**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**November 7, 2022, 7:00 pm**

**Roger Robach Community Center**

**Welcome & Call to Order CCA Board of Directors:** Lindy Litwak, President; Tom Bruce, Vice President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; RoseMary Shaw, Treasurer; Tony Micciche, Director; Patti O’Brien, Director (NOTE: Patti joined in remotely via Zoom). There were 25 people in attendance plus the board.

**CITY OF ROCHESTER UPDATES**

**Rochester Police Department (RPD) – Lt. Rich Waldo:**

* One crime (stolen car on Holcroft St.);
* PCIC on 11/21 (via Zoom) will be the final meeting for 2022.
* Q & A from audience: When there’s more than one municipality involved in a case, RPD works closely with Monroe County Sheriff’s Department and Greece and Irondequoit Police Departments on the investigation and reporting. The location where the crime happened determines which municipality is responsible for managing the case.
* Illegal parking enforcement is the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Services, not RPD.
* Use of cannabis is legal in NYS now, but sale of it is still illegal, so only illegal activity will be investigated.

**Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) – Bruce Wilder:**

* Any new business must apply for a business permit and be fully licensed to operate before they can open. The Shoot Ya Shot sports bar at 29 Stonewood has been cited for not having a business permit and has been referred to the City’s Licensing Department. Mad Flavors Smoke Shop at 3355 Lake Ave. also has no business permit and is not licensed to operate. The Giddy Up Smoke Shop at 4400 Lake Ave. was also cited for operating without a business permit. They have 14 days to comply.
* Any business selling cannabis must be licensed by NYS to do so; any illegal sales are reported to NYS.
* Regarding the drug house that was raided last summer (corner of Lake Ave. & Kemphurst), the City could not issue nuisance points for possession of cannabis because it is legal for them to have it. People should contact the Service Center with any concerns.
* Buy the Block program is active; November 15 is the deadline for applications. Roofing grants are given out through a lottery; 20 will be selected and funded in the next budget cycle in June.
* Bruce was asked to inform us at next month’s meeting about the status of the restaurant space on the 2nd floor of the Port Terminal Building, currently rented by Jetty at the Port. Jetty didn’t operate at all this past summer; how long are they allowed to abandon the space? What is the plan for making that space open for business next summer?

**City Council NW Representative – Jose Peo**:

* Rochester Resiliency & Economic Development Initiative (REDI) project has a limit on the flood walls for when the water rises on Lake Ontario. He is not sure but will ask if the International Joint Commission (IJC) is involved in this.
* There is a new Christmas tree at the Engine 19 firehouse.
* Brewster Park now has new lighting; tables to be added next year.
* Charlotte Library is getting a new roof.
* Robach Community Center renovations are underway for new bathrooms, air conditioning and windows.
* Zoning laws passed to cover cannabis selling.
* Signage at the Engine 19 firehouse: Question from the audience about whether we can have a better electronic sign for community announcements. Jose said he will ask for funding.
* Question from the audience about speed on Lake Ave., particularly at Stonewood Ave. Jose said there needs to be additional funding to bring an increased presence of RPD down to the south end of Charlotte (starting at Stonewood), maybe with speed traps. The Sheriff’s Dept. is augmenting RPD’s efforts. There are no reduced speed zones in front of schools, so he is trying to get a traffic light installed on Lake Ave. at School #42.
* Library needs increased attention as a safe place, same as schools.

**NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES / COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

* Business Owner Request: Head Man’s Cycle Shop owner Joe Paris applied for a variance to do mechanical work in his building on Denise Rd. He needs a letter of support from the community. If he doesn’t get the variance, he’ll have to close his business. Note: There were no concerns from the audience, and the Board agreed to send a letter of support on behalf of the community.
* Charlotte Branch Library: Jennifer Cherelin reported that the Children’s Room has a new t-shirt.
* Charlotte Business Association: Barbara Lake reported that they are hosting a free holiday event for families on December 4th, 3-6:30 pm at the Robach Community Center. They are also hosting a mixer at their next meeting on January 5th, 4-7 pm at Arbor at the Port. It will be used as a membership drive and fundraiser ($25/pp).
* Northeast College Prep HS: Barbara Lake reported that starting in January the school will pilot a bridge program to prepare 12 students for the transition from high school to college by developing their leadership skills.

**ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Votes for Candidates (running unopposed) for 2-Yr Term (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024):**

* President: Tom Bruce – 19 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain
* Secretary: Sue Roethel – 20 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain
* Director: Lindy Litwak – 20 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain
* Director: Tony Micciche – 20 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain

Immediately following the vote, President-elect Tom Bruce was asked to share remarks of his vision for the CCA. He said that “everyone is welcome to speak and let’s work together to get things done.”

**BOARD REPORTS**

**President’s Report – Lindy Litwak:**

* The City’s Police Accountability Board will give a presentation at the next CCA meeting on December 5th.
* A membership drive will be underway in the next few weeks that will involve the distribution of door hanger tags that promote joining the CCA. These will be distributed to all residents and businesses around Charlotte, street by street.

**Vice President’s Report – Tom Bruce:**

* He is now receiving a list of everything the City is doing every month, and that information needs to be shared with the community. There’s a lot of activities and opportunities going on.

**Treasurer’s Report** **– RoseMary Shaw:**

* For the month of October, beginning balance was $8,771.13. Income was $516.53; expenses were $261.92; ending balance was $9,033.05. The CCA’s NeighborGood grant of $2,500 has expended $1,366.13, mostly for the membership door hanger tags mentioned earlier. This gives total assets balance of $10,399.18.
* Question from the audience about the increased cost for bandwidth on our website. Answer is that the federal regulations have changed to now charge by usage, so the more traffic you have on a website, the more is charged for bandwidth.

**RECENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES / HIGHLIGHTS**

**Youth Engagement –** **Barbara Lake and Patti O’Brien:**

* Looking for partners/funding sources for new pilot leadership program starting in January at NE College Prep High School @ Charlotte Campus (program mentioned above).
* Thanksgiving Bingo at NECPHS on November 17th to help families with food shortages.
* CCA had a table at School 42 Open House held on October 18th where we met several families and students.
* Working withSchool 42 to identify 6th graders who are interested in developing skills as a volunteer.

**Community Development – Sue Roethel:**

* The City informed us of a developer’s interest in the Marina Overlook Site (formerly called Parcel 1) at the Port of Rochester. This interest was unsolicited, as the City currently has no open RFP for this site. The City advised the developer to talk to the community and get support for what they want to do. The CCA’s Community Development Committee, along with City Councilman Jose Peo and representatives from each of the other major Charlotte organizations—The Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society, the Charlotte Business Association, the Charlotte Community Development Corporation, and the Ontario Beach Park Program Committee—met with the developer, which has deep ties to Rochester. We learned that they specialize in affordable housing, which is not what the community has said it wants for the Port. This Charlotte group then met with the City to give feedback and learn about next steps. We are interested in pursuing further conversations with the developer, but we also want to explore other options to ensure that the community’s vision remains foremost. The City will need to issue a new RFP for a fair and open process, but they also want developers to know what we envision. It was decided that we (the Charlotte group of major organizations) will host a meeting at which all interested developers can visit Charlotte, see the site, and learn about the community’s vision BEFORE a new RFP is issued. This meeting will be for developers only and will take place during Winter Fest in February. A separate open public meeting for the community will be scheduled as well. The goal is to have a fair, transparent process so that the issues from the past are avoided this time. Sue will provide monthly updates at CCA meetings.

**Final general comments before adjournment:**

* Reminder to vote tomorrow on Election Day and watch, listen and ask questions of elected officials.
* 75 Stutson St. will host a free concert on November 10th to celebrate Veteran’s Day.

**8:35 pm Adjournment**