

Charlotte Community Association

General Meeting Minutes April 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 7:07 pm. **In Attendance:** Clare Stortini, President; Jonathan Hardin, Vice President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; and Donna Bour-Purdy, Director. **Excused:** Patti O'Brien, Treasurer. With four board members in attendance, there was no quorum to conduct business.

In addition to the board, there were approximately 30 people also in attendance. Lt. Jeff Koehn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Terri Robach announced that Joe Genova is at the Jewish Home. She will send him a card on behalf of the CCA.

City of Rochester Updates

1. **Rochester Police Department (RPD):** Lake Section Captain Ray Dearcop, Lieutenant Jeff Koehn, and Crime Prevention Officer Jay Blanchard attended. Lt. Koehn provided these updates:
 - There was a home invasion with forced entry and robbery at 3317 Lake Avenue on March 12th. A car was damaged as well. It was not random. Investigation continues.
 - Regarding the "smash 'n grab" robberies at minimarts last November 19th at 85 Stonewood Ave. (Quik-Fil) and at 837 Lake Avenue in Edgerton, Greece Police apprehended a suspect for a similar crime at 2437 Dewey Ave. An RPD investigator interviewed the suspect, Richard Graham, who admitted to 6 "smash 'n grab" jobs, including 2 at Stonewood and 2 at 1680 Dewey Ave. He has 8 felony convictions already. This brings closure on these robberies.

Capt. Dearcop said that the Lake Section has been very busy, so thank you for the support. It is very much appreciated. He is preparing for upcoming Memorial Day with a preliminary plan to do same as last year, weather dependent. He asked for suggestions, and a Q&A ensued:

Q. You need more people. Can the County send in temporary manpower?

A. Union contracts complicate it, but RPD does have agreements with the Sheriff's Department and other agencies for back-up. However, having "more cops" is not always the best solution.

Q. Do you plan to use the green snow fence again?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you have visitors park at Kodak Park and have shuttles down to the beach?

A. Yes, but traffic on Lake Avenue always comes into play.

Capt. Dearcop said that RPD used to have one class of recruits per year, but now there are two. A new recruit class of 27 officers will be ready by the end of Fall 2016, and another class will start in September and be available in Spring 2017.

2. **Rochester Fire Department (RFD)**: No report.

3. **Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC)**: NSC Director Ron Penders reported on the following:

- Dunkin Donuts – Owners have not provided final plans to the City yet.
- Ira Jacobson Post – New owner has long-term plan to make it a banquet facility. Power is turned on; someone is coming by every other day to check on the property.
- Turning Point Park – Meeting today for final approval of security camera installation. Power is ready but no date yet for activation. Regarding concerns about homeless people hanging out at the park, Ron said he checks there often and the police will be monitoring it by ATV in summer. Long term plan is to install blue light phones.
- Snug Harbor – Exterior cleaned; new security lights; trees trimmed. Applications received but remain with the bank for hiring contractors. No interior remodeling yet. Permits will go through at City Hall for building upgrades, building by building.
- Outreach in Charlotte – Event date is July 12th. Give Clare any ideas for location other than Charlotte High School. The event brings in free or low-cost services by non-profit agencies. The City provides canopies, tables/chairs, and a police command vehicle. The CCA needs to look for food donations; Pathways to Peace will cook. Last year's event was at Charlotte HS in the bus loop but it was not well-attended. The Holy Cross parking lot is very visible but it could be a conflict for the church with some of the agencies that will be present. A suggestion was made to close off River Street and have it there. We need a large space for lots of agencies to set up. This event is intended to draw in poor people who can walk down, so the location needs to be centralized, within walking distance to residents, and highly visible. (Note: Craig Ristuccia offered the Stutson House.)
- Roofing grants – Second round of applications are accepted April 25th to May 26th.
- Clean Sweep is on Saturday, April 30th. Locations for clean up are set at the Charlotte Library, cemetery, Turning Point Park and Riverway Trail, and possibly the top of Boxart Street.
- Ron met with Clematis Street neighbors today. They are meeting later this week with Lakeshore Golf Course officials, three City engineers, and Pure Waters people to resolve the ongoing flooding problems. Mary Love thanked Ron for his assistance.

