

## MINUTES OF GPA GENERAL MEETING OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

**Call to Order/Attendance** – taken from Zoom meeting roster by Bob Keck.

Mark McAnany and Kim Baptiste of Bergmann & Associates were present as guests.

### **Presentation by Students of School 58 World of Inquiry-**

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Aniyah Simmons, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade; Maeve Delahanty, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade; Justus Robinson, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade.

On December 20, 2020, our guests presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Hinge Neighborhood Association, Bergmann & Associates and the City's consultant, to provide their input and concerns about the proposed Inner Loop North infill. We asked them to share it with GPA.

A copy of their very professional and informative presentation can be found at this link:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FdHLVZ6Zm3hxzVwM9VSAqvYw9Vp5CHmhf\\_pdcQJj2d4/edit#slide=id.gb25c81551f\\_5\\_0](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FdHLVZ6Zm3hxzVwM9VSAqvYw9Vp5CHmhf_pdcQJj2d4/edit#slide=id.gb25c81551f_5_0)

The students did this project as volunteers. They clearly outlined in the PowerPoint what they have now, and what they want to see happen. Below are some highlights:

Students want to create ties with the surrounding community residents and businesses. The School is an island surrounded by concrete. There are no outdoor fields, no spaces for students in the upper grades to congregate, exercise or engage in sports. They want more green space. They want more choices and better healthy food in the cafeteria. They want an area to grow vegetables inside/outdoors, and microspaces in the city for youth to design and create public art, murals, greenhouses.

#### **Re: Inner Loop North Infill Proposal:**

Bob DiPaola gave a brief presentation outlining why he believes filling in the Inner Loop North [ILN] is ill conceived and should remain a traffic corridor rather than be filled in. The Inner Loop East infill has proved unsuccessful: development has left the city with long blocks of 5 story apartment buildings cut close to the sidewalk and Union St; no green space, no retail. The ILN requires a different solution since there will continue to

be barriers with the railroad tracks and rerouting traffic to city street grid will cause numerous problems.

Questions raised, Comments:

What would the ILN site be used for if it is filled in? There are other places for development for affordable housing. Can you build over the ILN? City rejected that due to the exorbitant costs involved and DOT wouldn't approve it.

ILN was built in a different era and requires ongoing maintenance. The City is measuring traffic and is not going to ignore traffic corridor. Consider pollution impact on the ILN neighborhoods with increased traffic.

It's important to reconnect neighborhoods and provide for their needs. The City should focus on affordable single housing. Even with the infill there should be new roads built.

What are the lessons of the ILE infill? The City relied on the developers to create green space; clearly that didn't work. The City should require green space in an enforceable provision in future development projects. What should we advocate to avoid going forward with the ILN proposal?

**Treasurer's Report** – Rick McGrath said we have \$6,111 on account, 82 individual members including 4 businesses. Our fiscal year ends April 30<sup>th</sup>. Two new members will be reflected in the next fiscal year.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Beautification Committee – Pam DiPaola had no update report.

Public Safety Committee – Pam DiPaola attended a zoom meeting of the Rochester City Crime and Prevention Committee. She reported that the meeting was “surreal”. Some members on this committee have been on it “forever”. Residents of certain high crime areas of the city have experienced gang activity, drugs, gunshots into houses, and similar strife. They have begged the police for help. But the police department routinely has been unresponsive. This is an indication that residents need/want police protection but because they don't get it, there is a lot of tension and distrust of city police. (Pam didn't bring up our concerns about drag racing in the GPA catchment area – that seemed trivial in comparison.)

Development Committee – Richard Rosen had to leave the meeting early. No report.

Membership Committee – no report. Still seeking a chairperson.

Art Committee – Roz Goldman had to postpone her report to our February meeting.

## **Open Forum**

The GPA Book Club is restarting. Meetings will be 40 minutes long and will be moderated by someone outside of GPA. Email Jan Fink if you are interested.

Meghan DeFranco is still working on the service parking permit issue discussed at the last General Meeting.

Questions and discussion ensued concerning the future of the City Blue site (after the building was destroyed by a massive fire on Dec. 24, 2020). Would the approved plan for the double townhouses for the lot next door be expanded to include the City Blue land? That would allow for more tax revenue for the City. Should GPA advocate (again) for leaving it as open space? It's unclear what the City Blue owner will do. He has said he wouldn't rebuild on that site. The Development Committee should monitor this.

Tom Fink raised concerns about the property at 41 Gibbs Street -it looks like a slum dwelling and it appears to be a drug drop off site now. GPA used to go after people who didn't maintain their property. Tom has called 311 to report it and there has been no city response. He will keep trying and report to the Executive Committee.

Julia Smith raised concerns about Lot F on Chestnut St. across from Eastman School of Music. The University of Rochester still owns it. It is in disrepair and an eyesore -trash abounds. Bob Keck can send photos to his contact at the Northeast Services Center and copy in our City Council representatives, Mary Lupien and Michael Patterson.

Megan DeFranco suggested that GPA help with gardens at the YMCA, perhaps ask School 58 students to get involved.

Kim Russell asked if GPA members would like another social event on zoom. Perhaps a Huddle without a professional moderator? There could still be breakout rooms. It's important that we get to know each other.

Sandy Mayer thanked Bob DiPaola for advocating and getting the no honking signs on University Ave. We must stay vigilant to ensure proper enforcement by the City.

These minutes will be posted at the GPA website.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, GPA Secretary