

# Charlotte Community Association

## General Meeting Minutes December 7, 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 7:06 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 and about 60 people in attendance. Tom Borelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Lieutenant Jeff Koehn introduced two new RPD members: Officer Alyssa Shindler and Officer Jeremy Lindaur. He also reported that there was a robbery on 11/26 at the Seven/Eleven on Lake Avenue. The Greece and Irondequoit Police Departments were notified. Two other Lake Section robberies may be related, and the investigation is ongoing. There were 4 burglaries from 11/19 to 12/3; security cameras were at two of the locations. Also, a body was recovered from the river under the O'Rorke Bridge on 12/3. The body was identified as a 31-year-old man who had been reported missing.

Captain Ray Dearcop reported that out of 16 robberies reported county-wide since mid-October, only 2 were in the Lake Section. Regarding staffing, Capt. Dearcop reported that the Lake Section is much better off than in recent months. There are now young recruits taking the afternoon and evening shifts. Statistically, the Lake Section is doing very well and has made a smooth transition from the reorganization. He asked us to thank the officers who are working the holidays.

CCA member Mike Parker raised a few questions. One was about an incident he witnessed at Turning Point Park yesterday. He said he saw a man loading three beavers from steel traps onto an ATV and was joking about it. Mike believes it's illegal to trap in the City of Rochester and asked for a confirmation on that. He also sent an email to RPD and Monroe County Parks Department to report it. In response to Mike's question, Lt. Koehn said it depends on where the traps are. On park land, it's illegal but in the river it's not. However, use of an ATV in the park is illegal, and a citation will be delivered to the trapper.

Another question Mike had pertains to traffic violations he's witnessed at the corner of Lake Ave. and Stonewood Ave. He said that 60% of vehicles make an illegal turn on red at the light; he videotaped 10 violations today, all within 1 minute. He requests that a red light camera be placed at that intersection. He also asked for more visibility of RPD officers there as well and to have more than one crossing guard.

In response, Capt. Dearcop said that he doesn't have resources to assign an officer at that intersection all day but that someone is there when the kids are going to school. He will inform the traffic officer of the safety concerns.

Mike also raised a concern about suspicious activity he's witnessed at a home that has windows and doors covered up. It's in the same area—Lake Ave. and Stonewood Ave. President Stortini reminded Mike and the rest of the audience to let RPD know of any concerns prior to a meeting so that they can investigate and come prepared with information. To not give them a heads-up and then expect a satisfactory response on the spot is unproductive.

There will be two more gun buy-back events—12/16 and 12/19—at 244 South Plymouth Ave.

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

No report from Engine 19 firehouse. The CCA board thanked them and Pastor Banks for the tree lighting ceremony and open house on 12/4.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the General Meetings on 10/5 and 11/2 have been posted on the web for members' review. No changes were recommended.

**Motion:** Donna Bour-Purdy moved to approve the General Meeting minutes of 10/5 with no changes. Suzanne Phillips seconded; motion was approved with no opposition.

**Motion:** Trevor Purdy moved to approve the General Meeting minutes of 11/2 with no changes. Tom Borelli seconded; motion was approved with no opposition.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sue M. reported on income and expenses from 11/3/15 to 12/7/15. Total income was \$218 received from membership dues and advertising. Total expenses were \$754.15 for web host (Aug/Oct), bulk mailing permit (annual fee), November newsletter printing, Navy SeaBees veteran sign at the cemetery, telephone answering service, and Charlotte Post Office box rental fee. The available balance on 12/7/15 is \$17,852.

### **President's Report**

- **RPD Chief of Police PCIC Meeting on 11/18:** Clare attended this bi-monthly meeting and shared her notes. These meetings are to provide updates and include communities in the discussions of topics relevant to all. Most of the discussion was about RPD's use of body worn cameras (BWC)—why they're a priority, benefits and limitations, process to approve them, and next steps to seek more community input, develop a policy, select a vendor, police training, community education, and deployment of the equipment. On 11/17 the City Council approved \$2M for the BWC program. RIT has received a grant to conduct an independent evaluation of the program. The PCIC meeting also included a discussion about the RPD's gun buy-back program, funded by gifts from Wegmans and

the Rochester Police Foundation. Next scheduled buy-back events are on 12/16 and 12/19 at 244 South Plymouth Avenue.