- Handicap parking spots are needed in front of Mr. Dominic's, Windjammers, and Pythodd Jazz Room. Ron has forwarded information to the owner of Mr. Dominic's to apply for handicap spots, as that business has numerous elderly customers.

Q. Will clean up of the Tape Con building happen before summer?

A. The owners were issued notice for violations 30 days ago; they have 60 days to clean the property up. The City hopes for voluntary compliance.

Q. Overlook area at Stutson & River Streets is a mess with dog poop that is not being picked up. Signage will not deter the negligent owners; they must be ticketed with a fine. What can be done?

A. Ron suggested calling Animal Control to report it, but you have to have a photo proof of the violations to ID a specific dog and owner. Neighbors also noted that the brush needs to be cut down and a pile of mulch was dumped there but not spread. Ron said a work order was submitted to DES for the clean-up work; he will follow up on it.

Q. Zombie house at 71 Cherry Rd. – Someone posted on the CCA Facebook page that the property is in the process of foreclosure. What can the City do to enforce clean up?

A. CCA VP Jonathan Hardin notified Ron and a citation notification is in process. Ron said the City does not go in and do the clean ups.

Contact Ron at 428-7620 or the CCA at 865-6101 with any concerns.

4. **City Council Rep for NW:** Councilwoman Molly Clifford introduced Henrietta Harriet, her new legislative assistant. They previously worked together for Mayor Duffy. Henrietta can be reached at the office number: 585-428-5982. Molly reported on the following:

- Lake Avenue street light upgrade is underway between Beach Avenue and Stutson Street.
- Renovations in the Port Terminal Building will give Margio's Diner an expanded space in the former Cheeburger Cheeburger location.
- Funding requests have gone out to support the "Welcome to Charlotte" banners that are being planned for the Lake Avenue corridor.
- Turning Point Park – DES Commissioner Norm Jones will increase park patrols during summer to address safety concerns.
- Thanks to RPD for speed trailers on Lake Avenue; 200 tickets were issued in 1 week.
- Sign up to receive Molly's bimonthly e-newsletter and join Molly for monthly informal meetings the first Saturday of the month, 11 am-noon at the Cannonball Café.

Community/Neighborhood Updates & Concerns

NY State Senate: Terri Robach reported for Senator Joe Robach, who is in Albany. The NYS budget passed and on time by March 31st. Minimum wage hike also passed. Watch for the Senator's updates in the next newsletter.

Monroe County Legislature: Legislator Tony Micciche reported that there is a resolution in the legislature to address massive gaps between upstate vs. downstate NY for funding to improve roads/bridges. Tony asked the Navy to send a ship here for the Charlotte 100th anniversary celebration; they're unable to send a ship but they're sending a color guard. There's a resolution in the legislature to increase benefits to disabled firefighters. The legislature will vote on a grant to support efforts to prevent drug overdose. Tony introduced Stacy Romeo, candidate for Family Court Judge, and Sam Aleriani, candidate for Gates Town Judge. Tony answered a question about whether the County is going to get involved in the debate over Plan 2014 to raise the lake levels; he said no, because it's a state issue.

Abundant Grace Church: Pastor Leonard Banks reported

Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Society: Bob Owens reported that the lighthouse opens for the season on Sunday, 5/1. It will be open Friday-Monday from 1-5 pm. There are new windows in the tower and it has been painted. Tom Brewer will be showing a video at the Custom House on Saturday, 4/12 at 10 am.

Holy Cross Church: Jack Foy reported that the school has 300+ students. There will be a blood drive Saturday, 4/9 from 10 am-3 pm. The food drive is just finishing. There will be a Memorial Day service on 5/30 at 11 am. He's leaving for Normandy on 6/1.

Ontario Beach Park Program Committee: Fred Amato reported that the Big Band dances are starting this week on 4/6; fee is \$2. He asked if anyone is available to help set up. Concerts by the Shore schedule is posted. The 100th Year Anniversary Celebration event is on Saturday, 7/23, 10 am-10 pm. There will be bands—The Invictas from 7-9 pm, a car show from 10 am-4 pm, and free carousel rides all day. The Parks Department is looking for volunteers to help with a clean up at the beach on 4/23 from 9 am-noon.

