

# Charlotte Community Association

## General Meeting Minutes October 5, 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 7:08 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, president; Sue Miller, treasurer; Sue Roethel, secretary; Donna Bour-Purdy, director; Linda MacCammon, director; Patti O'Brien, director.

There was a quorum of the board to conduct business. Trevor Purdy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **President's Report**

1. **Vacancies** – The board has recently received the resignations of 2 board members—Directors Pam Postgate and Pat O'Neill. Our bylaws dictate that we should have 9 board members. The board very recently appointed Donna Bour-Purdy to finish out a Director term ending on December 31, 2015. Donna has been serving this year as chair of the Communications Committee, newsletter editor, Facebook and [ccanewsny@gmail.com](mailto:ccanewsny@gmail.com) email manager. The resignations left the board with only 5 members, which was not a quorum of 9 to conduct business. Without a quorum, the board agreed to rectify the situation by immediately appointing Linda MacCammon to the board to finish out a Director term also ending on December 31, 2015. Linda has been serving on the Beautification Committee and has expressed an interest in the Planning & Zoning Committee as well.
2. **Elections Slate**: Brian Labigan, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the slate of candidates for board elections has changed since the September meeting. With the resignation of Pat O'Neill from the board, his candidacy in the elections was also withdrawn. The remaining 2 candidates on the slate are Donna Bour-Purdy and Linda MacCammon, both running unopposed for a 2-year term as Director. There are no candidates for Vice President or Treasurer. According to Non-Profit Corporation Law, we must have an election, even though the candidates are running unopposed. Sue Miller will be stepping down from the board at the end of her term in December. She will continue to serve on committees.
3. **Thank you to Brian Labigan** – The board presented Brian with a gift card and certificate to thank him for his decades of service to the CCA as a past president, vice president and director. He has provided consistent support, encouragement and professionalism that are deeply missed by the board.

4. **CCA Members Present to the Board** – Ed Steinberg and Bill Brown presented to the board on 9/24 about ongoing concerns with development at the Port of Rochester. They have been holding informal meetings at the LDR Char-Pit. The board is always open to hearing what people think, and it is grateful for this opportunity to hear from members directly. The Port development falls under the auspices of the Planning & Zoning Committee to investigate and report back to the board. Deb Cormier has been appointed as Chair of P&Z, and Linda MacCammon has been appointed as the new Board Liaison. Ed and Bill are encouraged to work with them regarding their concerns.
5. **Chief of Police PCIC** – CCA has been invited to attend Police Chief Michael Ciminelli’s Police-Citizens Interaction Committee.

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the General Meetings on August 3 and September 14 have been posted on the website for members to review prior to approval. President Clare Stortini suggested a few changes that she’s already sent to Sue Roethel, Secretary to add to the minutes.

**Motion:** Brian Labigan moved to approve the minutes from the General Meeting on August 3 with the requested changes; motion was seconded by Joe Hinchman. By show of hands of voting members, the motion was approved with no objections.

**Motion:** Deb Cormier moved to approve the minutes from the General Meeting on September 14 with the requested changes; motion was seconded by Joe Hinchman. By show of hands of voting members, the motion was approved with no objections.

## Treasurer’s Report

Sue M. reported on income and expenses from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup>. Total income was \$95 from membership dues, and total expenses were \$555.17, most of which was to pay for a 3-year contract with HostGator to host the new website and a 5-year-contract with GoDaddy for the domain name. Available balance on October 5<sup>th</sup> is \$19,885.

## Rochester Police Department (RPD) Update

Captain Ray Dearcop and Lieutenant Jeff Koehn reported that staffing will increase for the Lake Section in November. So far this year, there have been 4 homicides, which are 2 less than last year. There have been some investigations but not in Charlotte. They did a “Fast and Furious” detail a few weeks ago to stop reckless driving and speeding on Lake Avenue; they wrote 30 tickets. Such details are grant funded, so they are limited in frequency. There will be a gun by-back program on November 7<sup>th</sup> at Miracle Deliverance, 69 Whitney St. The RPD Foundation and Wegmans donated \$15K to support the program.

