

Grove Place Association Monthly Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Kimberly Russell at 4:03pm.

Kim noted that our insurance and NYS Charities filings are up to date, thanks to the good efforts of Sandy Shapiro. Membership renewals are about to go out as we begin our new fiscal year on May 1st. She then gave a line-by-line review of the proposed 2019-20 budget, a copy of which was attached to the meeting notice sent out earlier this afternoon.

Susan Kitchen and Tracey Scheyler, of the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired gave a presentation on the Excel Program of Goodwill Industries. This is an initiative to provide high school level graduation for those who for a variety of reasons were unable to complete their education in the customary manner. The goal is to help break the cycle of poverty resulting from lack of education. The program began in Indianapolis and has spread to Arkansas, Texas, and D.C. There hope is to add Rochester to the list. The average completion time for a diploma is 18 months.

John Nolan spoke of his work rehabilitating and repurposing buildings in the Grove Place area. He is responsible for the transformation of the Cathay Pagoda building into Windsor Lofts. He bought the plaza at the corner of University and Grove and is soon to complete its renovation into a combination Airbnb and permanent residences. In contrast to the proposal for 58 University, this project is totally within the guidelines for our neighborhood. He also developed and runs a micro-hotel on East Avenue by the Little Theater.

Megan DeFranco reported on last Monday's Membership committee meeting and plans for an improved and updated membership database.

Pam DiPaola has agreed to be Beautification Committee Chair.

Suzanne Mayer informed us that the next C4 meeting is to be May 15 5pm at City Center (former Frontier Tel building) with a reception at Native's Restaurant. The topic will be urban transportation. The Annual Clean Sweep will be May 11th.

Sally Millick will chair our History Committee. She has extensive knowledge and experience in local history and has given many walking tours of downtown areas as well as Mt. Hope Cemetery.

The book club will meet again next Tuesday at 65 Windsor St. 10am.

Steve Whitman was not present to report of social activities but Bob Keck noted that the relocated Grove Place Jazz Project is underway and Unter Biergarten is giving specials to

attendees Tuesday nights. Kim is formulating plans to help support neighborhood eateries with things like regular lunch gatherings.

Jim Martin reports that we have one banner left from John Lovenheim's gift a few years ago. This will be installed on the lamppost at south end of the Gibbs St. townhouses. We have commitments for watering the planters this summer. We'll buy plants in May when we can feel confident there will be no more killing frosts.

Steve Smith gave an extensive and detailed update of the situation with 58 University Ave. – the Dan Dwyer property. The proposal is out of code in terms of height, set-back on all sides of the property giving it a massive appearance that is totally out of character with the surrounding area.

GPA unanimously passed a motion in opposition to the plan, and members were encouraged to send emails to the city.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Mercado, secretary