- **Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) Meeting on 11/19:** Clare also attended this meeting and posted her notes for the board's perusal. Meeting discussions included developing a quadrant-wide tool library, which the CCA board has previously discussed and has decided not to commit to it at this time. Also up for discussion was an information sheet that Mike Visconte of the Lyell-Otis neighborhood has developed that is helpful for neighborhoods that don't have a website or other communication infrastructure to share information easily.

### **Bylaws Amendment Discussion and Vote**

The proposed Amendment to the Bylaws were mailed out to members in a special edition of the newsletter, which contained the complete proposal, and explanation of the implication of the changes, and a proxy form for members who are unable to attend the meeting to vote. The proposed Amendment was also posted on the CCA website. Members were asked to sign in upon arrival at the meeting and receive a voting tag.

The board received emails from CCA members Bill Brown and Fred Amato, each detailing specific items in the proposed Amendment that they feel need to be either expanded on or eliminated altogether. President Stortini invited both Bill and Fred, and anyone else in the audience, to summarize their feedback before the vote takes place.

Bill provided constructive suggestions for adding clarifying language on several items that he felt were unclear. Fred, in particular, expressed deep dissatisfaction with the proposal and objected to changing it from a philosophical point of view. Overall, he felt that the changes would remove authority from the members, and he cited several specific changes that he particularly objects to which pertain to membership, number of board members, election of officers, quorum and voting, abstentions, and term of office. For each item, Fred provided his rationale and suggestions for replacing the objectionable items.

Other members offered their feedback as well. Tom Riley supported the points that Fred made and stated that "this board has not represented the residents." He thinks any reference to representing the residents should be taken out of the bylaws. Pat O'Neill stated that there are 8,000 residents in Charlotte versus 253 members in the CCA. He said the government is looking for representative groups to provide a means to get feedback, and without the CCA representing the residents, who will the City receive feedback from? He believes the community needs to know they can work through the CCA. Ray Crandall said the CCA should be for residents only and have no other requirement. Charlie Ennis said that it should be appropriate to pause and hold off on the vote. Brian Labigan stated "let's get it right." He thinks Fred and Bill should be involved in whatever happens next.

At no time did any members ask the board how the proposed Bylaws Amendment was developed. President Stortini explained that many communities take time to amend their bylaws. The CCA is a registered non-profit corporation and, as such, must abide by the New York State Non-Profit Corporation Law (NPCL). The Not-for-Profit Status (NPS) Committee was formed at the beginning of 2015 and charged with reviewing all processes and procedures of governance, including the bylaws, to be sure the CCA is in compliance with the requirements of NPCL, particularly new laws that were added in 2013. Three board members were appointed to the NPS Committee—President Clare Stortini, Treasurer Sue Miller, and Secretary Sue Roethel. The committee structure, as of January 2015, is to have community members involved, particularly as chairperson, but no one has volunteered to do this work. In addition to NPCL compliance, the NPS Committee has also conducted other research and benchmarked other non-profit groups' bylaws that informed the process of amending the CCA bylaws.

After a lengthy debate about the appropriateness of the current proposed Bylaws Amendment that's currently on the table for a vote at this meeting, the consensus was to hold off on the vote to allow time to make further revisions and bring a new proposal to the members for a vote in March. President Stortini urged Bill Brown and Fred Amato to join the NPS Committee to assist with this process.

The Committee will reconvene in January to urgently address the bylaws. The timeline will be short in order to complete the revisions and mail out another special edition newsletter with proxy by mid-February in order to be voted on at the 3/7 General Meeting. Fred Amato volunteered to chair the committee. Other members are: Clare Stortini, Board Liaison; Sue Miller; Sue Roethel; Bill Brown; and Joe Sirianni.

