



**NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

May 2022

Next monthly meeting: May17, 2022, hybrid format, 7 p.m.

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

CUF Neighborhood Association General Meeting, 4/19/22

Hybrid Virtual / In-Person Meeting Held Virtually on Google Meet, and In-Person at Hughes High School

Meeting President: Chip Kusmaul, President CUFNA

Meeting Commenced at: Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 7:16pm

Safety Updates:

UC Police Carra Sparks:

- 04/28/2022 is the end of Spring semester.
- 04/22/2022 – 04/28/2022 are the move-out dates for the residence halls.
- Graduation ceremonies will be held at Fifth-Third Arena.
- The University of Cincinnati will also be hosting a total of 19 high school graduations.

CPD Officer Dent:

- The number of violent crimes is lower than they were at this point a year ago.
- There has been an increase in burglaries, thefts, and thefts from auto compared when compared to this time last year.
- Regarding last month's concerns about trash pickup on Muriel Ct., Cincinnati Police reached out to Rumpke. The truck drivers have been instructed to contact the police if they are unable to access the street for garbage collection.
- Robert Neel expressed safety concerns about illegal parking in the evening and late night hours on Emming St., Klotter Ave., Stratford Ave. and W. Clifton Ave. Cars are blocking intersections and could prevent emergency vehicles from accessing the streets.
- Officer Dent noted the intersections and offered to look into it.
- Linda Ziegler expressed concerns regarding loud parties on 04/14/2022 and 04/15/2022 at the Pike House and the SAE fraternities on Stratford Ave. Although the parties had permits,

at one point the music was loud enough that that a neighbor on Coy reported objects on shelves inside her home vibrating due to the noise, and a student was unable to study for exams inside his nearby residence. On 04/15/2022, after calls to UC Police, Cincinnati Police, and a visit to Edwards Center, Cincinnati Police arrived. However, they visited after the party's scheduled conclusion and the noise had already died down.

- Scotty Johnson offered to contact Chief Isaacs and Captain Hennie, as a permit shouldn't allow one to disturb the peace in a community.
- Carra Sparks offered to meet up with Officer Dent to discuss fraternity and sorority life.

Guests:

District at Clifton Heights Update:

- Tim Knapke from Prus Construction reported that they will be working on moving the power lines below grade for the next couple of months.
- Lyn Martin asked if Metro had been informed about the construction plans, as the construction is near a bus stop used by Hughes High School students.
- Mark Beecher reported that they are in the process of talking to Metro about the bus stops / logistics.

Reports / Announcements:

- Treasurer's Report: Attached to meeting agenda.
- CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Jim Moore): Not present.
- LSDMC/CPS (Local School Decision Making Committee): Lyn Martin reported that Hughes is currently undergoing its accreditation process and from 04/20/2022 – 04/22/2022, there will be big meetings at the school.
- CANS Local School: Julia Bonfield reported that there will be a community event on Sunday, May 15, 2022 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm at Bellevue Park. It will be a park cleanup, and kids will be welcome to bring their bikes.
- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation): No updates at

this time.

- CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association): No updates at this time.
- NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown): Linda Ziegler reported that they are still working to install the signs for the Go Vibrant walking route, and that the reason for the delay is unknown.
- IIN (Invest in Neighborhoods): No updates at this time
- UC Community Development: Megan Smith reported that the University of Cincinnati will be partnering again with CHCURC this year for the waste diversion event.
- CP/Marshall development: No updates at this time.
- Consolidate IT: No updates at this time.
- Street sweeping/parking: Jack Martin reported that new street sweeping signage should now be installed on Ohio Ave., Straight St., McMicken Ave., Marshall Ave., and Stratford Ave. as a part of the expansion of the program already in place on Fairview Ave. and Riddle Rd., and that that parking enforcement is scheduled to issue tickets starting in May.
- Community Budget Request (CBR): Jack Martin reported that CUF can place requests to apply capital money to up to three projects. Two of the projects from previous years are currently being assessed. They are:
 - The sidewalk on McMillan from Fairview Park to the bus stop at the top of the hill. The city plans to implement the new sidewalk this summer.
 - Making the north-south streets between W. McMillan St. and Warner alternately one-way for vehicles, with contra flow bike lanes. Requests from the neighborhood for new projects include:
 - Restoring the steps from Fairview Park to Fairview Avenue at Warner,
 - Improving the drainage on side streets such as Clybourn Pl., Graham St., and Fox St.
- CUFNA is open to any additional suggestions and the deadline is not until the fall. The funding is limited to capital projects; landscaping would not be included.
- Gfroerer's Mural: Chip Kusssmaul reported that Brenden Regan from CHCURC was looking for volunteers to help prep the walls of Gfroerer's, on 4/23/2022 at 1:00 pm. Brenden has since heard from 15 interested UC students who would be able to provide assistance.
- Bellevue TIF: Linda Ziegler mentioned that Cincinnati Parks issued a report. The report included areas in the Park that are need of renovations and repair, and could pose a danger to visitors. In CUF, the southwest overlook in Fairview Park (closest to the Warner

