

Charlotte Community Association

General Meeting Minutes March 7, 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 7:04 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, President; Patti O'Brien, Treasurer; Sue Roethel, Secretary; and Jonathan Hardin, Director. **Excused:** Donna Bour-Purdy, Director. With four board members in attendance, there was no quorum to conduct business.

In addition to the board, there were approximately 55 people also in attendance. Former Board President Brian Labigan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City of Rochester Updates

1. **Rochester Police Department (RPD):** Lake Section Captain Ray Dearcop, Lieutenant Jeff Koehn, and Crime Prevention Officer Kelly O'Hara attended. Lt. Koehn provided an update on the shooting that took place this morning at 3750 Lake Avenue next to the Lake Vista Apartment complex. He offered facts that were released earlier in the day by Police Chief Michael Ciminelli.

Officers responded to a 911 caller at 4:36am reporting that a man was waving a shotgun and making threats. Officers quickly established a wide safety perimeter in response to the involvement of a long gun, which has a longer shooting range than a handgun. From a barricaded location two shotgun blasts as well as threats were heard in the officers' direction. At 6:18am the Code Red emergency communication system was activated to send citizens the message to shelter in place. A crisis negotiation team arrived and, with the team of officers, they were able to engage in conversation with the suspect. The suspect made threats and pointed a weapon at police officers. At that point a SWAT officer shot and killed the suspect. At 11:24am an emergency communication message was sent out to citizens lifting the shelter-in-place command.

In answer to questions from the audience, Lt. Koehn said that tear gas was not used in this situation, the Code Red system worked well, and that police deal with gun violence every day. When asked why officers shoot to kill instead of maim, Lt. Koehn answered that they are trained to stop the threat. The issue of prevalent gun violence is a topic that society should have a good conversation about.

Overall, it was felt that RPD did a great job of securing the neighborhood, and we thanked them for their service.

On another topic, Lt. Koehn reported that there was a robbery on March 4th at the sports bar at 29 Stonewood Dr. A 25-year-old male was accosted at knifepoint in the parking lot at 2 am when the bar closed. Details are sketchy, and no nuisance points were given. There was no evidence that the bar failed to maintain an orderly premise.

2. **Rochester Fire Department (RFD)**: Lt. Tom Burns, Rob Zorn, Jim Liese, and Sal Matrano attended from Engine 19 firehouse. Lt. Burns reported that they now have asthma nebulizers and have had anti-overdose training. They also continue ice rescue training. Lt. Burns advised to keep checking smoke and CO2 detectors and to keep snow removed from hydrants.
3. **Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC)**: NSC Director Ron Penders reported on the following:
 - Ira Jacobsen property—No update
 - Dunkin Donuts – New owners were there recently; no word on opening date
 - Boxart St. – No sidewalk plowed; City will pay closer attention next year. Citizens should call 311 if you don't get services you need; can call Ron too
 - Turning Point Park –Signed changed to say the park is open dusk to dawn. NSC is paying for a power source to be installed this week and a security camera to be purchased shortly and installed in the parking lot for 24/7 monitoring. DES and DRYS ma investigate installing a blue light box as well.
 - Clematis St. – John McMahon met with Greece Towne reps and neighbors about the flooding problem. The golf course owners were asked to extend the berm, but they didn't. Instead pipes were installed to run the water to the west rather than to the north. Ron just got this information yesterday; call him to report any further problems.
 - Charlotte youth are asking for a place to skateboard; Ron said a group is working with DRYS for a downtown skate park, but that won't address youth in Charlotte who can't easily get to downtown.
 - Clean Sweep 2016 – Scheduled on Saturday, April 30th. We should identify 3-4 areas we want to focus on and select main thoroughfares where the improvements will be visible.
 - Neighborhood Outreach event – Scheduled on July 12th. Last year (first year for this event), Charlotte had the nicest setup of all NW neighborhoods but the lowest turnout. Of the five neighborhood groups in the NW, Charlotte is the biggest, so we should have the biggest turnout. Last year's event was held at Charlotte High School, and we might want to consider moving it to School 42. The location needs to be very visible. For anyone wishing to volunteer to help out with this event, contact Ron at 428-7620 or the CCA at 865-6101.
4. **City Council Rep for NW Quad**: Councilwoman Molly Clifford reported on the following:
 - She is working with 28th District Minority Leader Cindy Kaleh to address the number of recent traffic fatalities on Lake Avenue. They are asking the City to establish a task force to investigate traffic safety on Lake Avenue in a coordinated way.
 - City Council is voting this month on two proposals to fill the Port Terminal Building. One is to establish a new restaurant, Jetty at the Port, on the 2nd floor in the old Pier 45 space; the other one is to establish Margio's Diner on the 1st floor in the old Cheeburger Cheeburger space.

