

# CLIFTONDALE COMMUNITY CLUB, INC.

May 12, 2008

Draft Minutes

The Cliftondale Community Club, Inc. met May 12, 2008 at the Cliftondale Community Center. About 33 members and guests were present.

President Ben Dye opened the meeting. Joseph Simien provided the invocation.

Corporal T. Blackmon of the Fulton County Police Department provided a report on Cliftondale community crime statistics for the past month: 1 person shot (daytime, in his garage in Amhurst subdivision); 23 burglaries; 4 reports of shots fired; 10 open-door reports (usually security system false alarms); 1 person dead (natural causes); 7 motor vehicle thefts; 1 aggravated child molestation, followed by arrest (a young teen molested his 4-year-old stepsister).

He also noted arrests were made in the defined Cliftondale area for the following offenses: fighting, disorderly conduct, no drivers license, suspended drivers license, theft by receiving stolen property, growing and possessing marijuana, wanted persons located, burglary, child molestation, and possession of a concealed weapon.

In answer to questions from the audience about a homeowner's use of firearms to defend his life and property, Corporal Blackmon explained the general rule was that "deadly force" could be used to defend your life but not your property. In cases where it was not clear whether life or property was at stake (say, an individual breaks into the house), you would need to convince a jury that you believed life rather than property was at risk.

In Treasurer Greg Wachslers absence, Secretary Gayle Lesser delivered his financial report: beginning balance, \$2,962.17; deposits of dues and interest, \$79.36; payouts, none; and ending balance, \$3,041.53.

Mr. Dye summarized the situation regarding the Sandtown-Cliftondale overlay boundary issue. There have been five meetings involving various combinations of the County and the two associations. Cliftondale offered a partial concession of the disputed area to Sandtown,

which Sandtown turned down. The Community Zoning Board voted to give the two communities up to 90 days to negotiate. Now the Environment and Community Development staff have offered a draft map and boundary that returns Sandtown's 1998 Overlay district plus an area surrounding Westlake High School. Mr. Dye believes Sandtown's objective is to acquire the high school, some subdivisions, and Owl Rock Church. The County's objective seems to be to shift the Enon Road area surrounding the proposed Kroger from Cliftdale to Sandtown.

David Robinson said that an analysis of the County's draft map showed that the area surrounding Westlake High School is relatively small, and thus Sandtown would not gain much beyond its 1998 boundary.

Mr. Dye observed that Cliftdale's choice seemed to be either fight the yielding of any area to Sandtown or to accept the transfer of land and negotiate conditions that offer some protection for Cliftdale. Mrs. Lesser listed examples of such conditions: Cliftdale-width undisturbed buffers along the roads between Camp Creek waterway and Camp Creek Parkway, a mandatory 75-foot conservation easement on stream buffers on both sides of Camp Creek waterway, a "one-foot" rule for parcels that fall in both overlays, etc.

The issue was opened for discussion, during which the following points were made by the audience.

- The County does not seem to be honoring the 90-day deferment by staff's rapid production of the new map.

- Several speakers favored fighting the yielding of any area.

- Several speakers asked if it would not be possible to combine the two alternative strategies.

- Suggested resistance strategies included media publicity, soliciting support from other community organizations, a very large turn-out at the Commissioners meeting downtown.

Mr. Dye summarized the discussion by noting that three alternatives had emerged: resistance; accept the transfer and negotiate conditions; fight

and then accept the County line with conditions. He asked for a show of hands on the alternatives. A majority of 21 attendees voted for resistance.

Mr. Dye and other officers reminded attendees that their vote for resistance had to represent a personal commitment to be present at the Community Zoning Board meeting and at the Commissioners meeting.

In other business, Cliff Rainey, chair of the nominating committee, reminded the members that a slate of candidates had not yet been filled and urged individuals to step forward or to suggest potential candidates.

Donzella James, who is a candidate for public office, said that 400 of her yard signs in the Clifftondale area had been pulled up immediately after they were put out. She asked if anyone had seen signs being taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Gayle Lesser  
Secretary