

# Charlotte Community Association

## General Meeting Minutes August 3, 2015, 7:00 pm Roger Robach Community Center

### **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.*

### **Meet & Greet**

The first 10 minutes of the agenda was devoted to an informal meet-and-greet for the audience to chat with other community and board members.

### **Call to Order / Attendance**

Meeting called to order by President Clare Stortini at 7:11 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, president; Susan Miller, treasurer; Sue Roethel, secretary; Brian Labigan, director; Patti O'Brien, director; Pat O'Neill, director; Pam Postgate, director.

There was a quorum of the board to conduct business. Joe Hinchman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Membership/Audience Sign-In**

At the beginning of the meeting, there were 35 people in attendance (count includes 7 board members), plus we welcomed 5 RPD officers and 4 RFD firefighters. Pam Postgate announced that there is a new sign-in process to collect contact information and track the members who attend (for voting purposes). Pam needs help with this, and anyone interested should contact her.

### **Rochester Police Department (RPD) Update**

Capt. Ray Dearcop reported that Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> went well from a resource standpoint. The Lake Section is challenged with a reduction of 25 officers due to retirements, vacation, sick, military duty and disability. There are 109 officer positions budgeted, and the Lake Section has 85 active positions filled. He thanks the hard-working men and women who serve the Lake Section and asks citizens to keep realistic expectations.

Lt. Jeff Koehn and Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Kelly O'Hara reported the following:

- 27 new recruits started today. Justin Anderson is one of the new recruits who is training with Mike Chula in the 201 Lake Section car. By late fall, the new recruits will be operating solo
- 2 street robberies: One at 2896 Lake Ave. near Cheltenham with 5 male suspects and 1 victim. The other happened at the pier where 4 acquaintances were walking and 4 suspects took a cell phone and a BB gun

- 5 burglaries: 173 Stutson St. (residential); 209 River St., 106 Denise Rd., and 79 LeMoyn, Snug Harbor Ct., and Afton St. (garages and sheds)
- 86 citations from near Bathtub Billy's
- Radar trailer on Denise Rd. (no statistics available yet)
- Presbyterian Church daycare center playground is being used by homeless people at night
- Women's Care Center reported that someone stole their window air conditioner
- A resident of Afton St. & Denise Rd. reported that the Legion Post on St. John's Place is being used as a hangout for motorcyclists. She has photos of night activity that includes racing
- CPO O'Hara brought flyers for the National Night Out Against Crime event on 8/4. The motorcade meets at 5:30 pm at 1099 Jay St. and leaves at 6 pm to parade to the beach for a picnic at 7pm
- No PCIC meeting in August. Next meeting is Tuesday, 9/15 at 7 pm at Aquinas Institute

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the General Meeting on 7/13 are posted on the web for review. President Clare Stortini asked for changes to the section about the charrette funding.

**Motion:** Jim White moved to approve the minutes from the 7/13 General Meeting with the requested changes; motion seconded by Suzanne Phillips. By show of hands of voting members, the motion was approved with no objections.

## Treasurer's Report

Sue Miller passed around a copy of the June/July report. There were not many expenses. We dropped Frontier as our phone service provider, so we have a refund. Expenses were \$1,269.03 and income was \$263.27, leaving a balance of \$22,965.58 as of 8/3/15.

## President's Report

1. Letter from Mayor - President Stortini read Mayor Lovely Warren's letter dated 7/17/15 in response to the third letter the CCA board has sent to the mayor and City Council regarding ongoing concerns from the community about the Port of Rochester development. Mayor Warren believes the City has done its due diligence and will continue with the current development plans. The mayor's letter is now posted on the CCA website.
2. Welcome Sign - A question from the audience was raised about where the welcome sign came from that's visible coming into town. It's actually a Farmers Market sign that the Port of Charlotte Merchants Association (POCMA) placed on the property. They were given a \$15K grant from the City to support advertising through a visitor's guide.
3. CDCR/Charrette Next Steps - The board will be recruiting members for a steering committee. Anyone interested in volunteering should see any board member. Clare is working with Joe Morelle's office to investigate possible grant funding.

