

Charlotte Community Association

General Meeting Minutes September 14, 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.

Call to Order / Attendance

Meeting called to order by President Clare Stortini at 7:04 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, president; Sue Miller, treasurer; Sue Roethel, secretary; Patti O'Brien, director; Pat O'Neill, director; Pam Postgate, director. **Excused Absence:** Donna Bour-Purdy, director

There was a quorum of the board to conduct business. Terri Robach led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rochester Police Department (RPD) Update

Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Kelly O'Hara reported the following:

- Safety & Security asked her to investigate an incident on 10/1 at 6:30 pm. Witnesses saw a group of students (football players) loitering and kicking cars parked on Lake Ave.
- A 911 call was received on 9/2 at 12:44 am reporting a group fighting behind Harbor Hots. There was no active fighting when officers arrived; group was cleared from area.
- Speed trailer has been placed on Denise Rd. catching eastbound traffic. Stats will be reported at PCIC meeting.
- RG&E fake bill scam (see flyer from Kelly); didn't occur in Lake section. Citizens should call 311 if they receive a fake bill or call Kelly at 585-428-7877.
- The monthly Police and Citizens Interaction Committee (PCIC) meeting is 9/15, 7pm at Aquinas Institute.

Community members reported to Kelly the following:

- Break in at VFW; what are details?
- Speed trailer on Lake Ave. is not operational. Kelly will look into it.
- Bus shelter on Lake Ave. at Britton Rd. has advertisements painted on that block view of oncoming traffic. (Note: Capt. Dearcop said citizens should call RTS about it.)

Capt. Dearcop said that receiving questions ahead of time is very helpful. He also reported the following:

- Any concerns about student behavior coming from the Leadership Academy should be sent to Kelly. The new all-male school is being monitored. Students are coming to school later and they have dismissal at 4 pm.
- An "incident" was reported that fishermen are on the pier after the park closes and have been asked to leave. The D&C called RPD for a story. There was no real "incident," as fishing hours don't coincide with park hours.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 8/3 General Meeting are not posted yet; approval deferred to next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Sue M. reported on income and expenses for 8/4 – 9/14/15. There were no new memberships or advertiser renewals. Expenses included newsletter printing, phone messaging service, web administration service, Beautification Committee (replace damaged pots on Lake Ave.), postage, and 2 scholarship awards. Checkbook balances with bank statement. Total balance is \$20,440.

President's Report

1. Rochester Marathon on 9/20: Clare is captain of the Charlotte water station that will be at the corner of Lake Ave. & Pattonwood Dr. from 8:30 am – 12:45 pm. There are 25 volunteers registered; more are welcome! Clare will pick up the volunteer t-shirts; she ordered extras. Volunteers should report at 8:00 am wearing a costume or crazy hat. The water stop is only responsible for runners in the full marathon during the 2nd loop. Some roadways will be blocked off. Residents who will be affected have received a mailing about the road blocks. For more information, go to the Roc Marathon website.
2. "Meet the Candidates" Night: Thank you to Donna Bour-Purdy, Fred Amato and Jean Carrozzi for organizing this event on 10/13, 7 pm at the Robach Community Center. Candidates for local City and County offices will receive letters of invitation (15 people). Due to time constraints, School Board candidates will not be included. The format will be in groups, and each candidate will be able to introduce themselves and answer questions from the audience (questions written ahead of time on 3x5 cards). The sessions will be timed and moderated.
3. Greg Weykamp's response to CCA request: The board followed up on member Bill Brown's request for the CCA board to ask Greg Weykamp for information about what Mr. Nesbaum sent to him about subsurface soil conditions. Greg made the offer to provide information at the 6/1 General Meeting during which he gave an update on the port development project. Greg's response to the CCA was that he is conducting studies with due diligence. He provided no new information.
4. Snug Harbor status: Recent media reports say conditions are worsening on this property. President Stortini asked the audience to provide feedback on how to address the problem. Concerns raised are that people are still living there in squalid conditions. The Rochester Housing Authority stopped paying subsidies, so those renters are now gone. There were inspections for compliance and evictions followed. Channel 10 News reported that the units are privately owned, but there is no office staff and no maintenance for the remaining 30 units that are rented to people who are paying their own rent. At a recent meeting, Ron Penders said that there were over 700 code violations on that property, and the issues are now affecting surrounding properties.
5. Lighthouse Pointe development: A recent news article describes approval of plans for a mixed-use development in Irondequoit on the north and south side of the O'Rorke Bridge that will include condos with boat docks, retail shops and restaurants. President Stortini asked the audience for

feedback. Fred Amato thinks the name should be changed because it will be confused with the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse. Ed Steinberg is concerned that it could be distracting and cause competition with the port development. However, he said that people shouldn't confuse the two because the Irondequoit property is a sale between private land owners and a private developer, whereas the Port of Rochester development is a sale of public land that has been in the public domain for over 100 years that is being sold to a private developer for private use. Ed said that people have been meeting informally at LDR Char-Pit to discuss the port development situation. Meetings are open to the public; the next one is tentatively scheduled for 9/21, 5:30 pm, at LDRs.