The CCA has been invited to attend the Chief of Police’s PCIC meetings that are held every other month or as needed, per Chief Ciminelli. It’s a privilege to be invited because not all community associations are included. President Stortini will attend to represent the CCA. The group meets every other month; the next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Kelly O'Hara reported that Charlotte has been quiet with no crime patterns in the neighborhood. She brought a handout explaining how to register your mobile phone to receive emergency alerts from the 911 Center through the Emergency Telephone Notification System (ETNS). She also brought another handout on Halloween Safety Tips.

The monthly Police and Citizens Interaction Committee (PCIC) meeting is October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Aquinas Institute. All are welcome to attend.

### **Rochester Fire Department (RFD) Update**

Captain Dominick Borelli from Engine 19 introduced himself and said he has recently been assigned here. Citizens can call 311 for a free smoke detector if you qualify.

### **Bylaws Amendment and Board Elections Proxy**

The Not-for-Profit Status Committee has been working on a proposed amendment to the bylaws since April to make them clearer and more efficient for administering the organization, and to bring them into compliance with NYS Non-Profit Corporation Law (NPCL). The proposed amendment has been reviewed by the attorney, who made minor recommendations. The board has also reviewed it and will present it to the membership for a vote. In accordance with the current bylaws, the members will be provided with a copy of the proposed bylaws amendment to be voted on at the next General Meeting (November 2<sup>nd</sup>) along with a proxy form for members who cannot attend to vote in person. A special newsletter containing this information will be mailed out to members soon. Copies of the proposed bylaws amendment were also made available at the meeting for members who wish to review them now.

The proxy form being mailed soon will include both the vote on the bylaws amendment and the annual board elections to take place at the General Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**NY State Senator Joe Robach:** Paula Kosiorek from the Senator's office reported for Joe, who is out of town. He sends his greetings. He attended the ALS walk on September 19<sup>th</sup>, calling hours for Louise Christopher (95-year-old Charlotte resident from Afton St.) on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the annual caucus meeting, the Holy Cross Walk-a-thon and Willow "Walk a Mile in My Shoes," and the "Take a Vet to School Day" at Athena HS. Paula attended the OBPPC meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and River Romance.

**Monroe County Legislator Tony Micciche:** Tony reported that legislation is currently going through committees to approve installation of two solar panels that would generate 11 megawatts of energy that would save \$366K. The private company involved is Solar Liberty. Projected savings over 23 years is \$7M. Monroe Community Hospital will have a kick-off on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Youth will help with yard cleanups for seniors. Tony attended the ASL walk on September 19<sup>th</sup> and the Charlotte High School murals presentation. In May and June he received many calls to help get paving done on Lake Avenue. He called the mayor and asked for repaving to fix the potholes. The Lake Avenue Improvement Project is on schedule to be repaved next year. Tony is working on legislation to address the zombie property at 2850 Lake Avenue. The CCA's Meet the Candidates Night conflicts with a full Legislature meeting, so he probably cannot attend. He asked to hear concerns from the audience, and these comments were shared:

- Q. Regarding trash pick-up of recyclables in the new single-stream toter, how are they separated? A. The materials are hand-separated on an assembly line.
- Q. The tower on the pier needs repainting again. Can that happen again? A. It takes special marine paint that was donated before and quickly was filled with graffiti again. It's probably not viable to repaint it now.
- Q. Regarding the solar panels, RG&E buys the generated power at a discounted price. The \$366K savings is an annual amount.

Tony concluded by stating that he makes house calls and is available on Sundays at 11:30 am at the LDR Char-Pit. Call him anytime at 585-753-1922.