4. Landmark Society – Clare and Virginia Kobylarz, CCA member and Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society member, met with Wayne Goodman, Executive Director of the Rochester Landmark Society. The group discussed potential partnership opportunities in the future and maybe a panel discussion at a CCA meeting in the fall.
5. NYS Parole – The CCA has received an invitation to send community volunteers to Groveland Correctional Facility to work in partnership with Arun Gandhi to talk with inmates in a panel discussion about the public's fears and misconceptions. The visit is tentatively scheduled on 8/21. Anyone interested in participating should see Clare for the contact information.
6. Rochester Marathon – Clare offered to be caption of the Lake Ave./Pattonwood Dr. water station during this event, which will be on Sunday, 9/20 from 7 am – 12:45 pm. She needs volunteers to set up and tear down the water station. YellowJacket Racing will provide supplies. There will be a spirit contest to award \$400 to the water station with the most community spirit. It's a wonderful opportunity to have positive press coverage in our neighborhood.

### **Community/Neighborhood Updates & Concerns**

**NYS Senate** - Senator Joe Robach reported that the property tax cap would be extended here in Rochester and that the STAR program is increasing. Of the \$135 billion dollars in federal money available, only 2 cities will receive money: Younkers and Rochester! The City of Rochester will receive \$6M that can be used however the Mayor and City Council want. Rochester is also receiving \$110M from the federal government and \$500M from NYS to develop a National Center for Photonics. Senator Robach believes we are economically poised for good things: more programs coming to bring more jobs back to the region. Senator Robach also reported that the Division of Parole is not doing enough. Channel 10 News has had a series of stories on this topic. Legislation is in process to make Parole Division do much more to ensure public safety.

**Monroe County Legislature** – Rep. Tony Micciche reported that he attend the Neighborhood Outreach event at Charlotte High School on 7/28. He has walked neighborhoods with Mayor Lovely Warren and discussed issues such as a \$31K grant from NYS DOT to fix the wall on Pattonwood Drive. He also reported on the County budget.

**City of Rochester's Northwest Service Center** – John McMahon thanked the CCA board and committees for coming together. He gave a special thank you to the Beautification Committee for cleaning up gardens at Hannah Place. He will soon have an accurate record of vacant houses in the neighborhood and a top 10 list of property violations. Citizens can call the Service Center at 585-428-7659 at any time.

**Port of Charlotte Merchants Association (POCMA)** – Pam Postgate reported that the Farmers Market is going well with approximately 500 people per night. The Market is open every Monday, 4-7 pm until 9/28 (closed on Labor Day). Produce is coming in and there's plenty of parking. Cheeburger Cheeburger is leaving Charlotte on 8/30. On 10/1 they move to City Gate.

**Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society** – Fred Amato reported that it has been a good year because the new lantern is attracting tour buses of visitors.

**Onatrio Beach Park Planning Committee (OBPPC)** – Fred Amato reported on the Charlotte Celebration that happened on 7/25. The Corvette Club had a car show, and there were clowns and concerts with the

Skycoasters, Invictas and the Krazy Firemen. Fred felt the publicity wasn't as good as it should have been. The Fall Big Band Dances start the first Wednesday in September.

**CHARLOTTE Strong** – Suzanne Philips reported on an advocate watchdog group that has protested the pollution of the Hudson River. Maureen Staves sent a letter in July to that group to gather more information. Suzanne asked how the board will respond to Greg Weykamp's offer at the General Meeting on 6/1 to provide information he received about the soil conditions at the port. She suggested that the board ask for feedback from members via the newsletter. (Note: President Stortini said that the board is meeting at the end of the month and will discuss a plan to address this topic.)

**Charlotte Youth Athletic Association (CYAA)** – Brian Labigan reported that the baseball season is now over. Senator Robach helped them with a grant to build a concession stand and bathrooms. Brian met last week with Jim Farr from the City about the plans. They will do surveying in the fall. Construction of the 1-story structure will happen next spring. CYAA serves over 200 kids.

**Other** – Lynn Bebe asked what is being done with the American Legion Building. It has been empty for 2½ years, and the realtor has not been cooperative. It is still owned by the Veteran's Administration, although ownership details are confusing. The VA is asking \$170K for the property. (Note: President Stortini asked Pat O'Neill to follow up on it through the Planning & Zoning committee and get back to the board by the next meeting. Tony Micciche and John McMahon both offered to investigate as well.)

**Action Item:** Pat O'Neill to follow up with Planning & Zoning committee to investigate status of American Legion Building on St. John's Place and report back to the board by next meeting.