Brian Labigan said that the property that will become Lighthouse Pointe was a brownfield, having issues with soil contamination and needing remediation. Some of the neighbors were contentious because they're experiencing radon and other gases coming up into their basements. He thinks that having the area cleaned up and developed is a positive thing because it should bring more people into the neighborhood.

The discussion about Lighthouse Point led into a related discussion about the Port of Rochester. Terri Robach asked what is happening with the marina development. We've had no new information from the City beyond what was printed in the September newsletter. Pat O'Neill said that truckloads of material is still be removed from the marina bed, and pilings for the docks have been installed. Bill Brown said that he talked to LaBella about the construction and was told that the marina can't open with water until 11/1. There is still about 30-35K tons of material still to be removed to make the marina 10-12 ft deep.

Deb Cormier wants this topic to be placed on the next Planning & Zoning Committee agenda. Clare asked Pat O'Neill to following up with this.

Action Items:

- The CCA will address the issues of Snug Harbor with NSC and investigate legal options.
- The P&Z Committee will address the issue of Lighthouse Pointe and the Port of Rochester

Board Nominations / Elections

Brian Labigan reported for the Nominating Committee. Information about the nominating process and elections has been published in the August and September newsletters and in an e-blast calling for people to serve on the board. The deadline is today, and there have been no nominations received. Vacancies to fill in this election year are for Vice President, Treasurer, and 2 Directors. (Note: Brian recently vacated another Director seat that was elected last year with a term ending in December 2016; it must be appointed.) The bylaws say that candidates must have served on a committee for at least one year. That requirement must be waived this year because there were no active committees at this time a year ago.

Brian stated that the CCA is everyone and that we all have an obligation to serve in some capacity— either on committees or on the board. He asked what are the barriers to people wanting to step up? What can we do as a group to get a better result? If we want it to be a democratic process, we need choices. There are people who are working hard internally to improve processes, and Brian suggested that people can serve on committees to learn about the inner workings of the organization.

The organization is in jeopardy.

Clare Stortini said that the board needs help. We now have a board of 7 members. Currently, the bylaws state that we must have a quorum of 2/3 of the full board, which is 6 out of 9 members present, to conduct business. Please encourage everyone to consider serving so that we can have a full board.

Deb Cormier said that Brian's comments are only being said to the small audience at this meeting. The board needs to extend the message out to all members that the organization is in jeopardy. This comment raised concerns about membership. Sue Ciriello said she didn't know there was a CCA until she received a welcome notice. She thinks online newsletters will help get more people involved. Don Falice said he is aware of the options to get the newsletter either in paper or electronic format. Joe Genova suggested reaching out to Greece and Irondequoit neighbors to solicit new memberships.

Brian said that 5,000 newsletters used to go out each month with a membership form in it, yet only a handful of people actually signed up to be a member. Brian stressed that it is not OK for some of us to give up personal time without others also giving up theirs so that we can together move the organization forward. We need committee chairs and candidates for the board. Tonight is the deadline!

Linda MacCammon nominated herself as a candidate for a Director seat in the upcoming elections.

Action Items:

- The Not-for-Profit Status (NPS) Committee will recommend a revision to the bylaws that would open up some board seats to non-residents.
- The Nominating Committee will verify Linda MacCammon's qualifications as a candidate (she must be a paid CCA member) and make a recommendation to the board.

Neighborhood Updates / Community Concerns

NYS Senate: Paula Kosiorek, from Senator Joe Robach's office, reported that Sen. Robach attended the August CCA meeting, the National Night Out Against Crime event, and the CCA Picnic and Scholarship Awards Ceremony. On Saturday, 9/12, Sen. Robach is hosting the 8th Annual Women's Wellness event at the Greece mall. There will be 35 vendors participating. The Annual ALS Walk is on 9/19. Joe Marinucci asked Sen. Robach to attend.

