

# Charlotte Community Association, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20, 2024, 6:30 pm, 75 Stutson St.

**Attendance:** Jose Peo, President; Tom Bruce, Vice President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; RoseMary Shaw, Treasurer; Tony Micciche, Director; Lindy Litwak, Director (by phone); John Kabrovski, Director; Jon Cahill, Director; **Invited Guests:** Eric Bourgeois, sponsor; Linda Paruta, Beautification Committee Chair; Suzanne Phillips, Nominating Committee Chair

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Appointment to Board of Directors** – Last month Jonathan (Jon) Cahill submitted his resume and letter of intent to become a CCA board member. He is a resident and new business owner in Charlotte (Vine and Tap). He has most recently been appointed as Chair of the Programming Committee. The Nominating Committee agreed and made the recommendation to the board to appoint him immediately. On 5/3 the appointment was approved via email, allowing Jon to fill a vacant Director seat and complete the term of office ending 12/31/24. He will need to run for election this fall to continue on the board for a two-year term beginning 1/1/25.

**Beautification Committee** – Linda Paruta has been leading this committee for many years now. She provided the board with a comprehensive overview of what the group does each year to maintain the multiple gardens and 20 container flower pots around Charlotte. Linda annually orders free flowers from the City and Monroe County, and also receives an annual budget from the CCA to purchase other supplies needed. Pick-up dates for these flowers is at the end of May; this is noteworthy when people complain that the flower pots remain untended earlier in the season. Linda also noted that she has experienced other setbacks that people complain about because they are unaware of underlying issues, such as fungus growing on the roses, yellow jacket infestations, and plants that have been stolen.

Linda asked for board volunteers to help with several areas that need attention that her group cannot cover: Ontario Beach Park walkway entrance garden; river garden; carousel garden; flag pole garden; concession stand garden; Bill Davis Overlook; LDR-CharPit garden; and gardens surrounding four Welcome to Charlotte signs (Cemetery; Denise Rd.; Parkway West; Parkway East). One garden that has *not* been the responsibility of the Beautification Committee is the one at River St. and St. John's Park. That garden was planted and maintained by the JROTC in previous years. Jose will contact Jonathan Hardin about the status of their work on that garden.

Linda explained that one of the two large container pots owned by CCA sat next to a bench at the bus stop at Lake Ave. and Corrigan St. They went missing, and Jim Farr reported that an accident happened at that spot, causing damage to both pot and bench. The bench has been replaced, but the pot was smashed beyond repair and is too costly to replace (roughly \$400). The other large container pot sits in front of Windjammers, and that business keeps it filled with flowers along with other gardens that Windjammers maintains.

The Welcome to Charlotte sign on Denise Rd. is broken (vandalism). This has happened before, and it was costly to replace the sign. We've carried insurance on all the Welcome signs, but the deductible is high whenever we've needed to claim damages. The Denise Rd. sign is in a bad spot and needs to be removed. The posts will stay and the garden will remain until the board determines whether to replace the sign at all, and if so, perhaps relocate it in a safer spot. It was suggested that the Beautification Committee try an "Adopt a Sign" and/or "Adopt a Garden" program.

Linda also shared the names of many volunteers who do this work. Jose will post on social media to recognize them and call for additional volunteers to help with the areas mentioned above. We are very grateful to Linda and her crew for making Charlotte beautiful year after year!

**Port of Rochester Development** – Jose and Sue were invited to a meeting with the City on 5/10 to ask us eight specific questions that will help them choose a developer for the Marina Overlook Site. The seven people from the City asked us to clarify what the community wants regarding these specific topics: mixed-use development versus all-residential; target audience for residential and commercial spaces; market rate versus affordable housing (AMI) rates; owner-occupied versus rental units; commercial desires/needs; maximum building heights tolerated. They were genuinely interested in hearing our answers and took notes. They told us that they received “more than one” proposal, but they would not tell us exactly how many proposals were received or from whom. Sue and Jose repeatedly referred the City staff to the Community Vision Plan, which is posted on the CCA website and spells out exactly what the community wants for the Port. This was a rare opportunity to discuss in person our vision prior to the City’s selection of a developer.

