

Charlotte Community Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 16, 2024, 6:30 pm, Vine & Tap

Attendance: Jose Peo, President; Tom Bruce, Vice President; Sue Roethel, Secretary; RoseMary Shaw, Treasurer; Lindy Litwak, Director; Tony Micciche, Director; John Kabrovski, Director; Jon Cahill, Director
Invited Guest: Suzanne Phillips, Nominating & Governance Committee

OLD BUSINESS

Irish American Historical Memorial Proposal – The Col. Patrick O’Rorke Historical Society presented their *revised* plans at the CCA General Meeting on 9/9. Based on the audience’s comments, we all agreed that the community resoundingly disapproves of having this memorial built at Ontario Beach Park (OBP) for all of the reasons cited in the meeting minutes of 9/9 and briefly summarized below:

- Memorializing one specific ethnic group divides the community and sets a precedent of others also want their own dedicated space at the park;
- Environmental impact on shore birds and other wildlife;
- Does not fit with the community’s published Vision Plan for the area.

We have invited community input on the group’s plans multiple times at the CCA General Meetings on 12/4/23, 3/4/24, 4/1/24 and 9/9/24. On 3/13/24 we submitted a letter to Yversha Roman, President of the Monroe County Legislature (and she is also the Legislator who represents Charlotte), expressing concerns about the proposal and requesting that progress be put on hold until the community has more time to learn about the project and provide feedback. Yversha attended the General Meeting on 4/1 and said she would call a meeting of all parties. That meeting was held on 4/16, and Jose suggested an alternative location for the memorial possibly at the Bill Davis Outlook site. Jose also attended the Monroe County Parks Department Advisory Committee on 5/30, at which there was no update reported on the memorial proposal.

The board discussed next steps. We agreed that a new letter should be sent to the County Legislature stating that the Charlotte Community does not support the proposal to install the memorial at OBP. Sue will draft the letter.

Fall Bonfire Event on 9/21 – The event has been approved by the city, county and OBPPC. The normal \$270 Parks Department fee to rent 2 pavilions is waived. Our insurance coverage has been adjusted for a one-time fee (approximately \$100), and it stays on our policy until renewal time. We need to confirm that Engine 19 will be there to ensure fire safety. We are responsible to provide wood and start the fire. The event runs from 6-9 pm, with the fire on the beach near the pier. There will be an independent food vendor selling refreshments. At the gazebo nearest the pier we’ll have a boom box for music and we’ll be selling the new Charlotte hooded sweatshirts. Sue will make point-of-sale signs for Tom to print. We’re expecting about 100 people to attend.

Sponsorship Drive – We now have 6 Platinum, 2 Gold and 2 Silver sponsors (see list below under Treasurer’s Report). An additional sponsor may be coming: Cordello’s Pizza.

Roc the Riverway on 10/6 – OBPPC has invited us to sell hot dogs, similar to what we do for Kite Flight. It’s a Sunday, and we don’t have enough people who can commit to take this on. Jose will let Jim know that we’re declining the invitation to participate.

NEW BUSINESS

Sweatshirts – Jose ordered hoodies with the Charlotte “SHA-LOT” design in two color choices: red and black. The order totals \$800 (40 hoodies x \$20 each). We will sell them for \$40 each or 2/\$70 and 3/\$90. The hoodies will be available for sale at each General Meeting and at all events.

Meet the Candidates at the 10/7 CCA General Meeting – Jose sent invitations out to each party for any local candidates to introduce themselves and take questions from the audience. He will also invite other NW neighborhoods to attend. Tony volunteered to act as moderator to control the flow and timing of each candidate’s introduction and to solicit questions from the audience. We’ll need to purchase 3x5 index cards and pens.

BOD Candidates for Fall Elections – The Nominating & Governance Committee has received and vetted seven nominations (one for President; none for Secretary; and six for three Director seats). Two nominations for Director are new members who do not meet the 30-day minimum to be eligible for 2024 Fall Elections. They can, however, be appointed at any time once they meet the 30-day requirement. Two other candidates are non-residents, which may pose a problem if both are on the ballot and get elected. Currently only one seat is available for a non-resident board member. This is because the current bylaws allow for three non-resident board members, and two of those seats are already filled by sitting board members. The situation poses a problem only under the current bylaws. Changes to the bylaws removing this restriction will be presented to the members for a vote in November along with BOD candidates. If the revised bylaws are approved, then the residency issue becomes moot.

One possibility is for one of the candidates to run unopposed for Secretary, which would then guarantee their seat on the board for 2025-26. It would also leave three candidates for the three Director seats. The Nominating & Governance Committee would need to go back to each nominee and ask if one of them might agree to the above scenario.

One of the nominations is from a former board member who was dismissed in 2022 for disrespectful and unprofessional behavior toward other board members. Some concerns have been expressed about allowing this individual to return to the board, since no attempt at making reparations has been made. However, the current bylaws do not address this issue or provide guidance about eligibility after disciplinary action. This issue has simply never come up before now.

At this time, the board needs to approve a slate of candidates who will then be introduced at the next CCA General Meeting on 10/6. Sue moved that the board approve the recommended slate; Tom seconded; motion carries as follows:

President: Jose Peo (unopposed)
Secretary: No candidates
Director: Jonathan Cahill
Director: Tony Micchiche

Director: Jonathan Hardin

Director: Sue Hyde

Note: There are three director seats on the ballot for this year's election cycle. Two additional Director seats are vacant and will be on next year's ballot. Those seats can be appointed in the interim before the next election cycle.

