

Charlotte Community Association

General Meeting Minutes January 4, 2016, 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 7:05 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, president; Sue Miller, treasurer; Sue Roethel, secretary; Donna Bour-Purdy, director (via FaceTime from North Carolina); Jonathan Hardin, director; Linda MacCammon, director; Patti O'Brien, director. There was a quorum of the board to conduct business and about 15 people from the floor in attendance. Charlie Ennis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City of Rochester Updates

1. Rochester Police Department (RPD): Lieutenant Jeff Koehn reported that there was an armed robbery at 85 Stonewood Ave. (Kwik-Fill) on 1/3. A man with a handgun stole cash and ran down the railroad tracks. The police K-9 unit followed the tracks until the trail ended about 9 blocks away. Just 9 minutes prior to that robbery there was another armed robbery reported at 90 McCall Rd. (Mini-Mart) near Dewey Ave. in the Maplewood neighborhood. The suspect description in both cases was similar—white male, chubby build, bandana covering his face. This description means it's not the same suspect in the robbery at 1244 Lake Ave. reported last month. Lt. Koehn also reported on a case of grand larceny from a car break-in at 65 Yarker Avenue. A 17-year-old suspect was arrested and also matched the description from another car break-in. The suspect's family is cooperating with police on the investigation.

Captain Ray Dearcop reported that he and Lt. Koehn will start 2016 with meetings with community associations to review last year and set expectations for 2016. No date has been set yet, but it will likely be scheduled in February. He also reported that there will be a future PCIC presentation on crime statistics, response time, etc. Police and Citizens Interactive Committee (PCIC) meetings are open to everyone on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at Aquinas Institute.

Capt. Dearcop also reported that he is starting to prepare an operational plan now for Memorial Day, and that new officers in the Lake Section have completed their field training and most are now on the midnight shift.

2. Rochester Fire Department (RFD): No report from Engine 19 firehouse. However, CCA member Virginia Kobylarz said that Engine 10 (Dewey/Ridgeway) sent a crew down to cover Charlotte during the Tree Lighting Ceremony in December, and we should say thank you to them.

3. Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC): John McMahon reported on behalf of the Director, Ron Penders, who is out of town. Regarding Snug Harbor, it is now in receivership and upgrades are in process. There are seven families living there. John also reported that he is transferring to the Southeast Neighborhood Service Center. Bruce Wilder from Southwest NSC, located at 923 Genesee Street is taking over for him at the Northwest NSC.
4. **City Council Rep**: Legislative Aide Chuck Stechna reported for Molly Clifford, who was sworn in to City Council today. Molly plans to attend our meetings and will hold monthly “office hours” at the Cannonball Café, immediately following the Ontario Beach Park Program Committee meetings which are held on the first Saturday of every month. Chuck said that Molly will participate on the following committees: 1) Finance Committee; 2) Neighborhood and Community Development; 3) Public Safety; and 4) Youth Development. He also reported that legislation is underway to change the time of public hearings so that they will be held one week prior to Council meetings where votes take place. For example, Thursday, 1/7 will be the agenda review; 1/14 will be committee review and public hearing; and 1/19 will be the Council vote.

The 2016 applications for Senior Citizen STAR Exemptions and Enhanced School Tax Relief/STAR are due on 2/1. To be eligible, citizens must be 65 years old and own their own home for 12 years. Questions about these programs should be directed to the City Assessor’s office at 585-428-6994.

The Flower City Work Camp has 70 names submitted, which is twice as many as last year; 12 in the Northwest Quad with 3 in Charlotte. Those eligible must have low-moderate income and their homes must be single-family and owner-occupied. Call Molly’s office at 585-428-5982 with any questions

Chuck also reported that he City’s RFP for promotion and marketing for the marina (including docks, boat launch, dock wall and boater services in the Terminal building) netted three proposals. The job is a 3-year term with two 1-year optional renewals. SG Marina (from Milwaukee) submitted the only proposal that had a certified manager component. Another RFP for rental spaces in the Terminal Building has also gone out. Chuck left a copy of it for the CCA, and Board President Clare Stortini charged the Planning & Zoning Committee to examine it.

Guest Speaker

Cheryl Hayward, Center for Dispute Settlement, is the Program Manager for the Police/Community Relations Program. The Center for Dispute Settlement is a non-profit, independent organization that acts as a community advocate for alternative dispute resolution. It is partially funded through the New York State Judicial System. Services include mediation, arbitration, Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) petitions, and divorce settlements for citizens and businesses. It serves eight counties around Rochester. The Police/Community Relations Program monitors investigations on complaints made about RPD. A Civilian Review Board, made up of City of Rochester residents who volunteer and are trained to be neutral, makes recommendations for policy changes; however, they cannot make disciplinary recommendations. This board is similar to the Sheriff’s Review Board. They advocate for police conciliation for civilians by opening dialogue to resolve issues. Ms. Hayward left brochures and business cards for anyone wanting more information.

CCA member Charlie Ennis asked if the Police Body-Worn Cameras program could be expanded to all of New York State. Monroe County Legislator Tony Micciche said the County has investigated and

proposed joining forces with RPD to purchase a larger quantity of body-worn cameras for a better price. He said the new chair for Public Safety wants to expand the cameras out to the towns too. Senator Joe Robach said that it's cost-beneficial to have the cameras.