**City Council Rep:** Chuck Stechna reported for Carla Palumbo. There are three items coming to Council on October 13<sup>th</sup>. One is a traffic light replacement at the entrance to Holy Sepulchre, and two are bond ordinances: Merrill St. and Burley Rd. for curbing, lighting, water mains and hydrants. The City's website has an improved search engine and mobile access. Flower City Work Camp has an October 26<sup>th</sup> deadline for referrals. There are none from Charlotte. This is a faith-based program that provides free home repair by licensed professionals to qualified individuals. The homes must be single-family, owner-occupied, and the owners must have low-moderate income (<\$30K). About 200 referrals are screened; 60 homes will be chosen for 3 days of work to be done during spring recess. No application is required. Funding for the program comes from youth signing up for work camp at \$125 per person. Call 585-428-5982 by October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Northwest Service Center:** Ron Penders reported on the following:

- Snug Harbor: There are 110 units and 75 of them are vacant with 23 of those are "vacate status" meaning they are not habitable. There are 31 active units. Of those, 2 are move-out status as of today; 1 is move-out by October 8<sup>th</sup>; and 1 has service shut off but hasn't vacated yet. The City cannot stop the owners from renting units that are not "vacate" status. The owners have security people living there to monitor the property, but there have been break-ins and stripping of units of anything that is valuable, such as plumbing fixtures, making them structurally unsafe. Social Services and the Rochester Housing Authority will no longer subsidize Section 8 renters. The City's lawsuit against the owners is scheduled for a hearing on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am by Judge Ann Marie Taddeo. This is a criminal court case. The objective is to make the owners accountable and to get voluntary compliance to remediate the multiple code violations.
- The announcement about a NW area meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> is incorrect due to a miscommunication. The meeting was advertised as a joint meeting between Maplewood and Charlotte to hear a presentation by the Department of Environmental Services about snow removal. The DES presentation is actually scheduled at the monthly CCA General Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>; Maplewood folks are invited to attend to hear the presentation.
- Thank you to the City for the temporary paving job on Lake Avenue.
- Ron is still collecting feedback on how the City should handle delinquent tax properties.
- Marie Poinan thanked Ron Penders and John McMahon for installation of the flagpole at the Charlotte cemetery.

**Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society:** Fred Amato reported that there will be a garage sale this weekend (starting on Thursday) at the Custom House at 10 Latta Rd. at River St. Proceeds will go to renovate the lighthouse with new glass in the tower and repairing the door. The tower may have to be closed during those repairs. The planned demolition of the TapeCon Building won't affect the lighthouse except that there's an underground jail just south of their property. The Village History meeting is postponed due to the garage sale.

**CHARLOTTE Strong:** Suzanne Phillips reported that Ed Steinberg and Bill Brown discussed with the CCA board about informal meetings that are happening at LDR Char-Pit. The meetings are to re-generate media interest in the Port of Rochester. The group has considered having a rally at the Port on October 13<sup>th</sup>, which is the same date as the CCA's Meet the Candidates Night. This idea has been rejected and it is not happening. The group wrote a letter to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in California regarding Edgewater's planned use of EB-5 funding for the development. A reply to the letter says they are "unable to identify the project to which you refer."

**Charlotte Youth Athletic Association (CYAA):** Brian Labigan read a summary of an article that was in the CCA newsletter. The improvement project will begin construction at the end of Hincer St. A new concession building and bathrooms may be operational by spring, before baseball season begins.

**Denise Rd. Block Group:** Mary Jelfo reported that on the first day of classes three kids were skipping school and stole four bikes. Photos were taken to prove the theft. She went to the Leadership Academy for Young Men and worked with the Assistant Principal, Mr. Wingo. The police were called and a report was filed. The bikes were returned and the charges were dropped.

**Holy Cross:** Shirley Taccone reported that Jack Foy is in Europe. The Walk-a-thon was successful.

**Ontario Beach Park Planning Committee:** Fred Amato reported that there are four Big Band dances left on the fall schedule. They are only \$2 per person. Next year will be the 100-year anniversary of Charlotte's annexation to the City of Rochester. Wegmans, sponsor of OBPPC events, will also be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The group wants to plan a big celebration at the beach next summer. The next OBPPC meeting is November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Robach Center.