- Representatives from the NW are needed to serve on the City's Zoning Board of Appeals and Preservation Board. Contact Molly if you are interested.
- Improvements at Durand Eastman Beach are underway.
- Summer Youth Employment applications are available.
- Sign up to receive Molly's bimonthly newsletter.
- Join Molly for monthly informal meetings the first Saturday of the month, 11am-noon, at the Cannonball Café.
- May 1st is the projected ribbon-cutting to open the new marina; 10 slips out of 53 are sold.
- Molly is working with the CCA, POCMA and NSC to install new Welcome to Charlotte banners along the Lake Ave. corridor. The plan is unfolding to do them this year.

Guest Speakers

1. **Lake Level Plan 2014** - Dr. Dan Barletta, Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA), presented on the implications of the Plan 2014 supported by the International Joint Commission on Lake Levels (IJC), which includes Canada and the U.S. Dr. Barletta is president of the Grand View Neighborhood Association. LORA is a grassroots organization "with very little money trying to improve the lake and protect properties by fighting big companies that have lots of money. " Dr. Barletta was asked by U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter to serve on a review committee given \$20M over 5 years to study the water levels of Lake Ontario and develop regulation criteria. Eight different stakeholder entities participated, and the study ended in 2006 with three plan proposals: one focusing on economic benefits, one focusing on environmental benefits, and one that was a balance of both. Environmentalists did not favor any of the plans. The one that was adopted by the IJC, Plan 2014, recommends changes that will affect boaters and homeowners.

Dr. Barletta said the data shows that the south shore of Lake Ontario, particularly the areas in Monroe County, will suffer the most damages from Plan 2014. He believes the risk of damage from spring storms will increase 300-400%. For a monetary perspective, two counties along the south shore experienced \$90M in damages in 2004. Dr. Barletta believes the projected damage estimates are low because the study only included private property and no public property such as Ontario Beach. The full report from this study is available at www.loranet.org.

The implications of adopting Plan 2014 are extremely political, according to Dr. Barletta. The hydropower industry will gain significantly from a higher lake level and so are in favor of the plan. The Nature Conservancy/Sierra Club is in favor as well, as they believe that wetlands will be improved with this plan. However, municipalities and homeowners will suffer. Dr. Barletta stated that the six counties along the south shore of Lake Ontario are among the top ten across the country in property taxes. The mayor of Sodus Bay told him that a higher level will compromise the pump station that sits on Sodus Point; he believes it will shut down the sewer and fresh water system.

The U.S. Department of State will be deciding soon on the adoption of Plan 2014. Dr. Barletta urged citizens to contact Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Mayor Lovely Warren, and County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo to voice your opinion before it's too late.

2. **Court Watch** – Bob Stevenson and Marcia Enright presented on this volunteer program that follows cases brought before the City, County and Supreme Courts. Bob and Marcia represent the whole NW Quad, not just Charlotte. They sit in court wearing a badge that identifies them as a Court

Watch volunteer, which visibly demonstrates to the court that the neighborhood is interested in the outcome of the case they are monitoring. Their presence in the courtroom raises the level of awareness about the case being tried. They work closely with the District Attorney and RPD, giving information to Capt. Dearcop. Roughly 1,200 cases a year are indicted by the DA. Currently there are 12 cases in the NW Quad being monitored. One case is a recent incident that took place at 346 Beach Avenue. An arrest has been made and the case will go before the Grand Jury. There will be about 9 more appearances before the suspect goes before the Supreme Court.

Bob and Marcia are looking for people to become Court Watch volunteers. They will train anyone interested who is available during the day and willing to commit 1-2 hours per month. Contact Bob Stevenson at 585-748-3752.

Community/Neighborhood Updates & Concerns

NY State Senate: Paula Kosiorek reported for Senator Joe Robach, who is in Albany this month for the budget. The Senate recently voted on a package of bills aimed at combating harmful synthetic cannabinoid drugs. There are now five legal dispensaries for medical marijuana in NYS; one is at Kodak Park. NYS is the 30th state to pass a law legalizing it. Paula also reported that Sen. Robach emceed the Green Gala party celebrating Father Wheeland's 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Community member Pete LaPore spoke up and wanted Sen. Robach to know of his deep concern about the destruction of the Port. He thinks the marina takes business away from businesses that have been here, and he wants to see the current development project "stopped dead in its tracks."