Bylaws Revision – A four-person ad hoc committee (Sue Roethel, Jon Cahill, Suzanne Phillips and Sue Hyde) reviewed the current bylaws (last updated in 2017) and submitted proposed changes to the board, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Membership term will become 12 months starting at time of payment for each individual member, rather than everyone renewing annually by calendar year. Treasurer will need to track expiration dates and send members a notification for renewal. This is currently how sponsorships are renewed and allows for flexibility for automatic rolling renewals with no specified end date.
- All references to the currently defunct newsletter have been removed. (Note: the newsletter used to be the primary mode of communication to members.)
- Eliminate cap of three consecutive terms of office for board members. This allows for flexibility when not enough new candidates are interested in serving on the board.
- Eligibility to serve on the board opened to residents *and* active business owners. Current residency requirements do not include businesses and restrict participation to no more than *three* non-residents, which may or may not be business owners. This change broadens board participation and recognizes non-resident, active business owners as major stakeholders.

Timeline is to have board approval now to present the revised bylaws to the members at the General Meeting on 10/7 and put them up for a vote to approve by members at the General Meeting on 11/4. The proposal needs to be advertised and a proxy made available to members at least two weeks prior to the vote. Sue made a motion to approve the Proposed Revision of the Bylaws. RoseMary seconded; motion approved.

Budget Development for 2025 – RoseMary needs budget recommendations before October from all committees. The new budget proposal needs to be presented to the members in November. Plans of Work for 2025 – BOD will set the priorities for the year, and then each committee liaison should update their current Plan of Work (POW) accordingly for 2025. Contact Sue for a copy if needed.

Edward Watson Scholarship Program – Proposal for 2025 was received from Brian Labigan and it needs board approval. This item is tabled for discussion at a later board meeting, as it won't be needed until February-March 2025.

Grant Status – CCA previously received grant funding from NYS Congresswoman Sarah Clark in the amount of \$20K that is earmarked for signage replacement at the Bill Davis Overlook. The City of Rochester will do the work and have been given the original files for the sign replacements and the grant funding will cover reimbursement after the work is completed. Unfortunately, the CCA budget is not able to cover this upfront, so a request has been made for the grant to be re-allocated to the city directly for this work.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Neighborhood Association Presidents (NA) Meeting on 9/10 – Roc Community University is a city-sponsored program to teach how to be an effective community. Sessions will be held every Wednesday in October from 6-9 pm. Also, there are UR grants available to support community projects; Jose will forward information.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sue moved to approve the minutes she submitted for the General Meeting on 9/9/24 and the Board of Directors Meeting on 8/19/24. Jon seconded; motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sponsorships are coming in. We now have six Platinum sponsors (BRX Resources, Abundant Grace Church, Savage and Son, Windjammers, Vine and Tap, and MM 475 Hospitality-Tropix). We have two Gold sponsors (Noonans Bar & Grill and 75 Stutson St.), and we have two Silver sponsors (Lake United Methodist Church and Senator Jeremy Cooney).

COMMUNICATION OFFICER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ontario Beach Park Program Committee (OBPPC) – Tony
- Beautification – RoseMary
- Communications - RoseMary
- Community Development – Tony
- Finance – RoseMary
- Nominating & Governance – Sue
- Programming – Jon
- Youth Engagement – Tom & John – John suggested that Parks & Recreation be included with this committee. Perhaps we offer some new, fun activities for kids such as pumpkin decorating in the fall or an Easter egg hunt in the spring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/21/24 Fall Fest Bonfire on the Beach, 6 pm, Ontario Beach Park

10/7/24 General Meeting, 7 pm, Robach Community Center – **Meet the Candidates (Greater Rochester Regional Elections);**

Announcement of CCA Board of Directors Slate of Candidates for 2025-26 term)

10/21/24 BOD Meeting, 6:30 pm, Tropix

Addendum to BOD Minutes 9/16/24

Letter from Dorothea de Zafra Atwell

At the board meeting on 9/16, the treasurer delivered a letter from Dorothea de Zafra Atwell addressed to Sue Roethel, Secretary, CCA Sue did not open the letter until 9/18, obviously too late to be included in the board's discussion about membership or the proposed slate of candidates, both of which were referenced in Dorothea's letter.

The letter contained a membership form and payment for Dorothea's 2025 membership. She stated that her membership lapsed because she didn't receive a reminder to renew. It should be noted that she has previously been a paid member of the CCA and that, several years ago, the paper newsletter mailings to members contained a mailing label that indicated the expiration date of their membership. Due to bulk mailing restrictions, we had to cease putting this on the mailing labels, and then the newsletter was discontinued altogether. Dorothea takes issue with the CCA's sole reliance on social media now to communicate with its members who are not active on social media. She would like to receive an email with each month's General Meeting notice accompanied by the agenda and previous month's meeting minutes.

Another issue of concern raised in the letter is the nomination of Jonathan Hardin as a candidate for the Board of Directors in 2025-26. She cited her personal experience with him in an instance in 2022 at the former Charlotte High School campus, and the fact that he was dismissed from the board shortly afterward. She attended the General Meeting on 9/9 and was appalled at Jose's nomination of Jonathan to get back on the board and requests that it be withdrawn.

Discussion

Membership Communications: This topic needs further discussion by the Communications Committee and should include community members so that recommendations include more than just board members' input. Ideally, this team would be led by an appointed Communications Director.

BOD Slate of Candidates for 2025-26: The board agreed on 9/16 (which was prior to reading Dorothea's letter) to approve the recommendations of the Nominating & Governance Committee. While some concerns remain about the nomination of Jonathan Hardin, the committee found nothing in the current bylaws prohibiting a candidate from eligibility due to prior disciplinary action. Therefore, it was recommended and approved that Jonathan's name should appear on the ballot and let the members decide.

The Nominating & Governance Committee believes that Dorothea's letter adds more weight to the concerns already discussed and warrants consideration and a response from the board.