



Charlotte Community Association, Inc.

"A Community That Cares"

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2023

Roger Robach Community Center

Welcome & Call to Order CCA Board of Directors: Tom Bruce, President; Lindy Litwak, Vice President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; RoseMary Shaw, Treasurer; Tony Micciche, Director; Patti O'Brien, Director

In addition to the board members, there were about 30 people in attendance.

CITY OF ROCHESTER UPDATES

Rochester Police Department (RPD): Capt. Nathan Cornell and Crime Prevention Officer Vinny Agnone gave a 30-day crime report. There were no burglaries; 2 car larcenies; 5 stolen cars; 1 assault (both parties knew each other). Speed enforcement continues on Lake Avenue; they will bring statistics to the meeting next month. Check City's website Crime Data portal for stats any time. PCIC is on 4/19.

Q. Smash-&-grab at the smoke shop? A. Haven't heard of that one.

Q. Parking for bar on Stonewood Ave.—anything we can do? A. Detail sent there every weekend to check; tickets are written for violations. We could write a letter to ask Parking Violations Bureau to investigate for issuing nuisance points to the business.

Rochester Fire Department (RFD) Engine 19: Lt. Scott Toly reported that there was 1 garage fire; calls were relatively quiet last month. Check your smoke detectors and replace batteries. Marine 1 is in the water for the season. New flag in front of Engine 19 firehouse was installed by Department of Environmental Services (DES) recently.

Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC): Kelvin Knight reported that Clean Sweep is coming up this month on 4/19. Volunteers receive a ticket to the Red Wings baseball game later that day and a free hot dog. There are 100 people scheduled to clean up Ontario Beach Park. Kelvin also reported that he just finished the Rochester Police Academy training where civilians can experience what new RPD recruits go through. He got to interview new applicants and found it very enlightening. Civilians can apply for the training (he brought application materials to share). The prior class had 30 people in it.

City Water Bureau is replacing lead pipes from water mains to houses along 40 streets in the Northwest quadrant. For some older homes the old pipes don't fit with the new mains. In those instances, the homeowners are responsible to pay for the connections because the City has no money available to subsidize them. There will be a public meeting about it on 4/18 (see notice on the NSC website).

Q. Status of restaurant space on 2nd floor of the Port Terminal Building? A. Jetty at the Port is not going to reopen. Craig Ristuccia, owner of Jetty, is trying to sublease the space to another restaurant owner.

Q. Status of former Ira Jacobsen American Legion Post building at 90 St. Johns Park? A. Kelvin is unfamiliar with the building but will look into it for next month's meeting.

Q. Status of drug house on Lake Ave. at Kemphurst? It was raided at least a year ago and people were arrested, but now it seems the drug activity there has resumed as if nothing happened. A. Kelvin will investigate and report on it next month.

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Kelvin's final remarks were to advise Charlotte to prepare, if we aren't already doing so, for tens of thousands of visitors to the beach for the 4/8/2024 viewing of the solar eclipse. He suggested that we make sure there are accommodations for visitors to shuttle in and out of the neighborhood.

City Council NW Representative: Jose Peo reported that legislation is coming up to approve support to Ontario Beach Park Program Committee (OBPPC) for Harbor Fest 2024. He also reported that RG&E will be installing smart meters that will automatically read customers' usage for more accurate billing. Homeowners can accept the new meter or not, but if not, RG&A will charge a fee for monthly readings (\$11+). Also, the budget is in development now, and Jose is pushing for more funding for parking enforcement. Monroe County is buying a new flag for the entrance to Ontario Beach Park. Regarding electronic signage at the firehouse, it's for emergency alerts only and cannot be used for public announcements (note: this was a question posed at a previous meeting). Jose is inquiring about the new roofing going on the old train depot and will report on it as soon as he has information. The developer meeting that happened last weekend at the Port was very positive (note: see below under Community Development).

Q. Can we fundraise to buy a new electronic sign for announcing community events? A. Yes, but the signs are very expensive (\$25K).

Q. Are there any stats on solar panels installed on Lexington Ave.? A. No, but he can check into it.

Q. Why are there no accommodations for handicapped parking at the Robach Center? A. Since Monroe County is responsible for the Robach Center, he will ask County Legislator Yversha Roman.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Police Accountability Board: Postponed due to illness of presenter. Will try to reschedule for 5/1.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES / COMMUNITY CONCERNS - OPEN SESSION

New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney's Office: Amanda Santacroce reported that the budget is late but will be coming right after Easter/Passover break. The funding for Rochester City School District (RCSD) is uncertain, but the Rochester delegates are pushing to keep support in the budget.

Q. What about Unified Commercial Code? A. It's a federal issue that defines currency. It's not at state level for a vote by legislature.

Q. What about Environmental Social Governance (ESG)? A. Senator Cooney has no comment.

Q. What is holding up the budget? A. Governor Hochul's bail reform and housing.

Q. Status of Good Cause Eviction? A. Not included in budget because it hasn't worked, although some pieces are being negotiated.

Q. Senator Cooney's stance on Bail Reform seems to have changed? A. Governor Hochul said at a press conference that Senator Cooney is her biggest supporter, and when the Senator took the mic he was replying to the Governor's comments. He did not reverse his stance.