Monroe County Legislature: Legislator Tony Micciche reported that activity has been quiet except with grants and contracts. Work is underway for a landfill in Rush to capture methane gas, and Public Works for water. He's concerned about the level of crime that's increasing. He met with the mayor, sheriff and police chief about it. Tony was asked about the issue with the carousel mural being offensive. He believes it's not that big of an issue when compared to gun violence. Tony was also asked about a solar energy plant. He said the idea has been proposed in two locations—one in Greece and one in the city behind Edison Tech.

City Council: NW Representative Carla Palumbo reported that Phase 2 of the Roofing Program has 75 homes allocated city-wide and 75 by quadrant. Some are completed and some are still to complete. Seniors are getting some funds through CBDG grants. Rollout of Phase 3 has not been determined yet. Flower City Work Camp is accepting applications through the end of October for next year. Call 585-428-5982 and ask for Chuck.

Neighborhood & Business Development is holding legislation in committee the following:

- High-impact stores restricted to 11 pm closing; lawsuits have been filed. County sets time to close (2 am); City can't have its own regulation. City Council will repeal this legislation because it can't be done legally.
- Outdoor storage statute was determined to be too vague. It was re-written and presented in a public forum. City Council will review legislation in October.
- Certificate of Occupancy waiver for rentals only. Inspectors must have owner's permission to enter home to inspect. Another hearing will be scheduled in fall and neighborhood associations will be invited.

Carla was asked about the Lake Avenue resurfacing project from Merrill St. to Burley Rd. She said she will follow up with Jim McIntosh about this and get back to us. She was also asked about when the marina would open; she said spring 2016.

CHARLOTTE Strong: Suzanne Phillips reported that an announcement will be made soon on their Facebook page and through email distribution list for those who are interested.

Ontario Beach Park Planning Committee: Fred Amato reported that two fall dances have been held already and with good attendance. The next one is Wednesday, 9/16. Admission is \$2 per person, and they have hot dogs, coffee and soft drinks.

Greece Historical Society: Joe Hinchman reported that Marie Poinan presented on the Odenbach Plant at the Greece Library. Over 300 people attended (seating for 180). She will present again on 9/28, 7 pm. You must register on the website to attend

Greece Neighborhood Association: Arthur Daughton reported that, for Marie Poinan's presentation at the Greece Library, 179 people were seated and 100 people were turned away. He is concerned about this.

Committee Reports

Beautification: No update.

Communication: Donna Bour-Purdy was not present to report; Sue Roethel said that work continues on the monthly newsletter, Facebook page, email blasts, and especially the completion of the beautiful new website that will go-live in just a few weeks. Volunteers from Beatrice Place are helping every month with the newsletter labeling.

Membership: Pam Postgate reported that the committee needs a chairperson and new members. Renewals will be due shortly, so help is needed.

Nominating: Report given above.

Not-for-Profit Status: Clare Stortini reported that the bylaws revisions are completed and have been reviewed by the attorney. Her feedback was invaluable . Next steps are that the revisions will be reviewed by the board on 9/24 and then given to the members for a vote to approve them. Once approved, then the committee will work on a Processes and Procedures manual.

Planning & Zoning: No update.

Programming & Fundraising: Patti reported that the committee has one member—Lorraine Parr. River Romance is coming up, so the committee needs ideas, a chairperson and volunteers.

Safety & Security: Sue Miller reported that the committee now has five members from the community: Trevor Purdy, Bel Graves, Michelle Thomas, Mike Penkin, and Carl Giardino. They work closely with RPD. Mike volunteered to cook at the National Night Out Against Crime Picnic and the CCA Picnic. Trevor has PAC-TAC planning in process. Sue has been working with Joe Carrozzi on the possibility of having a community bonfire during River Romance. It would be a partnership with CCA, OBPPC, RPD, and RFD Engine 9. The November newsletter may have an article on how to report an incident. Sue M. will attend the PCIC meeting on 9/15. The next committee meeting is scheduled on 9/29.

Some comments were made related to Safety & Security. Tony Micciche said that RPD gets over 1 million calls a year for a city that has 200,000 people. Clare Stortini said that CCA has just been invited to attend Police Chief Cimonelli's PCIC meetings, which are not open and are by invitation only. Clare will attend as the CCA president.

Scholarship: Brian Labigan reported that two students received \$1,000 each and were presented their awards during the CCA Picnic.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

September 15 PCIC Meeting, 7 pm, Aquinas Institute
September 20 Rochester Marathon (neighborhood water station at Lake Ave. & Pattonwood)
October 4 River Romance (City of Rochester annual event)
October 5 CCA General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center
October 13 "Meet the Candidates" Night, 7 pm, Robach Community Center

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Hinchman and seconded by Bob Owens. All in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.