

Charlotte Community Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 24, 2015, 7:00 pm Port Terminal Building, 2nd floor conference room

OUR MISSION

To build a stronger community and to enhance the lives of our residents by providing a forum for sharing information, connecting neighbors and stakeholders, and fostering civic engagement while preserving and promoting the heritage of the Village of Charlotte.

Call to Order / Attendance / Housekeeping

Meeting called to order by President Clare Stortini at 7:03 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, president; Susan Miller, treasurer; Sue Roethel, secretary; Patti O'Brien, director; Donna Bour-Purdy, director.

With only five board members at this time (all present), there was no quorum to conduct business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Members Speak to the Board** – CCA members Ed Steinberg and Bill Brown addressed the board to discuss the development at the Port of Rochester. They had previously sent the board an email outlining their concerns and requesting an informal, personal meeting with the board. They also announced that a small group has been meeting at the LDR Char-Pit and that they may have a public protest against the development in the next few weeks. They want to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding the current development plan, and they want to know what the current candidates for City Council think about the Port of Rochester.

Ed and Bill asked the board to have ongoing discussion within the community regarding the Port. They don't think the organization understands what processes are in place and how those processes should work to get things done. Regarding the effectiveness of the Planning & Zoning Committee, they suggested that the board re-examine the expectations and Plan of Work.

Ed and Bill were advised to become involved with the CCA's Planning & Zoning Committee, which is structured and charged in its Plan of Work for 2015 to address the Port of Rochester as one of its priorities. This committee is responsible for community outreach and advocacy with the City of Rochester regarding development issues. Bill asked for a copy of the current P&Z Plan of Work. They were advised that the P&Z Committee has not had a chairperson all year to coordinate the group's efforts and help it to function cohesively. They were also advised that the new CCA website will soon be unveiled, and it has a section called "Community Development," under which is a page dedicated entirely to the Port of Rochester. This will be a perfect place for information to be shared and where people can go for updates anytime on the Port development project.

2. **Bylaws Revisions** – The Not-for-Profit Status (NPS) Committee has completed the proposed revisions and has received valuable feedback from the attorney on them. The revisions are a blend of the language used in the current bylaws combined with new language used by the Corn Hill Neighborhood Association that addresses the 2013 changes to Non-Profit Corporation Law (NPCL). They also include changes that provide clarity for future boards on what is now vague or completely

unaddressed in the current bylaws. The board began reviewing the proposed bylaws revisions for further modifications. We need to understand the implications of the revisions in order to discuss them when they are presented to the membership.

Action Items:

- Sue R. will send Bill and Ed the Planning & Zoning Committee's Plan of Work for 2015.
- The board will meet again on 9/30 to continue reviewing the proposed bylaws revisions.

President's Report

- **Board Operations** – Clare asked the board once again to re-examine how we are operating. Unprofessional behavior by board members has been an ongoing issue we have addressed repeatedly all year long. There is a significant lack of communication and respect for each other and for our members. For example, not showing up for meetings or showing up late and not notifying the President or Secretary; being unprepared to discuss agenda topics at meetings; not responding to email requests for board feedback; not performing basic duties as a liaison to their assigned committee. Should we have all board members sign an agreement about rules of engagement?

Now that the board is down to five members, we need to regroup. For the remainder of 2015, our work should focus on the essential tasks needed to stabilize the organization, such as completing and presenting the bylaws revisions for approval by the membership. Should we suspend unessential tasks, such as the minutes?

- **Gift Card for Brian** – As we have done for other board members who have left the board this year, we should recognize Brian's long and dedicated service with a gift card and certificate. Since we still have the gift cards purchased for Mike Parker and Sean Schiano that they declined, Clare suggested that we give them both to Brian along with a certificate. The board unanimously agreed to this, and we will present them to Brian at the October meeting.
- **PCIC with Chief of Police**– A group of selected community members are invited to meet with the Police Chief Michael Ciminelli on a bi-monthly basis. The Chief of Staff, Lt. Mike Jones, invited Clare to represent the CCA at these meetings. This is an honor, as not all neighborhood organizations are represented. Simultaneously, RPD Investigator Frank Camp who works in the Chief's office, invited Sean Schiano to join the meetings, and Sean asked for board support to represent the CCA. These PCIC meetings focus on city-wide issues, such as a new gun buy-back program. The Chief expects us to disseminate information and report back to him on issues we experience within our neighborhood. The mechanism to gather information from the community for this is our Safety & Security Committee.

Sean left the CCA board in early January and has been minimally involved with the organization since then. He volunteers on the Beautification Committee but does not attend CCA meetings or is involved with any other committee. The board is very excited to have Sean's increased participation but feels that the CCA representation at the Chief's PCIC meetings should be at the board level, preferably the President. Sean was invited to join the Safety & Security Committee to serve in this capacity.

- **NW Quadrant Meeting on 9/24** – Donna attended this daytime meeting to represent the CCA. Discussion centered on a new video on <http://rocfrontrow.com/> that is anti-gun violence. The video follows children down different paths they could choose.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Charrette Steering Committee** – Due to time constraints, this topic is deferred to a future agenda.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

10/2-4 River Romance – City of Rochester’s annual event
10/5 General Meeting
10/13 Meet the Candidates Night

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.