

Charlotte Community Association

General Meeting Minutes November 2, 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 7:10pm. ***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 and about 60 people in attendance. Sue Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Presenter: Commissioner Norman Jones, City of Rochester's Department of Environmental Services (DES); Topic: Winter preparation and snow removal

Commissioner Jones was accompanied by Jim McIntosh, Karen St. Aubin, and Brianna Chamberlain from the City; and Jensen Carvallo from the Center for Disability Rights. Last February there was only one day above 32 degrees. Last March, the Center for Disability Rights asked the City to address the issue of unsafe sidewalks. Section 104-11 of the City's code addresses snow regulations, and it will be enforced more this year. Jensen Carvallo, who is wheelchair bound, talked about how unplowed sidewalks impact the civil rights of people who are disabled. Commissioner Jones wants communities to be more aware of the problem this year and asks us take care of our own properties.

Karen St. Aubin reported that there are two sets of routes for snow removal. The arterial routes are plowed and treated with salt on a 24/7 basis. Residential routes are done by contractors as needed, which is a minimum of 3" of snow or more. This scenario usually happens 12-15 times a season, but last year it happened 18 times. Sidewalks are plowed when there is 4" of snow or more. Service Centers are setting up ways to help seniors too. The City is working with the 311 call center; updates will be on the web. Parking is the biggest problem, but it will be much more organized this year. The City has 100 streets with dead ends, and they are too narrow to plow with parked cars on them. So no parking will be allowed. New signs will be posted for the winter stating that when a snow emergency is called, there is no parking allowed on this block. Churches, schools, etc. will be used for alternate parking on these occasions. The City is asking people to sign up for emergency notifications via their cell phones.

During the Q&A portion of the presentation, the following issues were discussed:

Q. What about cars that are parked for days and days, buried?

A. Inspectors will plan with RPD to do "Snowbird Detail."

Q. Are there any inter-jurisdictional agreements with other towns?

A. Yes, Greece and Irondequoit for our area.

Q. How do you monitor Charlotte versus other City neighborhoods (i.e. Lake Effect snow)?

A. Refer to “Code Red” instructions that are published in the November CCA newsletter to register for emergency notifications via your cell phone.

Q. What about Pattonwood and the O’Rourke Bridge? The bridge is NYS responsibility but the City does snow removal. The street is plowed but the sidewalks are not cleared.

A. Sidewalk plows don’t take the snow down to the surface, so it is still not clear enough for wheelchairs. New equipment will make it better this year. As for residential areas, homeowners are responsible to clear the sidewalk frontage on their property.

Additional comments were:

- Stonewood Drive has a unique problem with nowhere to push the snow. Commercial buildings get hammered with wing plows that bury the buildings.
- Cars have been vandalized at Turning Point Park, and CCA member Nancy Owens called DES. Cameras were supposed to be installed. Commissioner Jones said he would follow up.

Rochester Police Department (RPD) Update

Captain Ray Dearcop and Lieutenant Jeff Koehn reported that there was a bank robbery at Chase Bank at the corner of Lake Ave. and Denise Rd. With the help of the Greece Police, an individual was identified but no arrest, yet. There have been four robberies in the neighborhood; one was at the Cannonball Café. There was also a car break-in on Grassmere Park. The recent crash at the beach was a pick-up truck that struck the Vietnam Memorial stone. The cause of the crash is still under investigation. A speed trailer has been set up on Denise Rd. The Mayor and City Council are asking for community input on the use of police body cameras at a public meeting on Monday, November 23rd, 6-7:30 pm, Edgerton Rec Center.

Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Kelly O’Hara reported that gas station skimmers have become a problem that is under investigation. Both reported instances have happened in Monroe County but not in the Lake Section. Information from credit and debit cards can be stolen by “skimmer” devices that can be inserted into ATMs and at gas station pumps. New cards with chips in them are still vulnerable to electronic theft. It’s best to use cash and pay inside. CPO O’Hara brought a flyer about what to look for. If anything looks suspicious, call 911. The next PCIC meeting is Tuesday, November 17th, 7 pm at Aquinas Institute.

