



Charlotte Community Association, Inc.

"A Community That Cares"

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2024

Roger Robach Community Center

Attendance: CCA Board of Directors: Jose Peo, President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; RoseMary Shaw, Treasurer; Tony Micciche, Director; John Kabrovski, Director (Excused: Tom Bruce, Vice President; Lindy Litwak, Director)

SOLAR ECLIPSE – APRIL 8, 2024 - Charlotte Neighborhood Preparations

Ontario Beach Park (OBP) – Pat Meredith, Director, Monroe County Parks Department reported that all parks across the county will be open and all staff will be working. He will be at OBP for the day and staff will be monitoring trash pickup, bathrooms, etc. Robach Community Center will be open for 1st floor bathrooms; bathrooms near playground will be open. Green fence will be in place soon. Large debris on the beach will be cleaned up. Bike racks will be available.

RPD – Capt. Nathan Cornell reported that they were told to expect an extra 5,000-7,000 people. There are no other major events scheduled for them to cover in the NW quad. Preparations will be similar to Memorial Day weekend. Special events staff will be working; day shift will overlap with evening shift to have extra staff for a time. RPD, County Sheriff's Office, and NYS Troopers will coordinate resources, but details are not set up yet. Traffic will be shut down on Lake Avenue. Biggest safety concern is general traffic congestion and increased pedestrian traffic. They will ask Greece Police to block off Beach Avenue. They hope to have officers on foot walking around, and possibly two ATVs that are being prepared to operate over the summer. People planning to drive to Charlotte for eclipse viewing should plan to arrive early, have a full tank of gas, and drinking water on hand, as traffic will be congested and movement will be slow. If the weather is clear and sunny, expect even more increased traffic.

Activities – Jose Peo, CCA President reported that CCA will have an information booth at Lake Avenue and Corrigan Street to direct people to parking, food, bathrooms, etc. CCA will be selling hot dogs, popcorn, drinks, and solar eclipse safety glasses. **Tropix** (John Kabrovski, owner) will have five bands performing on indoor and outdoor stages. **Tap and Vine** (Lake & Corrigan) is a new business opening this spring by Jon Cahill, and they will be serving refreshments as well. **75 Stutson Street** (Tom Bruce, owner) will also be having an eclipse viewing party with food, drinks and live music.

CITY OF ROCHESTER UPDATES

Rochester Police Department (RPD) – Crime Prevention Officer Vinny Agnone reported that there were no burglaries or robberies for the month, and only one stolen vehicle. Undercover surveillance of stores selling tobacco products found no violations of operating without a permit. Illegal sales of marijuana at 4400 Lake Avenue (G Spot) was reported to the NYS Office of Cannabis Management. RPD was asked about a large fight (300 people) in the cemetery a few days ago, but they didn't have any information.

Capt. Gabriel Person reported that he investigated the issue that was raised at the last General Meeting about large numbers of people and activities at a home on Chesterfield. An inspector found the situation to be as reported in the complaint. However, it is not illegal for homeowners to store items on their

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private property. RPD an follow up if there are further reports of people camping in tents indefinitely on the property.

Rochester Fire Department (RFD) Engine 19 – Capt. Scott Daly was unable to attend the meeting but reported via email that E19 is preparing for Eclipse Day with full staffing and Marine One (boat) in the water.

Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) – Anna Keller, Assistant Administrator reported that her job is to work with businesses. She attends meetings of the Charlotte Business Association. She said that G Spot was shut down for code violations.

City Council NW Representative – Bridget Monroe reported that the city received three proposals for development of 4752 Lake Avenue (Marina Overlook Site). She has asked for a timeline for when the selected developer will be asking for community input into their plans. Once development begins, the temporary parking lot that customers of west side businesses are currently using will be disrupted. The RFP called for proposals that include accommodations for the displaced parking. The city has held public information sessions on the new reassessment program, and there was one this past Saturday at the Charlotte Branch Library. There are upcoming sessions on March 6, 9 and 12; details are on the city's website. March 19 is the deadline for homeowners to appeal the assessment of their property. Bridget suggested that homeowners review the letter that was sent, specifically at the bottom to see how much your taxes will increase and when they will be levied. Senior citizens can apply for a tax exemption.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES / COMMUNITY CONCERNS – OPEN SESSION

Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society – Fred Amato reported that the lighthouse will be open from 1-5 pm on Eclipse Day. They will have a large-screen TV that will monitor viewing sites across the country. They are planning to turn off the lights that automatically turn on when it gets dark, including the lantern room, but the beam may need to stay on because of the lighthouse's "aid to navigation" status.