## Committee Reports

**Beautification:** The August issue of the CCA newsletter features gorgeous photos of the many gardens tended carefully by committee members this summer. The photos were taken by Fred Amato.

**Communications:** Committee members are Donna Bour-Purdy (Chair), Sue Roethel (Board Liaison) Fred Amato, Patrice Kryzalka-Rosati, Molly Clifford, Kate Karschick, Barbara Kelly, and Jacquie Gilmore. Seniors from Beatrice Place are now assisting with the monthly newsletter to prepare it for mailing. The new website is scheduled to go-live the first week in October. The current platform is not efficient. There are 600 Likes on Facebook (up from 450), and e-blasts continue to be successful. Anyone wishing to be added to the distribution list should send Donna their email address.

**Nominating:** After 30 years in Charlotte, Brian Labigan has recently moved out of the neighborhood and into Greece. The CCA bylaws require board members to live in Charlotte and call for a resignation if they move. The bylaws also call for a 9-member board (the current board has 7 members and 2 vacancies), with 6 members needed for a quorum to conduct business. To lose Brian at this time would be a hardship to the board. Members were asked to give feedback on how the board should proceed with the situation. After discussion, it was generally agreed that the bylaws should be followed for consistency, since a board member last year in the same situation was forced to resign, and that Brian should resign from the board. He can still serve on the committee as Chairperson. The board accepted Brian Labigan's resignation from the board, effective immediately, and appointed him as Chair of the Nominating Committee, also effective immediately. Sue Roethel was appointed as Board Liaison, and board member Sue Miller will also continue to serve on the committee.

The committee will reach out to members and explore interest in nominations for the board elections in November. The committee is also recommending that the bylaws be revised to allow non-residents to serve on the board.

**Planning & Zoning:** Board Liaison Pat O’Neill reported that the committee of 10 members has met 3 times so far and will meet again on 8/13. Their to-do list includes reports on the Lighthouse Trail, vacant buildings, contamination barrels, code violations, pockets of parking, shuttle plans, American Legion Post, Planning Commission permit applications (California Rollin’ for outdoor entertainment), and the upcoming charrette. Tom Brewer reported that the Pattonwood wall is being measured and monitored. It is currently tipping but is not hazardous.

**Programming & Fundraising:** Board Liaison Patti O’Brien reported that this committee has one active member—Lorraine Parr. Last week they helped with the City’s Neighborhood Outreach event. Upcoming events include the annual CCA Picnic on 8/12 (hot dogs provided; bring a dish to pass). Scholarship winners will be announced at that event. The City’s annual River Romance is coming up the first weekend in October. The committee would like to have one big fundraiser; Mary Jelfo volunteered to help.

**Safety & Security:** Board Liaison Sue Miller reported that the committee now has six active members: Trevor Purdy, Mike Penkin, Bel Graves, Michelle Thomas, and Carl Giardino. Trevor is organizing PAC TAC training for interested community members. Sue attends PCIC meetings and reports back to the committee. The motorcade with RPD for National Night Out Against Crime is tomorrow night. The motorcade starts at Lyell Ave. and will end at Ontario Beach Park for a picnic with partner neighborhood associations from Maplewood, Edgerton, Lyell-Otis, and Charlotte. Trevor mentioned he saw an announcement on social media about an event on the pier involving a wet t-shirt contest and music. Lt. Koehn told CCA that the event was planned at the Robach Center for Sunday, 8/9, 3-9 pm, but the County denied renting the building to this group. RPD will be present at the beach that day just in case.

**Scholarship Committee:** Members Brian Labigan, Jean Carrozzi, Tom Brewer and Kathy Strauss reviewed applications from three strong candidates this year and chose winners using a weighted scoring system. This is Jean’s last year doing it after 25 years. Thank you, Jean, for your dedicated service!

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

- August 4 National Night Out Against Crime, 5:30 pm meet at 1099 Jay St. for 6:00 pm motorcade to Ontario Beach Park; picnic following at 7 pm
- August 12 CCA Annual Members’ Picnic and Scholarship Awards Ceremony, 5:30 pm, Harborview Pavilion, Ontario Beach Park
- September 14 CCA General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center

### Adjournment

**Motion:** Sue Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm; Suzanne Phillips seconded; all approved.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.