The CCA’s Safety & Security Committee received a report that students from the Leadership Academy for Young Men were throwing apples at houses and cars on Atwood St. during a fire drill. The report said that a 911 call was made. Lt. Koehn said that the only calls they’ve received about the Leadership Academy are about kids getting off the bus down the street from the school. He said two officers start at 6:45 am, but by that time the kids are already off the buses. A member from the audience reported that the North Lemoyne neighborhood is a concern as well because of its close proximity to the school. Capt. Dearcop said he hasn’t been getting calls because the school handles most issues except where violence has occurred.

Other questions/comments from the audience were:

Q. How many times does RPD respond to a domestic violence incident before it goes to a higher level?
A. Chronic domestic problems could result in mediation.

Q. When is the Lake Section moving into its own building?

Q. The Lake Section is going to be last; Goodman is the first, with two years in between.

Rochester Fire Department (RFD) Update

Lieutenant Terese from Engine 19 introduced himself and said he was assigned here in March 2015. He reported that there have been a lot of heroin overdoses in and around the City, so now RFD carries Narcan, the medication that reverses the effects of overdose. RFD also has an ice rescue team and Gator. He also reported that there have been structure fires on Petten St. and Camden St. He asked homeowners to check CO2 detectors to make sure they're working and change batteries if needed. RFD can do routine inspections of businesses and apartment buildings with seven or more family units in them. Fire hydrants are being flagged to identify where they are in the snow.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the General Meetings on October 5th have not been completed yet, so approval is deferred to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Sue M. reported on income and expenses from October 5th to November 2nd. Total income was \$75 from membership dues, and total expenses were \$2,242.94. Expenses included \$750 for completion of the web redesign; \$215 for printing the October newsletter; \$125 to the CPA for consultant services earlier in 2015; \$14.95 for phone answering service; \$127.57 for printer ink cartridges; \$20 for scholarship certificate frames; 906 for liability insurance; and \$84.42 for office supplies. The available balance on November 2nd is \$17,927.

President's Report

1. **Food Cupboard Donations:** The CCA is collecting non-perishable food items at each General Meeting for donation to local food cupboards. Tonight's donations go to Holy Cross Church, and next month's go to Abundant Grace Church.
2. **Meet the Candidates Night Debrief:** President Clare Stortini asked the audience for feedback. CCA member Bill Brown suggested that when someone submits a question and the candidate doesn't answer it, the person asking it should have a chance to ask a clarifying question. Clare stated that the format of this event was not a debate; it was an opportunity for members simply to meet the candidates.
3. **Snug Harbor:** The board wrote a letter to Judge Ann Marie Taddeo, the Mayor, City Council, and to the Democrat & Chronicle. Board member Linda MacCammon took a tour of the complex and reported that it's a mess. The letter states that the CCA supports the City's efforts to hold the

property owners accountable. The case will be heard before Judge Taddeo's court on November 13th.

4. **NSC Meeting on October 15th:** President Stortini attended. Under discussion was the "315 Nuisance Abatement," which means that 6 points will result in property owners being called to a meeting; 12 points will result in the City warning owners of a potential shut down; 18 points means the City can shut them down. Also under discussion was the change in alcohol license regulations whereby alcohol is no longer considered a high-impact item.
5. Brian Labigan was unable to attend this evening and asked President Stortini to provide the following update on the CYAA concession building project:
 - The CYAA concession building is slated to be constructed in the spring. It is a 24x30 one story structure that will house 2 bathrooms and concession and playing equipment. Access will be limited to the baseball season. It will be locked when CYAA is not using it. Any neighbors with concerns may call Brian at (585) 943-7197 or email him at brianlabigan@gmail.com.

Action Item: Clare Stortini will ask the City for an update on the construction plans for the CYAA concession stand and bathrooms.