steps) and the pavilion at Bellevue Park were listed as projects in urgent need of prioritization. The stone retaining walls at the overlook in Fairview Park are showing signs of slippage. The Bellevue Park Pavilion is showing signs of settling and is starting to shift down the hill. Parks staff recommends that the structure in Bellevue Park to be fenced off at the end of the season. Linda reported that CUF could choose to apply its TIF money toward one or both of the parks. Jack Martin agreed that TIF money can be spent on capital projects that would benefit the neighborhood, however it would have to go through the department of community development to get approval. Jack added that it would be feasible to contribute TIF funds as seed money toward a project to get it started. Chip Kusssmaul and Jack Martin to look into it.

- Litter/Graffiti: Tracy Schwetschenau reported that the dump site near the WLWT radio tower has been cleaned up.
- Bellevue Park Earth Day Cleanup: Jack Martin reported that there will be a park cleanup on 04/22/2022 at 3:00pm, followed by live music starting at 6:00pm. Anybody who is interested would be welcome to join.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:12 pm

Minutes taken by: Andrea Schwallie

CUF Neighborhood Association financial report: April 2022

Balance on: 3-31-2021	\$17,742.01
Income:	
2022 AIG	861.00
Dues deposit	10.00
Dues deposit	30.00
Paypal dues	9.22
Paypal dues	18.44
Total Income:	+ \$928.66
Expenses:	
Park Board, flower pots	3,600.00
A. Foley, Bellevue Park	150.00
S. Peacock, Rat Motel	100.00
N. Monigold, printing	15.00
B. Phillips, graphics	100.00
Z. Pennington, photos	100.00
ACH GCWW	7.71
Total Expenses:	- \$4,072.71
Balance on: 4-30-2022	\$14,597.96

Cinci ranked in top 10

Cincinnati came in 4th for parks in a national ranking of the largest 100 US cities released on May 4th. 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.”

The comprehensive, highly technical evaluation compared park lands in cities on 5 factors: access, acreage, investment, amenities and equity in access to public greenspace by race and income. Cincinnati scored well above average when it comes to park access with 88% of residents living within a half mile of a park.

A big part of the success of Cincinnati Parks is due to the tremendous work of thousands of volunteers and community and business partners. Jennifer Spieser who serves as Executive Director of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, the official philanthropic partner for Cincinnati Parks, added, “Cincinnati Parks’ annual ranking as a top urban park system is a testament to our beautiful city, which has been planned so masterfully around its parks, recreation, schools, and greenspaces throughout all 52 neighborhoods. We celebrate today with the dedicated members of the Cincinnati Park Board, who work tirelessly each day to maintain this beautiful and historic park system”.

The review included parks and greenspaces in Cincinnati managed by the Cincinnati Park Board as well as the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Public Schools and the Hillside Trust and Cincinnati Parks remains delighted to have had their collaboration and support in developing their application.

Parks have a long and [distinguished tradition](#) in Cincinnati. The city is fortunate to have a robust and thriving system of parks dating back to the 1860’s with the development of Washington, Hopkins and Eden and Piatt Parks’. In 1907, George Kessler, Landscape Architect created Cincinnati’s first park master plan to lift the city out of the dirty environment created by the Industrial Revolution. As a result, many have described Cincinnati as being created as a city within a park. Today, Cincinnati’s Parks consists of 5,000-plus acres of city parklands including 5 regional parks, 70 neighborhood parks, 34 natural areas, 6 neighborhood nature centers, 30 sites managed by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, 5



parkways, 16 scenic overlooks, 2 arboretums and 65 miles of hiking and bridle trails. The complete Trust for Public Land rankings may be found [here](#).



The ParkScore index is a national comparison of park systems across the 100 most populated cities in the United States. This year, Cincinnati received a score of 78.9 points out of 100 based on an average of the five categories.