Ontario Beach Park Program Committee (OBPPC): Fred Amato reported that the Jazz Concert Series will run a full eight months—from April 11-October 10. Harbor Fest is on June 23-25; see the OBPPC website for details. There will be a car show and parade of lights on Saturday. The weekly Concerts by the Shore Series will start on Wednesday, June 7 and run every Wednesday until August 30. There will be food trucks and Abbott's custard stand again.

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Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society: Fred Amato reported that there will be new displays up when they open Friday/Saturday/Sunday, 1-5 pm from May 5-October 29. They'll have training sessions for volunteers.

Holy Cross Church and School: Doug Escher reported that Fr. Bill Coffas is excited about working with the CCA, CBA and School 42. The children are in need of better food, and Holy Cross wants to help.

Charlotte Business Association (CBA): Barbara Lake reported that CBA is hosting a workshop for Minorities & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) April 22, 12-2 pm at Tropix. Attendees will learn about procurement and franchising.

Bridget Monroe introduced herself as a candidate for City Council Northwest. She will be on the ballot in the Democratic Primary on June 22. She lives in Maplewood and is a member of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association. She has worked as staff for City Council from 1998-2014 so is very familiar with what the job entails. She works with the NSC and attends PCIC meetings. Her priorities are: improving housing and finding pathways to home ownership; decreasing gun violence; increasing youth recreation; increasing recruit classes for RPD and providing training for recruits on community policing; seeing more police on the streets; and overseeing city finances.

Joe Hinchman, a Charlotte resident and former CCA board member, shared that he and his wife, **Carolyn Hinchman**, have weeded and cut the grass around the Welcome to Charlotte sign on Denise Road for many years. He asked for help with it this year. **Patti O'Brien**, CCA Board Liaison to the Beautification Committee, said she will ask that it be taken care of.

BOARD REPORTS

Vice President's Report: Kite Flight is coming up on 5/7 from 11 am-4 pm at the Robach Center. The CCA will be selling kites, hot dogs and beverages. The Summer Jazz Concert Series kicks off on 4/11 at 7 pm at Tropix.

RECENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES / HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Engagement: Patti O'Brien reported that a community garden will be installed this spring at the Abelard Reynolds Elementary School No. 42; volunteers are needed to care for it over the summer. She also reported that the CCA will be providing a kite to each student at 42 School and at Holy Cross Elementary School. The kites are being funded by a discretionary grant from Jose Peo. Patti O'Brien and Barbara Lake met with the administration at Holy Cross to discuss what the students' needs are and how they can help.

Barbara Lake reported that the NE College Prep High School @ Charlotte Campus had a fundraiser at Tropix last week. Tropix donated the venue, and Taste of the Bahamas donated all of the food. \$580 was raised to help support the projects the students have identified in a "pitch document" illustrating what they want to do. Barbara also reported that the JROTC students at the high school want to help maintain the garden and benches by the North River Street sign in front of the firehouse.

Q. Can we get students to do cleanup of the neighborhood? A. They already do! There are 100 students registered to do clean up of Ontario Beach Park during Clean Sweep on 4/29. The JROTC students help at neighborhood

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events such as Winter Fest, Kite Flight, Harbor Fest, and the very recent developers meeting that was mentioned earlier. They volunteer to do whatever is needed.

Community Development: Sue Roethel reported that Charlotte Development Collaborative (CDC) hosted a meeting on March 30 at Arbor at the Port for developers who are interested in the Port of Rochester. The meeting, encouraged by the City's Neighborhood and Business Development Office, provided the opportunity for us to share the community's vision for the Port. Developers were introduced to the newly published Port of Rochester and Charlotte Community Vision Plan, which has been in process for the past 5 years since the charrette in 2017. (note: the Vision Plan is posted on the CCA's website under Community Development/Port of Rochester). Sue said that currently there is no open Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Marina Overlook Site at the Port, but that the CDC has asked the City to make plans to issue another one (note: there have been three failed RFPs so far). On behalf of the CDC, the City sent out meeting invitations to 200 developers for March 30, and 7 development companies attended. There were roughly 20 people in attendance from development companies and 20 members of the CDC. Sue said that this type of pre-RFP meeting between a community and potential developers is unprecedented, and it shows the City's commitment to rolling out a process this time that is vastly different from our past experiences. She will continue to report monthly to the community on the status of the process.

COMMITTEE UPDATES / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Beautification
Communications
Development
Fundraising
Governance
Membership & Outreach
Nominating
Programming
Safety & Security
Scholarship
Youth Engagement

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/11/23 Summer Jazz Series Concert, 7 pm, Tropix
4/17/23 Board of Directors, 6:30 pm, 75 Stutson St.
4/19/23 Police-Citizens Action Committee (PCIC), 7 pm, Zoom (request link at infocharlottecca@gmail.com)
4/29/23 Clean Sweep, 8 am-noon (sign up at infocharlottecca@gmail.com)
5/1/23 General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center
5/7/23 Kite Flight, 12-4 pm, Robach Community Center, Ontario Beach Park

8:25 pm Adjournment

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