Port of Charlotte Merchants Association (POCMA): Matt Juda reported that the community guide map and calendar with business directory will come out in early May. The Farmers Market will operate every Monday, 4-8 pm from June 13-October 17 (except closed July 4 and Labor Day). Operations will be managed by Impact Earth; they have volunteers. It will be a zero waste market; customers bring their own bags and containers. There will be live music this year, plus a food stamps machine and compost collection. Parking will be at the Presbyterian Church, Brothers Collision and the Plaza.

SG Marine: Marianne Warfle reported that 15 boat slips out of 54 available are rented. Crane Hogan is working to finish up construction. The gangways are installed, and the finger piers will go in next. The design is completed for the new boater services center. The public boat launch is the responsibility of SG Marine. Around mid-May there will be a pay station to charge \$5/weekdays and \$8/weekends. A tall ship (Spanish galleon) will be at the wall June 24-28. The Lake Guardian will be here this week, Thursday-Saturday morning. It's a 180-ft. long environmental research vessel.

Board Reports

1. **President's Report:** President Clare Stortini reported on the following:

- She attended Police Chief Michael Ciminelli’s bimonthly PCIC meeting on 3/16. Discussion topics were the implementation of body-worn cameras in July; response to officer-involved shooting on Lake Avenue; Center for Dispute Settlement (civilian review board); and 27 new red-light cameras installed across the City.
- The Board met with Greg Weykamp, Edgewater President and Principal, on March 29th at his request. He provided an update on his plans for the Port of Rochester mixed use development. Due to another meeting conflict, Clare could not attend; Sue Roethel shared the update with the audience:
 - Current plans are for a 10-story building on the NW corner of Lake Avenue & Corrigan Street; this is a change from the original Phase 1 location
 - The final design is not completed yet
 - Plans include hotel, spa, condos, townhomes, retail stores and 2 restaurants, plus patios with green spaces open to the public
 - Planning to submit revised site plans to City of Rochester by end of April
 - Expecting to begin construction this summer; will take 18-24 months to build
 - Funding is not secured yet; plan still includes 20-30% from EB-5 (foreign investors)

The Board will draft a letter to the Mayor outlining our understanding of the status of the project and ask for more information, specifically to address ongoing community concerns.

2. **Treasurer’s Report:** Patti O’Brien excused from meeting; no report available.
3. **Secretary’s Report:** Sue Roethel reported that the minutes from the General Meeting on 3/7 were posted on the web and need approval. Matt Juda noted a few areas that need corrections. By a show of hands, the minutes were approved with suggested changes.

Committee Reports

Beautification: Committee member Terri Robach reported that the group met last Saturday. On April 23rd they will mulch gardens beginning at 8:30 am. Linda Paruta has teams planned to do the gardens this year; plants will be coming from the County Parks Department.

Communications: Board Liaison Donna Bour-Purdy reported that a new 4-color brochure was created to help market the CCA and increase memberships and sponsorships. There are 9,000 residents in Charlotte and half of them are homeowners. The CCA currently has 300 members, so there’s room for growth.

Governance: Committee Chairman Fred Amato reported the bylaws revision is in final stages and almost done. Many compromises were made; we hope it will get everyone’s support. The Certificate of Incorporation also needs updating to coincide with the new bylaws. A Conflict of Interest policy is also required by NYS Non-Profit Law. The Committee is also investigating the option of 501(c)3 status versus 501(c)4. We don’t currently qualify for 501(c)3, but we’re still looking into it.

Safety & Security: Board Liaison Jonathan Hardin reported that there is a Block Group forming in the neighborhood around the Leadership Academy for Young Men. The group wants to survey residents on Hewitt, Lemoyne and Atwell Streets (about 350 homes). Once the group finished canvassing these areas,

they want to do the same in the Boxart Street area. Outreach letters are being sent out to the Leadership Academy and School #42 this week. Jonathan attended the NW PCIC meeting at which a very detailed presentation was given on crime reported over the past year. According to the statistics, crime increased 1% overall and with no major crime sprees in Charlotte. The “smash ‘n grab” suspect who was arrested has been charged with 6 crimes in the NW quad. The next PCIC meeting is 4/19 at 7 pm at Aquinas Institute.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 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