#### **Events Planning:**

- **Kite Flight on 5/5** was successful despite chilly, overcast weather. As a fundraiser, we sold kites, hot dogs, snacks, water, soda, and coffee/tea/hot chocolate. We took in \$500 but spent about \$300 for supplies to be used over multiple events. Jon has new ideas for next year.
- **Harbor Fest on 6/21-23** will be similar, although we can’t sell hot dogs because there will be food trucks present. We have requested the same space as last year—right inside the gate. We can make and sell popcorn, hot and cold beverages, and beach toys (inventory left over from last year). Eric will help us get affordable t-shirts to sell. Tropix will donate ice and use of a bounce house, but we’ll need to inquire with OBPPC about insurance coverage. Sue will ask Jim Farr about what we can and can’t do. Tony, John and Jon should plan to attend the next OBPPC meeting (first Saturday in June) to pitch our proposal. (Note: Jose will be out of town and unavailable for Harbor Fest.)
- **Fall Event on 9/21** will feature a community bonfire on the beach, assuming we get permission to do so from all parties involved. Jose already talked to City officials and Engine 19 Fire Department, as well as Monroe County Parks Director Pat Meredith about our plans. Tony and John K. will take an event proposal to OBPPC and ask who would be responsible for setting up and managing the bonfire. Can we get OBPPC’s help to invite food trucks and vendors?
- **Best of Charlotte** may be resurrected in 2025; plans TBD.
- **Lakeside Winter Celebration** is always held the first weekend in February; plans TBD.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Sponsorships** – RoseMary has revised the website with the new rates and is preparing Pay Pal monthly payment schedules. It was agreed that she will send post cards out to prominent businesses saying that board members will be stopping by with a formal letter containing sponsorship information. Top tier sponsorships will come with an added bonus (Eric’s offering of tickets for fall Amerk game VIP box).

**Irish American Heritage Memorial** – Jose met with Tom O’Connell of the Col. Patrick O’Rorke Society to talk about alternate locations other than Ontario Beach Park, particularly the Bill Davis Overlook. Tom feels that the County Parks Department has already approved it to be constructed at OBP on a 40x60’ space. To our knowledge, the Monroe County Legislature has not yet approved the proposal. Jose will attend a meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee on 5/30.

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- Neighborhood Association Presidents (NA) will have a Summer Picnic on 7/9.
- Many Neighbors Building Neighborhoods (MNBN) is inactive at this time.
- Northwest Quad (NW) has quarterly meetings. Jose should be on their invitation list.
- Charlotte Business Alliance (CBA) is inactive at this time.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- **Minutes** were sent to board members with this meeting agenda. Sue motioned to approve the General Meeting minutes of 5/6 and BOD Meeting minutes of 4/15/24. RoseMary seconded; motion approved. (Note: All previously approved minutes are now posted on website.)
- **Letter** received from Steve Spinelli with general suggestions for improving Charlotte. He sent us the exact same letter in August 2023. Sue will respond to Mr. Spinelli and direct him to our Community Vision Plan.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Monthly report shows that a few memberships have come in. We've also received a Wegmans gift card for \$400 from OBPPC to buy supplies for events.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Beautification - RoseMary
- Communications - RoseMary
- Community Development – Tony mentioned that there were two shootings in Greece recently and that crime is making its way toward Charlotte. We should monitor crime reports.
- Finance – RoseMary
- Nominating & Governance – Sue will be preparing a Call for BOD Nominations to be posted.
- Programming – Jon
- Youth Engagement – Tom & John

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

6/3/24	General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center
6/17/24	BOD Meeting, 6:30 pm, 75 Stutson St.
6/21-23/24	Harbor Fest, Ontario Beach Park