Board of Directors Elections

Introductions were made of the two candidates on the slate, each for a 2-year Director term starting January 1, 2016. Candidate Donna Bour-Purdy is an 11-year resident who has been serving on the Beautification Committee, as Chair of the Communications Committee, and also as Editor of the CCA newsletter. Donna has been instrumental in executing the redesign of the website, managing the Facebook page, and establishing a means for email blasts to members. Candidate Linda MacCammon is also an 11-year resident who has been serving on the Beautification Committee and has recently joined the Planning & Zoning Committee. Both Donna and Linda have recently been appointed to the board to fill vacancies and are now serving as Board Liaisons to the Communications and P&Z Committees, respectively. Both candidates for Director are running unopposed. There are no candidates for Vice President or Treasurer, so those vacancies may be appointed by the board. There are also two vacancies to be appointed for Directors with a term ending December 31, 2016.

Members received a Proxy form for the Board Elections in the November newsletter to use if they could not attend tonight's meeting to vote in person. All paid members for a minimum of 60 days can vote.

Motion: Tom Borelli moved to approve Linda MacCammon as a Director for a 2-year term; Bob Owens seconded. No one opposed. Motion approved with 37 yes votes and 1 abstention (counts as a no vote).

Motion: Terri Robach moved to approve Donna Bour-Purdy as a Director for a 2-year term; Joe Hinchman seconded. No one opposed. Motion approved with 38 yes votes.

Bylaws Amendment Q & A

Members will soon receive a special newsletter in the mail that documents the proposed bylaws amendment to be voted on at the next General Meeting on December 7th. A new proxy form will be provided for members who cannot attend to vote in person. The special newsletter will be posted on the web as well. Previously, the proposed changes were made available at the October General

Meeting, and a summary of major changes from the current bylaws was included in the November newsletter.

CCA members were given an opportunity to provide feedback to the board on the amendment. Comments were:

- Member Bill Brown suggested that we clarify the expectations for community meetings (p. 4). It states that "...the membership of the Association shall meet on the first Monday of the month...", suggesting that meetings would be on a monthly basis, but then it states that "A minimum of ten (10) meetings per year must be held." Bill believes this is unclear whether the expectation is for 10 to 12 meetings per year.
- Member Fred Amato is not in favor of the changes. He believes they restrict members' participation, particularly regarding the election of officers. (Note: The current bylaws provide for members to elect four different officer positions. The new amendment provides for members to elect 9-15 Directors, and then the new Board of Directors elects its own officers [5 of them] to serve for one year, but each board member have to serve a two year term.)
- Board member Sue Roethel explained that this amendment would ensure that each new board would have a full Executive Board of Officers and not be left to operate as the current board has, without a Vice President for almost a full year. Members still get to elect the Board of Directors, but then the board itself can determine who among them is best qualified to serve in each of the five officer positions.

Community/Neighborhood Updates & Concerns

NY State Senator Joe Robach: Sen. Robach reported that the governor signed new legislation to protect victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence. In early December there will be a vote on legislation that will help increase job opportunities.

Monroe County Legislator Tony Micciche: Tony reported that Sen. Robach has helped get \$2.3M extra in child care. There are many empty (zombie) houses in the City; having a county-wide registry of them helps the police and community to address the problem. Karen Ivesly gave a personal thank-you to Tony for all of the work that he does for the community.

City Council Rep: Carla Palumbo reported that the NY State law on sales of alcohol pre-empts City law, meaning that bars can stay open to 2 pm and the City cannot impose restrictions to require a trouble-spot bar to close at 11 pm. Laws on sales of lottery tickets and cigarettes are also under review. Carla also reported that a public meeting will be held on November 23rd to gather community input on the use of police body cameras. She also submitted a new proposal for legislation to protect victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking from discrimination. Citizens can sign up to Speak to Council from 6:30-7:00 on November 17th about any issues. Carla was asked for an update on the Land Disposition Agreement for the sale of Parcel 1 at the Port. She said she would find out.

Northwest Service Center: No report.

Charlotte Community Development Corporation (CCDC): No report.

Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society: No report.

