

# CLIFTONDALE COMMUNITY CLUB, INC.

March 10, 2008

## Draft Minutes

The Cliftondale Community Club, Inc. met March 10, 2008 at the Cliftondale Community Center. About 62 members and guests were present.

President Ben Dye opened the meeting and Tommie Steagall provided the invocation.

Corporal T. Blackmon of the Fulton County Police Department provided the community crime report: 2 deceased persons (one natural death; and a baby, whose death is being investigated); 15 burglaries; 3 robberies (one a home invasion in the evening); 11 open-door reports (usually security system false alarms); 7 thefts from vehicles (there is a crime wave in stealing GPS systems); 4 calls reporting shots being fired; and 3 motor vehicle thefts.

Corporal Blackmon was asked if sexual predators are moving into the community. He said to go to the sheriff's website for information on known addresses. Asked how to deal with discourteous treatment from a 911 operator, he said to ask to speak to the operator's supervisor.

Treasurer Greg Wachsler summarized the Club's financial activity: beginning balance, \$3,046.43; deposits, \$45.36; payouts, \$100.00; and ending balance, \$2,991.79.

Secretary Gayle Lesser asked for any corrections or additions to the draft minutes as posted on the website. There being none, the minutes were accepted as posted.

Mr. Dye thanked the approximately 30 persons who were at the Annex for the video-conferenced proceedings of the Board of Commissioners on March 5. The Commissioners agreed to a two-week postponement on voting to amend the Land Use Plan and Cliftondale Overlay for the Cascade-Palmetto and Highway 92 intersection. The amendments would substitute the Cedar Grove Overlay for the two Cliftondale corners and increase the (built) square footage for the total intersection from 41,600 square feet to 200,000 square feet. In short, the

County's desire for more commercial-retail development will be at the cost of changing our rural lifestyle.

Mr. Dye, who was downtown at the meeting, argued that the County had not come to the Clifftondale community to present the case for the changes. After the meeting he sent Commissioner Edwards a letter stating the Club's request to meet with him, preferably at this evening's Club meeting. Commissioner Edwards responded by instead inviting a small group from the Club and the Cedar Grove association to meet with him on March 13, which would represent a change from this Club's policy of opening zoning meetings to the full community.

The floor was opened for discussion. A Cedar Grove resident said that his community was blighted by half-empty shopping strips and abandoned houses, and he opposed the additional construction the County's proposal would encourage. He said that the County had not come to the Cedar Grove community either. After further discussion, a show of hands indicated about 35 persons in the audience wanted to attend the Commissioner's meeting. As a result, Mr. Dye said he would inform the Commissioner that about 40 persons from Clifftondale and Cedar Grove would be attending.

[Postscript: The March 13 meeting was held at the Annex Auditorium, with a larger turnout of well over 60 people from the Clifftondale and Cedar Grove communities. Chairman John Eaves and Commissioner Robb Pitts were present, as well as Commissioner Edwards. The meeting featured a presentation by County zoning staff, followed by questions and comment. There being many uncertainties about the issues, Commissioner Edwards agreed to extend the postponement of the vote. The vote is now set for April 2.]

Turning to another emerging issue, Mr. Dye reported that he, Vice President Teiola Porch, and Storm Mitchell attended a meeting today with representatives from the County's zoning staff and the Sandtown community association. The meeting centered on a proposal to change a portion of the Clifftondale Overlay's northern boundary, moving it south from Camp Creek Parkway to Camp Creek (the actual creek). The area between the Creek and the Parkway would go into the Sandtown Overlay District.

This request comes some years after the boundaries were set by the County. The Sandtown Overlay dates to 1998, and the Cliftdale Overlay dates to 2004. The Sandtown president said that she initiated the request because Sandtown wants to reclaim certain historical sites that ended up in the Cliftdale Overlay District.

The Cliftdale and Sandtown representatives agreed to consult jointly on any proposed rezonings within one-half mile of the current boundary. (The two organizations have cooperated on rezonings of mutual interest in the past.)

The floor was opened to discussion. Mr. Moody noted that the area in question includes Westlake High School. Should Sandtown be annexed into the City of Atlanta, the high school could be to the City of Atlanta school system. The remaining south Fulton County high schools could not absorb Westlake's displaced unincorporated County students. Mr. Moody also stressed that Cliftdale meets with developers on rezonings more than any other community association, resulting in higher development standards. If we give up this land, it could be developed less strictly.

Mr. Dye introduced guests Tamechia Bernard and Tonya Randolph, who will be sponsoring two community workshops on preventing foreclosure. The free workshops will be held at the Cliftdale Community Center on Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 pm and on Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 am. To confirm attendance or to request a private consultation about your concerns, contact Ms. Bernard at 404-787-7048 or [bern5692@bellsouth.net](mailto:bern5692@bellsouth.net); or Ms. Randolph at 770-256-0162 or [tonya.randolph@randolphrealestatesales.com](mailto:tonya.randolph@randolphrealestatesales.com).

Stanley Knowles announced that his eighth annual South Fulton Community Rodeo and Festival would be held on Mother's Day weekend. He described the Rodeo, held on Demooney Road, as being in keeping with Cliftdale's rural background. He offered to give some of the proceeds, perhaps 40%, to the Club. Another goal is to develop a summer program for young people. He asked for volunteers to help with activities such as selling tickets and soliciting sponsorships. A planning meeting for volunteers will be held on March 16.

The meeting was adjourned.  
Gayle Lesser, Secretary