 2020.

- CHCURC Block 1 & CUF Housing Initiative updates: Chip Kussmaul advised that there are no new updates to report. Jack Martin advised that there are approximately 10 properties that are part of the Housing Initiative.

- CHBA updates: Jack Martin advised that there no new updates to report.

- NOU/Go Vibrant updates: Linda Ziegler reported that Christ Hospital has finally decided to "not" contribute funding to Mt. Auburn's trails, and that Corryville's \$2K NSP funding has been reduced to \$1K so Linda and Carol Gibbs (Corryville) are working together to see if they can reduce some of the signage to fit in with the funds reduction.

- UC Community Redevelopment updates: Megan Smith advised that there are no new updates to report other than already discussed this evening (upcoming UC Fall 2020 Term Schedule and the UC Green Space).

- New Trustee Elections scheduled for 21 July 2020: Linda Ziegler spoke of the possibility of Mail-in Ballots or conducting a Social Distancing type of Meeting in either 1 of our Parks or on the Hughes H.S. front lawn. This item will be discussed further and decided at the next Board Meeting scheduled for 7 July 2020. Additional chat notes from the general membership state that the big field at Bellevue Park is very open but parking can be challenging; that Fairview Park is less crowded with probably less risk for contacting COVID19; the large amount of cars parked in Bellevue's lot during the evening hours; possibly a good idea of using Hughes H.S. front lawn; or maybe doing an online Doodle Poll method for voting.

- Parking Solutions Study updates: Jack Martin advised that Greg Landsman's Projects Committee will be meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, 17 June 2020 and it appears that the Motion will be signed off & approved by City Council (please note: CUF Residential Parking Permit Program won't be implemented by the end of this calendar year 2020).

- The 2020 Census Counts updates: Linda Ziegler reported that so far, the CUF response rate is only 25%. Additional chat notes from the general membership reflect a request for the Trinitas team to collaborate with their residents in obtaining a 100% percent response rate

(because their headcounts belong to the city & neighborhood in which they reside during the school year and "not" their parents households/ neighborhoods), in which Mark Becher from Trinitas replied that he would work with his management team on this. Other chat notes suggest that the CHBA Landlords should be lobbied to have their students fill out the Census forms "correctly" (using their CUF student residence and "not" their parent's house) during their move-in period in August 2020.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:04 pm

Next General Meeting: 21 July 2020, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Next Board Meeting: 7 July 2020, 7:00 pm, location TBD

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Young.

CUF Neighborhood Association financial report, May 31, 2020

Balance on: May 31, 2020 \$ 17,879.05

Income:
 Membership \$ 70.00
 AIG Dividend \$ 802.00

Total income: + \$ 872.00

Expenses:
 6/17/20 Plummer - Cleanup Reimb \$ 142.76
 6/22/20 GCWW \$ 21.72

Total expenses: \$164.48

Balance on: Jun 30, 2020 \$ 18,586.57

Census update

The U.S. Census Bureau announced that it will send an additional reminder postcard to households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. The postcard is scheduled to arrive between July 22 and July 28, a few weeks before census takers are set to begin visiting most households that have not responded.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the start of census taker visits from mid-May to

mid-August, giving the Census Bureau the opportunity to send one more reminder to households encouraging them to respond online, by phone or by mail. Responding now minimizes the need for Census takers to visit homes to collect responses in person. About 61.7% of households across the country have already responded online, by phone or by mail since invitations began arriving in mailboxes on March 12.

The Census Bureau does not mail census invitations to P.O. boxes because each census response must be associated with the physical location where people live, not where they receive mail. When responding, these households are encouraged to use the Census ID provided in the packet or their street address – not their P.O. box number.

The Census Bureau strongly encourages the public to respond online at 2020census.gov. Households can respond online or by phone, in English or 12 other languages or by mail using the paper questionnaire mailed to nonresponding addresses or dropped off at the door. Although Census takers will begin visiting households that have not yet responded beginning August 11, households can still respond on their own until these visits conclude on October 31. Households that receive a reminder in the mail after responding may disregard it. Some households that have already responded will receive a Census taker visit as part of quality checks on the Census.