**Motion:** CCA member Joe Sirianni moved that the vote to approve the Bylaws Amendment be tabled until the General Meeting in March to allow time for the NPS Committee to revise and resubmit the proposal. Marie Poinan seconded the motion, and it was approved 24-4.

## Community/Neighborhood Updates & Concerns

**NY State Senator Joe Robach:** No report.

**Monroe County Legislator Tony Micciche:** No report.

**City Council Rep:** Carla Palumbo reported the following:

- Letters are being mailed to homeowners regarding the 2016 assessment. Homeowners who wish to dispute the assessment have until 1/22/16 to request a hearing.
- The City is in process of evaluating the roof repair program. The City feels it is too restrictive; the recommendation is to allow 80% of median income to be considered so that more people are eligible to qualify. The average cost per roof is \$12K.
- An evaluation of the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development is under way.
- There was a hearing on 11/19 to waiver Certificate of Occupancy requirements. This issue is now in committee and may stay there until next year.

- Also in committee is the issue of advertising on City-owned property; there are many questions and the issue is up for debate.
- Proposed changes to sidewalk snowplowing will be coming to Council for approval; recommendations are to increase fines for violations. Audience members voiced concerns about enforcing the fines. Also, the City street plows push snow up on the sidewalks, and subcontractors clearing out businesses also put piles of snow on other people's property. Who is responsible for clearing the sidewalks? Carla said that homeowners are responsible for clearing the sidewalk in front of their own property. In the case of rental property, the landlord, not the tenant, is responsible. Carla was asked to raise the concerns about enforcement and responsibility in committee.

The next City Council meeting is on 12/15. Carla invited everyone to attend and voice their concerns during the "Speak to Council" session. (Note: You must call ahead and sign up to speak.) As a final note, Carla is ending eight years on City Council. She said thank you to all for the support, and the CCA thanks her for her service. Carla ended by asking everyone to look for positive changes for the community. Molly Clifford takes over on 1/4/16 as the new NW Quad representative.

**Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center:** Ron Penders had updates to report but was unable to stay for this portion of the meeting. (Note: Ron later gave a report to the CCA's Planning & Zoning Committee about Snug Harbor and The Men's Cave, two businesses that the community has raised concerns about.)

At the last NW Quad meeting on 11/19, discussions included developing a quadrant-wide tool library, which may be grant funded, and improving communications across the quadrant. It is especially important to find ways to communicate for those neighborhoods that don't have a website or other communication infrastructure to share information easily. One idea was to use post cards, which may also be grant funded. Also, an information sheet was developed by the Lyell-Otis neighborhood that is helpful.

**Charlotte Community Development Corporation (CCDC):** No report.

**Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society:** No report.

**CHARLOTTE Strong:** No report.

**Charlotte Youth Athletic Association (CYAA):** No report.

**Block Groups:** No report

**Holy Cross:** Bill Brown reported that the choir will have a Christmas concert on Sunday, 12/13 at 3 pm.

**Ontario Beach Park Program Committee:** No report.

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

**Other:**

- Pastor Banks of Abundant Grace Church thanked everyone for the donations to the food cupboard.
- Mike Parker asked about the Pythodd jazz and blues club. They have applied for a special permit to allow indoor entertainment from 5-10 pm. An article in the CCA newsletter explains the details. A public hearing will take place on 12/21 at 6:30 pm at City Hall. The public is invited to attend and send comments.
- Mike Parker also reported that he's asked Ron Penders about the Past and Present Gift Shop. The sign is gone and replaced with what appears to be an adult entertainment business.
- Clare Stortini said that Nola's BBQ is no longer a business. The same owners will open a new business on 12/11 on the same property. It is called the Rock Shrimp Company.

### **Committee Reports**

Due to time constraints, this portion of the meeting was deferred.

### **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

1/4	CCA General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center
2/13-14	Lakeside Winter Festival, Ontario Beach Park

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.