CHARLOTTE Strong: Bill Brown reported that there is a bipartisan bill (#1501) currently in the U.S. Senate regarding EB-5 funding. In order for developers to use this funding, the area where it will be used must show a 7.5% unemployment rate. He stated that Greg Weykamp cannot do due diligence with the Land Disposition Agreement (LDA). Bill also is investigating the DEC reports on the CSX accident that happened years ago. Virginia Kobylarz said that Bob Stevenson would be very interested in working with Bill on it.

Charlotte Youth Athletic Association (CYAA): Please see above under President's Report.

Block Groups: No reports.

Holy Cross: Fred Amato reported that the renovation is underway. New subflooring and tiles are going in now. The altar area will be going in soon.

Ontario Beach Park Planning Committee: Fred Amato reported that the Big Band concerts are done for the fall season, and next season's schedule is available now. The group will meet this Saturday to talk about the 2016 Lakeside Winter Festival.

Port of Charlotte Merchants Association (POCMA): Marianne Warfle reported that the group had a meeting after a long hiatus over the summer. There was a good turnout. There are new businesses coming to Charlotte: 1) Pythonn Jazz Club on Lake Ave.; 2) Rock Harbor Clam Company on River St.; and 3) The Stutson House on Stutson St. POCMA has a grant to create a community guide featuring a walking tour of the neighborhood. They will start up a committee and are asking for help from the CCA. Robin DeVoist asked Marianne about the "Waterfront Rochester" sign on the building next to Harbor Hots.

Other:

- Fred Amato reported that the SeaBees will be installing the sign and stone in concrete soon for the Charlotte Cemetery. They will also be taking the flags down soon for the winter.
- Virginia Kobylarz reported that there will be an exhibit at the Memorial Art Gallery from October 18th to January 3rd about Carl Peters, a muralist from Fairport. There are eight of his murals at Charlotte High School that depict the history of Lake Ontario and the region. We need to leverage our capability to advertise this around the community. The November 14th event is already sold out.
- Vic Simonetti is a new CCA member who is a write-in candidate running for County Executive.

Committee Reports

Beautification: No report.

Communications: Donna Bour-Purdy reported that the special edition of the newsletter for the Bylaws Amendment and Proxy is being printed in color to be mailed out this week. Three email blasts went out last month; 50 email addresses have been added to the distribution list. The highest views on Facebook were for Meet the Candidates Night. The number of "Likes" in October: 622. The new website went live

on September 29th. We now have Google Analytics to track users and sessions. Peak activity of 34 sessions was on October 12th, likely coinciding with Meet the Candidates Night. The contract with Biznetix, the former web host, has been cancelled.

Membership: No report.

Nominating: No report.

Not-for-Profit Status: No report.

Planning & Zoning: Linda MacCammon reported that she attended a recent informational meeting on the Lake Avenue Improvement Project. It is a \$5.2M project funded by the City, County, State and Federal. It covers Lake Avenue from Merrill St. to Burley Rd. Construction starts this month and will be suspended in December until Spring 2016. Two-way traffic will be maintained during construction. Ramsey was the lowest bidder on the project. They haven't been assigned, but they were at the meeting.

Programming & Fundraising: Patti O'Brien reported that the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Friday, December 4th at 7 pm at the Engine 19 firehouse. Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for a donation box. The Lakeside Winter Festival will be in February 2016. Ideas are needed for a large fundraiser next summer, possibly to coincide with the OBPPC/Wegmans 100th Anniversary event in June or July 2016.

Scholarship: No report.

Safety & Security: No report.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

November 7 RPD Gun Buy-back, Miracle Deliverance Church, 69 Whitney St.
November 17 PCIC meeting, 7 pm, Aquinas Institute
November 23 Public Hearing: Use of Police Body Cameras, 6-7:30 pm, Edgerton Rec Center
December 7 CCA General Meeting: **VOTE on Bylaws Amendment**, 7 pm, Robach Community Center

Adjournment

Joe Robach made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Tom Brewer seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.