**Other:**

- Vic Simonetti asked about the status of the new Dunkin' Donuts at the corner of Lake Avenue and Denise Rd. The board was unaware of the status but will investigate. Vic also reported that he has made calls to the City about a patch of lawn that is unkempt on River St. at the end of Stutson St. The City has been unable to identify who owns it. Vic also asked about candidates participating in Meet the Candidates Night. He is a write-in candidate for County Executive, but he is not on the ballot and therefore did not get invited.
- Joe Genova reported that there's a problem with dogs barking in the neighborhood, and he offered some advice to help the situation. He suggests talking to the owner first and offering to walk the dog(s). A more drastic measure is to call Animal Control at 311, where an officer will take a report for an investigation. The fine for a first offense is \$100; then \$200 for a second offense; and finally jail time after that.

- An audience member reported that the Ira Jacobson American Legion Post building on St. John's Park was broken into and a stainless steel sink was stolen. He said the property needs a Mini Clean Sweep to pick up trash that is everywhere. He was asked by the board to keep the Safety & Security Committee informed.
- Charlie Ennis reported that the American Legion Post no longer exists. There will be a Job Fair for Veterans on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 11 am at the Diplomat Party House.
- Marie Poinan reported that Jack Foy is in Germany. Upcoming presentations are: Dick Chate/Charlotte High School on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am in the TapeCon Building; History and Restoration of Hose 22 on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm; Odenbach on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm at the Charlotte Library.

**Action Item:**

- Clare will follow up with Margaret Parrino of the City's Planning & Zoning Department about the status of Dunkin' Donuts.
- Sue M. will follow up with the Safety & Security Committee about investigating the burglary at the American Legion Ira Jacobson Post building.

## Committee Reports

**Beautification:** Linda MacCammon has been appointed to be the Board Liaison to work with committee chairperson Linda Paruta.

**Communications:** The new website is live! It has the same address: <http://www.charlottecca.org/>. The home page features a Calendar of Events and new drop-down menus for easy searching. Please take a look and send feedback.

**Membership:** Needs a chairperson to drive membership and the approved plan of work.

**Nominating:** Slate of candidates for the board was announced last month and in the newsletter. Donna Bour-Purdy and Linda MacCammon are running unopposed for two Director seats; there are no candidates for Vice President or Treasurer.

**Not-for-Profit Status:** The bylaws revisions are complete and will be presented to members for a vote.

**Planning & Zoning:** Deb Cormier is the newly appointed chairperson, and Linda MacCammon will serve as the Board Liaison. The City Planning Commission meets on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. On the agenda for approval is an amendment to the zoning code for digital advertising signs and an amendment to the zoning code to add language about alcohol serving and sales.

**Programming & Fundraising:** Needs a chairperson with experience in event planning and fundraising. The board is looking for ideas over the winter months.

**Scholarship:** The committee (Brian Labigan, Tom Brewer and Kathy Strauss) will meet in the next few weeks to take care of an action item to send a letter out to area high schools.

**Safety & Security:** Mike Penkin is the newly appointed chairperson. Trevor Purdy is contacting the administration of the Leadership Academy for Young Men to see about working together to solve problems and prevent future ones from happening. RPD's Crime Prevention Officer Kelly O'Hara is advising the committee on the process for PAC TAC training. There is an article published in the newsletter advising citizens who witness a crime to call 911 first and then 311 or Crime Stoppers. Board Liaison Sue Miller investigated the possibility of having a community bonfire at the beach for River Romance. The RFD and OBPPC approved it but the County rejected it because a wedding was scheduled at the Robach Center the same night, and it was felt that the smoke from the fire would disrupt the wedding. The City has published (on its website) a map of tax-delinquent properties in the neighborhood and is asking the community to advise them on what to do. The two options under discussion are:

1. City can sell the lien to a third party (American Tax Finding Group), who will arrange a payment plan with the owners.
2. City keeps the lien but cannot work with the owners to remediate the problem.

The Safety & Security Committee recommends the first option.

### **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

October 13 Meet the Candidates Night, 7 pm, Robach Community Center  
October 20 PCIC Meeting, 7 pm, Aquinas Institute  
November 2 CCA General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center  
November 7 RPD Gun Buy-back, Miracle Deliverance Church, 69 Whitney St.

### **Adjournment**

Tom Borelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Shirley Taccone seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.