

**GROVE PLACE ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL (ZOOM) MEETING OF 11/15/2020**

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

**Approval of Minutes** – Josh Doolittle moved to approve the Minutes of the last general meeting of Oct. 18, 2020. Motion unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Rick McGrath said we have \$6,301.26 on account as of 11/15/20 and 80 members.

**Presentation on the Rochester 2034 Plan**

Bob Keck introduced the discussion. Richard Rosen, Chair of the GPA Development Committee and Kim Russell, presented.

They discussed only the downtown areas in which GPA has a vested interest. There are no changes to zoning in Center City. There is nothing in the Plan to prevent future zoning changes. The existing zoning plan refers to the old Rochester Master Plan so that does have to be amended. We should provide input on what we would like to see and what we would not want included.

Kim presented a PowerPoint presentation about the GPA boundaries and the various zoning districts: CCD-G is the historic GPA area; CCD-GR is the Grove Place residential area; CCD-E is the East End area and CCD-M is Main Street. Each area has difference zoning guidelines. The 2003 Master Plan goal was to create districts to recognize the varying history and design characters of each. CCD-GR and CCD-G have distinct identities of walkability, historic architecture and the like.

The East End district is denser, more commercial. We hope for greater diversity, variety and pedestrian circulation.

The Main St. CCD-M district in the 2003 Plan was to be the dominant commercial area, with some ceremonial space for the City. It extends over the river to the west. Our concern is our side of the river, including the parking lot across Eastman School of Music and the Downstairs Cabaret lot.

The website for the 2034 Plan provides details of the placemaking issues.

<https://rochester2034.com/>

The new plan map shows only the GPA historic district (CCD-G) -not also the residential district (CCD-GR). This is a concern for GPA. There is no differentiation between these two districts in the 2034 Plan.

Medium Density residential – current CCD-G is included in the Downtown area. But mixed use is not medium density.

Zoning is the key to future development. The one-story commercial stores on Main Street from Scio to University Ave. are ripe for development. This is the gateway to the Center City. CCD-G and CCD-GR should not be included in that same district.

There are many vacant lots of interest to GPA: East Main at Scio; East Main at Chestnut; East Main and Richmond; the University Ave. region north between Scio and Planned Parenthood area. Also – in the Hinge area there are more developable empty lots than needed so the City is addressing possible green spaces there.

The City has hired a Chicago consultant company, Camiros, to implement the new zoning for 2034. They rewrote the Providence RI plan to some success.

Early 2021 is targeted for presentations by Camiros to the CPC (City Planning Commission). We can attend to listen but cannot participate. GOAL – we want to be involved *before* the consultant issues its recommendations and *before* a 2034 plan is approved. GPA steps: Advocacy; Review of existing zoning; Evaluation by GPA Development Committee; Collaboration with CPC. The timeline is delayed 6 months due to Covid 19.

### **Discussion of Metered Parking Issues**

Chris Carretta and Joyce Sudak reported: They have contacted Laura Miller at the City Parking Commission to request the establishment of a permit parking program in the historic GPA district so that service contractors aren't fined for meter violations. The City has outsourced meter violation monitoring and the agency gets 10% of the collected tickets. Eric Frisch is the manager of Special Projects and he is willing to assist us. Parking and meter placement is not consistent throughout the City. Corn Hill has a permit program. The fees are \$10 per permit annually for visitors and \$20 per permit annually for homeowners. To obtain something similar, we would need to file a petition with signatures of 60% of the GPA members who are owners and/or residents in our area.

## **Discussion of Possible (Covid Safe) Holiday Event**

- Huddle – see flyer. This is a moderated Zoom social meeting with breakout sessions.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Beautification Committee** – Pam DiPaola reported that the GPA flowerpots will be cleaned after the first frost and stored over the winter.

**Safety Committee** – The City’s Crime and Prevention Committee will be meeting and Pam DiPaola plans to attend and will report at our next meeting.

**Development Committee** – Last meeting was on November 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. Discussion ensued regarding a presentation to the general membership at the Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting concerning the Rochester 2034 Plan.

**Membership Committee** – now has 6 members. Still seeking a chairperson.

**Art Committee** – Roz Goldman reported that she is working with an RIT design professor to see if we can get students to help design new planters. We need 15 of uniform size. (Pam DiPaola said that there are 51 planters on Portland Ave. so it is unclear why we have difficulty getting the City to purchase some for the GPA neighborhood). Kim asked if the students could design something to beautify the trash bins too.

## **Open Forum**

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

Megan DiFranco thanked GPA for its donation to the YMCA. The Y is open for child care and the School of ROC, helping students in the hybrid classes. The Lewis St. Equity Center is now open. 75 students receive meals there.

**Adjournment** – Suzanne Mayer moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

These minutes will be posted at the GPA website along with Kim’s presentation slides.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, GPA Secretary