Community/Neighborhood Updates & Concerns

NY State Senate: Senator Joe Robach first apologized that his mom, Terry Robach, could not be at the meeting because she is ill, then he reported that the Senate is starting new sessions this week. January 13th will be the Governor's State of the State address. This year \$1.5 billion funding for photonics research and development will go out across NYS. \$100 million of that will come to Rochester over the next 5 years. Most of the development initiatives will involve private business investments and contributions. It will mean job creation, which is a good match with our anti-poverty program. Sen. Robach chairs the Transportation Committee. He said that \$8 billion is going to the New York City Transit Authority. He is looking for a plan for Upstate NY. He invited everyone to send him ideas.

Charlie Ennis asked Sen. Robach about corruption issues in Albany. Joe said "the rules are good but corruption, in NYC especially, is the norm." He believes that "when you use public money for personal gain, you should be eligible to lose your pension. There always will be greedy people, but (the situation) is being cleaned up." Board member Linda MacCammon challenged Sen. Robach to use legislation "rather than lip service" to change the culture in Albany. She asked what structures are in place to show the public where the money is going. Joe said the proposals are on the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council website (<http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/finger-lakes>). He said "there will be very good accounting of these projects."

Monroe County Legislature: Legislator Tony Micciche reported that he is re-submitting legislation for the Neighborhood Zombie Act, which holds banks and mortgage holders accountable for zombie properties. It would provide a county-wide registry with public access to status information of properties. Tony also reported that County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo has rolled out a new Office of County Integrity that will make contracts publicly accessible.

Tony also met with the owners of the Kwik-Fill on Stonewood Ave. about yesterday's armed robbery there. This is the seventh time they been robbed in two years. Audience member Carl Giardino stated that an eight-foot fence behind the property could prevent criminals from escaping via the railroad tracks. He said he'd be willing to contribute toward the fence.

Leg. Micciche closed by reminding everyone that he will continue to hold town hall meetings on the last Saturday of the month.

Charlotte Community Development Corporation (CCDC): No report.

Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society: No report, but Virginia Kobylarz said that people who come to the Lakeside Winter Celebration can also see the lighthouse beacon; it goes on automatically when it gets dark.

CHARLOTTE Strong: No report.

Charlotte Youth Athletic Association (CYAA):No report.

Block Groups: No report

Holy Cross: No report.

Ontario Beach Park Program Committee: Fred Amato reported that the Lakeside Winter Celebration starts on Saturday, 2/13, 1-6 pm in the Terminal Building. There will be wagon rides, snow sculpture contest, Rec on the Move, dog sled demo, ice sculpture demo, sailboat races, music by George Hogan, and fireworks at 6 pm. The Polar Plunge is on Sunday, 2/14, with 2,200 registered plungers. Parking will be at Arcadia High School with shuttle buses to the beach from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Port of Charlotte Merchants Association (POCMA): No report.

Other: No reports

Board Reports

1. **President's Report:: Board vacancies:** Prior to this General Meeting, the board welcomed new member Jonathan Hardin, who was appointed to a 1-year term as Director to serve out the position vacated in 2015. Board member Donna Bour-Purdy is in North Carolina for the winter and participated via FaceTime. Sue Miller's term as Treasurer ended 12/31/15 and no new candidates ran for this position during the fall elections. Board Director Patti O'Brien is now appointed to a 2-year term as Treasurer, and Sue Miller has agreed to help with the transition through January. The board maintains a quorum but still has vacancies for Vice President and 2 Directors.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Sue M. reported on income and expenses from 12/5/15 to 1/4/16. Total income was \$1,723 received from membership dues and advertising. Total expenses were \$1,931.90 for liability insurance, newsletter printing, refreshments for Tree Lighting event, gift card for attorney's pro bono work, and phone answering service. The available balance on 1/4/16 is \$17,290.46.
3. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the General Meeting 12/7 have been posted on the web for members' review and approval. Changes recommended by President Stortini were already sent to the Secretary, and there were no other suggested changes from the floor.

Motion: Fred Amato moved to approve the General Meeting minutes of 13/7 with the recommended changes. Tom Brewer seconded; motion was approved with no opposition.

Committee Reports

Safety & Security Committee: Sue Miller is now serving as Chair and Jonathan Hardin has been appointed as Board Liaison. Committee members Bel Baxter, Sue Krohl and Michelle Thomas have organized a Neighborhood Watch on Pollard Avenue, where two signs for it are now posted. Committee member Carl Giardino has five people interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in the Stonewood Avenue area. He will work with RPD Crime Prevention Officer Kelly O'Hara.

There has been significant damage done to the wooden "Welcome to Charlotte" sign on Pattonwood Drive. The vandalism has been reported to RPD. The CCA Treasurer will report it to the insurance company and get a replacement quote before the Board decides what to do.

Adjournment

Tony Micciche motioned to adjourn the meeting; Bel Baxter seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

1/14	Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, Greece Library
1/26	Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm, Cannonball Café
2/1	CCA General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center
2/13-14	Lakeside Winter Festival, Ontario Beach Park