Holy Cross Church – Paul Escher reported that they are celebrating 150 years in 2024. They have a program called "Shoulders of Faith" to honor people that came before us. Carl Guardino suggested that the church parking lot be available for paying customers on Eclipse Day, and that may happen.

BOARD REPORTS

President's Report – Jose Peo said that CCA received notification from the group that presented in December a proposed Irish American Heritage Memorial at Ontario Beach Park that the project was moving forward into a site evaluation. Jose asked for a pause on this project until the community could voice their opinion about it. He asked the IAHM group for more information about the proposal, but we have not received anything yet. Pat Meredith, Director of Monroe County Parks, said that it is proposed to be constructed on a 40x60' piece of land to the west of the Robach Center. The site plan has not been approved, and the group is still working on their plans. It will need to be approved by the Monroe County Legislature. Jose had asked the President of the County Legislature, Yversha Roman, to attend tonight's meeting to address this issue, but she did not attend. Citizens are advised to send their opinions to Yversha, who represents Charlotte. Some community members at tonight's meeting shared concerns that the proposed memorial (or any proposals for Ontario Beach Park) should be consistent

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with the Charlotte Community Vision Plan that was developed by a large number of citizens over a long period of time. The Vision Plan, which is posted on the CCA website, outlines what the community wants for the park and surrounding areas.

April 20th is Monroe County's annual Pick Up the Parks Event from 9 am – 12 pm. Volunteers should register online prior to April 5th. The CCA will plan to organize a team for this event to clean up Ontario Beach Park.

Jose said that the CCA is trying to focus on making bigger events, such as Best of Charlotte, to attract more people, and get younger people and families interested in engaging with the community. In order to do that, adjustments needed to reallocate funds in the operating budget. The board made the decision to make changes to the annual scholarship program for graduating high school seniors planning to enter college or a trade school next fall. In the past, CCA has offered two scholarships, each for \$2,000. One of those scholarships—the Edward Watson Scholarship—must be awarded to a student at the high school housed at the former Charlotte High School campus. The other scholarship—the CCA scholarship—has been awarded to a resident of Charlotte that attends any high school. For 2024, the board voted to suspend the CCA scholarship altogether this year, and to split the Edward Watson Scholarship into two awards of \$1,000 each. This information will be posted on our website and Facebook page soon and distributed to the Northeast College Preparatory High School @ Charlotte Campus. People attending this General Meeting said they would like to see *residents* benefitting from scholarships rather than students from other neighborhoods that go to school in Charlotte.

Treasurer's Report – RoseMary Shaw reported that the beginning balance for February was \$12,543. Income for the month included \$40 in membership dues and a \$350 sponsorship from Eric Bourgeois (BRX Research), which paid for the purchase of solar eclipse safety glasses from the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Other income was \$313 from the sale of the safety glasses and \$397 from all CCA sales at Winter Fest. Expenses included \$118 in office supplies, \$536 insurance, \$48 web maintenance, \$350 for the safety glasses from RMSC, \$42 for Winter Fest supplies, and \$300 for Youth Engagement. Ending balance for February was \$12,248.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Communications
Community Enhancement
Finance
Nominating & Governance
Programming
Youth Engagement

8:20 pm Adjournment

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued on next page)

3/18/24 Board of Directors, 6:30 pm, 75 Stutson St
4/1/24 General Meeting, 7 pm, 75 Stutson St., Sanctuary (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE!!)
4/8/24 Solar Eclipse Viewing in Charlotte

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