There are 14 measures across these categories, with points awarded based on how Cincinnati compares to the other 99 cities for that particular measure.

- Acreage: 60 out of 100 points
- Access: 82 out of 100 points
- Investment: 92 out of 100 points
- Amenities: 92 out of 100 points
- Equity: 69 out of 100 points

CUF trustee elections

CUF will hold its annual board of trustees election at the July 19 general meeting. Candidates at this point in time are: Nathan Hess, Chip Kussmaul, Craig Lloyd, Tracy Schwetschenau and Linda Ziegler.

Bellevue Park Clean-up Day

Sunday, May 15th, 2022 12pm-2-pm, Bellevue Park, 2191 Ohio Avenue

Come join us for a clean-up day at the park! We will be picking up litter and trimming overgrowth in preparation for Step Up To Art’s upcoming Bellevue Park mural project. Bring your bikes! There will be time to play on the playground, ride bikes on the paved pathway, or just visit with friends!

Hosted by Clifton Area Neighborhood School.

MLK memorial survey

The City of Cincinnati is commissioning a public outdoor memorial project to honor civil rights icon Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This memorial will be located at the northeast corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive East and Reading Road in Uptown’s Avondale neighborhood. It is slated for completion and a public dedication in August 2023 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. The City of Cincinnati is inviting you to share your thoughts and impressions with the artists by completing [this short survey](#).

New rules for electric scooters

As a result of complaints about people using E scooters in ways they weren't intended, officials have revised E scooter rules to address pedestrian safety concerns, underage riding, and criminal activities within city limits. Common complaints are people riding on sidewalks and riding the E scooters into parking garages, where they facilitate breaking into cars.



Bird and Lime Bikes are the two companies operating E scooters in Cincinnati. They are now required to provide insurance.

The new rules set times of operation from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. E scooters will be locked from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., which will block their use during the overnight hours. If a scooter is in use at 6 p.m., it will slowly and safely come to a stop.

Electric scooters are banned from sidewalks.

Electric scooters are banned in riverfront, Over-the-Rhine and downtown parks via technology that disables the scooters in certain areas.

Electric scooter speed is capped at 15 mph and 10 mph in The Banks' designated outdoor refreshment area.



Zoo working toward *net zero*

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is on track to become the first Zoo to achieve net zero energy, waste, and water status. In fact, the Zoo is set to surpass the goal it announced in 2018 when it made its net zero plan a key component of the More Home to Roam capital campaign.

The Zoo has enjoyed many days “off the grid” since it installed a 1.56-megawatt solar array over its main parking lot in 2011. It plans to build another solar array over a new surface lot this summer and install a battery storage system that will create an energy microgrid for the Zoo. A 25-megawatt array, that’s 16 times the size of the Zoo’s parking lot structure, is being erected at the Zoo’s Bowyer Farm and will move the Zoo from net zero to net positive in the energy bucket

Stormwater retention tanks buried under Africa and Roo Valley can hold up to 500,000 gallons of water, enough to provide most of the water that’s used in habitats and pools around the Zoo. Massive stormwater retention tanks to be installed under the Zoo’s new Elephant Trek habitat will increase storage capacity by 1 million gallons, enough to satisfy all the Zoo’s water needs.

The Zoo has been trialing an aerobic bio-digester to turn organic waste into a soil amending product that it can use in its gardens. The plan is to get the internal logistics figured out before installing a much larger unit in 2023 as part of Elephant Trek. It will be able to handle most of the Zoo’s organic waste, including food waste and poo from elephants, rhinos, zebras, and even Fiona! “Ultimately, the Zoo will spread the love by selling the soil enhancer produced by the biodigester,” said Mark Fisher, Cincinnati Zoo’s VP of facilities and sustainability. “Once our organic waste processing and reuse system is working, we’ll be 90% of the way to net zero waste. The rest will be accomplished via a robust recycling program.”

Earlier this year, Mallory Geresy, the Zoo’s net zero waste manager, spent the day working with Hamilton County R3Source to collect, sort, and categorize the Zoo’s trash. “We performed a waste audit in order to collect data that will help enhance our mainstream, specialty, and organic waste recycling efforts,” said Geresy. “We are working to create a list of hard to recycle items, or items that cannot be sent in mainstream recycling to Rumpke, in order to develop a specialty recycling program.” The team discovered that paper waste that could have been recycled was going to the landfill, so the next step is to educate visitors and staff about where to put certain kinds of trash.



**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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