As a reminder, college students living in off-campus housing are to respond at the addresses where they were living on April 1, not their parents' home addresses.

For more information, call 844-330-2020 or visit 2020census.gov.



CUF annual meeting and election

July 21, 2020 is the date of our annual meeting and election of trustees. As you know, due to the Corona virus, we have been unable to meet in person at Hughes High School. This situation is likely to continue for some time.

The April general meeting was successfully conducted on-line with the assistance of an Invest in Neighborhoods platform. The trustees are working to refine this process. Members will be notified of meetings through Mail Chimp.

This year's election will be conducted by mail. Those members eligible to vote will receive ballots and return envelopes in the mail. Current trustee Jack Martin is term-limited, and Jules Rosen has chosen not to run for a second term. Three candidates will be elected. Candidates for election are **Maureen France, Paul Gallagher, Andrea Schwalie, and John Stork**. Below are the candidate's statements received at this time:

My name is Andrea Schwalie, and I have been a resident of CUF since 2018. I have been regularly attending the general meetings since I moved to the neighborhood. As a permanent resident, I am interested in maintaining and preserving local parks, improving the walkability of the neighborhood, and generating greater interest in single-family home ownership.

Maureen France has lived and worked in the CUF community for 30 years. She is a past President of CUF and is running for re-election to the Board of Trustees. She is Garden Coordinator for the McMicken Community Garden and Captain of the CUF Team for the annual Neighborhood Games. Her primary areas of interest are protecting and improving green space, increasing the number of home owners and recruiting more residents to become members of CUF.

Paul Gallagher is a former trustee of both the CUF Board and the Tower Fund. He has lived in CUF for more than 50 years and was a Captain in the Cincinnati Fire Department. He is best known as the Tree Man, responsible for planting hundreds of trees in our community. He is a member of the Urban Forestry Board.

Parks advisory

Important information from Cincinnati Parks: Cincinnati parks and trails remain open to the public; but maintaining proper social distancing has become challenging in many of our parks.

It is important that park goers practice social distancing of 6 feet when visiting our parks. We have created signs that are being posted at

- many of our parks. Our key messages are:
1. maintain proper social distancing when visiting parks
 2. wash your hands before and after visiting
 3. stay home if you are sick.

We have also created a web article highlighting various hidden parks throughout the city. Our hope is people will venture out to these lesser-known and less populated parks. Please share: <https://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/hidden-parks-cincinnati-parks/>

For all the updates about our parks, facilities and programs visit: <https://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/how-is-covid-19-affecting-cincinnati-parks/>

Thank you, and stay healthy!

Go Vibrant Million Step Challenge

CUF's Go Vibrant project is progressing. With our Corryville and Mt. Auburn partners, we have finalized walking routes. Photos of neighborhood highlights have been sent to the designers who are working on our community profile for the website and street signs to be placed along the routes.

In the meantime, the 2020 Million Step Challenge officially began on Monday, June 15th and includes a "Kids Category" this year. The app is now live and can be synched with other devices to allow walkers to add their steps to CUF's total. In all nineteen communities are participating. Currently, CUF is in 6th place, so let's get walking!

For further information, see the website: <http://www.govibrant.org/stepup/>



Native Plant Sales at Bowyer Farm, presented by Klosterman

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's popular native plant sales are back! Located at the Zoo's Bowyer Farm (2210 Mason Montgomery Road, Lebanon, OH), these sales offer a wide selection of reasonably priced, well-grown, hard to find, and ecologically important native plants. We will resume our regular 2nd Saturday of the month schedule, beginning on July 11, which may require an advance reservation.

To make an appointment, go to http://cincinnatiiparks.com/horticulture/horticulture_events/. Slots are set for 30 minutes each. Assistance by staff will be limited. There are no public restrooms at the farm. To ensure your safety and ours, please wear a mask and maintain safe distance from others. PAYMENT FOR ALL SALES ARE BY CREDIT CARD ONLY. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this period of uncertainty.





**CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

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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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