Monroe County Legislature: Legislator Tony Micciche reported that County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo announced a national search for a new Chief of Economic Development Officer. He also said that of the revenue taken in by the DMV in Monroe County, 87.3% of it goes to NYS and the county keeps the rest. NYS charges for 911 cell phone calls, and the county pays the surcharges not charged to prepaid phones. Currently there are 200K phones that currently don't pay, totaling a \$122M revenue loss to recoup. Tony also reported that he attended a Stop DWI luncheon, a POCMA meeting, and a Unite Rochester meeting, at which he heard some good ideas. Examples are: 1) turn a boarded up house into an opportunity to teach youth how to fix it up; and 2) give children a college funding grant. When asked by a community member about the issue of the offensive Denzel carousel painting, Tony said that it is not as important as other issues facing the legislature, such as gun violence and education.

Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society: Red Amato reported that the Marine History Group will host a free and open presentation about the SS Edmund Fitzgerald on Saturday, 3/12 at 10am at the Customs House on the corner of River St. and Latta Rd. Also, the annual garage sale is being planned, and they are now accepting merchandise donations every Saturday at the Customs House.

Charlotte Youth Athletic Association (CYAA): Brian Labigan reported that this is the 63rd year of youth baseball in Charlotte. Registration will be held on 3/5, 3/12, 3/19 and 3/23 from 10am-1pm in the Holy Cross cafeteria. Last year there were 225 kids and their families participating. This year construction of the new bathrooms and concessions building will start about 2 weeks. The building will be lit and locked when not in use. CYAA wishes to thank everyone for their contributions.

Ontario Beach Park Program Committee: Fred Amato reported that the group is planning for the 100th Year Celebration event on Saturday, 7/23, 11am-9pm. There will be music and a car show but no fireworks. Groups can reserve a table to hand out information and/or sell related items.

Abundant Grace Church: Pastor Leonard Banks reported that the church will host a showing of *Woodlawn*, a 1970 movie based on a true story, on Saturday, 3/12 at 7pm. There will be a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at 7am on the balcony of the Roger Robach Community Center. The Community of Churches fund is down by \$1,500. The clothing drive drop box is at Holy Cross. One hundred percent of the proceeds stays in Charlotte.

Other: Vic Simonetti reported about the RochesterWorks “Summer of Opportunity” program that provides jobs for students 14 years and older. Last year 800 kids participated, and there were 900 the previous year. This year the target is to get 1,000 kids. Go to www.summeryouth.org.

Board Reports

1. **President’s Report:** President Clare Stortini reported on the following:
 - Director Jonathan Hardin has been appointed by the board to step up as Vice President. The position has been vacant for almost a year. Jonathan will serve a 2-year term as VP, ending 12/31/17.
 - There are still 4 vacant positions for Director to be filled. Due to the shortage of board leadership at this time, the committee structure that’s in place is being re-examined and activities re-prioritized.
 - The City has invited Charlotte to host a Celebrate City Living event for our neighborhood this spring. The board will be making plans; watch for more details to come.
2. **Treasurer’s Report:** Patti O’Brien reported on income and expenses from 2/1/16 to 2/29/16. Total income was \$300 primarily received from membership dues and advertising. Total expenses were \$153.95 for a conference fee, postage, and phone answering service. The available balance on 3/1/16 is \$20,626.56. Memberships and sponsorships have increased since reminder letters were mailed out. The 2016 budget is late but will be ready soon.
3. **Secretary’s Report:** Sue Roethel reported that the minutes from the General Meeting on 2/1 are not ready for approval. Effort this month was redirected towards preparing and mailing reminder letters to members and sponsors for renewals and updating the committee plans of work.

Committee Reports

Communications: Board Liaison Donna Bour-Purdy submitted a written report stating that the number of printed copies of newsletter was reduced from 400 to 350 but that the number could change depending on membership renewals. CCA members Mary Chambers and Patrice Rosati managed the publication details to get the newsletters out on time. There were no email blasts sent out in February. Facebook activity reached 11,000 people during the month, with the highest views for the Lakeside Winter Fest posts. Website activity so far this year has declined from December, and an investigation needs to be done to understand why. The group’s 2016 plan of work and budget recommendations have been completed.

Programming & Fundraising: Board Liaison Jonathan Hardin reported that ideas and volunteers are needed to get this going.

Safety & Security: Board Liaison Jonathan Hardin reported that the group met on 2/25 at 6pm at the LDR Char-Pit. Members want to start canvassing neighborhoods to form block clubs. They plan to apply for grant support to host a block party. The next meeting is on 3/17.

Scholarship: Brian Labigan and Tom Brewer sent letters out to all City schools and are following up. The tradition of awarding scholarships to high school seniors goes back 25 years.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Roethel, CCA secretary.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

3/15 PCIC Meeting, 7 pm, Aquinas Institute
4/4 CCA General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center