

## MINUTES OF GPA GENERAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

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

Our guests today are Jamal Rossi, Dean of the Eastman School of Music and Mercedes Vasquez Simmons, our newly elected Monroe County Representative for District 22.

JAMAL ROSSI – addressed COVID, 100<sup>th</sup> year ESM Centennial plans, and UR, YMCA and RGE discussions on some building uses.

COVID- The University of Rochester had discussions about going virtual vs in-person classes in Dec. 2021 and Jan. 2022. They decided to go virtual in January due to spike in COVID cases in Monroe County and staffing implications for essential services. The Eastman School of Music had over 45 concerts planned. Over 40 concerts were cancelled. Student recitals were rescheduled. **NOTE:** Eff. February 1<sup>st</sup>, UR classes will be in person. The UR requires proof of all required vaccinations and boosters, and wearing of masks in all UR buildings. Cloth masks (which the CDC has stated do not protect against the Omicron variant) are prohibited. Only surgical masks and/or N95 or equivalent masks are allowed.

CENTENNIAL PLANS – ESM has commissioned 50+ compositions that will premier this semester.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup> Eastman opens to the Community. Every student and some faculty will be in the community at malls, schools, plus 100 alumnae will provide concerts from all over the world.

March 4<sup>th</sup> – 1919 was first class at ESM. Construction continued and on March 4 they opened the full building. Ribbon cutting @Kilbourn Hall commemorates that event. On Sat. March 5<sup>th</sup> Artisan Works will be venue for other events. On March 21-25 there will be a Women in Music celebration. On April 18-20 the Gateways Musical Festival will be held here and then go to perform at NYC Carnegie Hall concert March 24<sup>th</sup>. Jon Baptiste will perform with them.

Publicity efforts include promotions by WXXI, City Newspaper, Events listing at the Eastman School of Music Home page, and a special home page for the 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial which will list only Centennial concerts. See: <https://www.rochester.edu/adv/eastman-centennial> and <https://www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts>

Discussions with UR, YMCA and RG&E re-envisioning of each building use.

YMCA would be a health/wellness center with a URM presence. The Y intends to continue some kind of service program but no fitness programs.

ESM possible use: Across the theater, on the North side of Main St., there's a building that abuts the dormitory building on Gibbs St. that may be turned into practice rooms. (Students can't practice in their dorm rooms). There is a University Health Services in the dorm that would be moved to the YMCA and tied to the Eastman Performance Arts Medicine program which is now housed at the URM.

RG&E building – if it becomes available, the space would enhance existing and future ESM programs. The audio engineering program at UR campus could move downtown and a degree in audio engineering could be developed. The upper floors could be student apartments, and include practice rooms. Other spaces there could be used to consolidate UR offices.

Time Line – still in conversations, nothing decided yet. Perhaps in 2-4 months. Suzanne M. asked – how does GPA become a part of these discussions so we can plan proactively for a design appropriate way to develop the Y, RG&E, Block F? Jamal recommended we contact with Clayton Jones (Community Outreach for the entire University). They are aware that the businesses on Main St. to Alexander St. should be involved too.

Block F (the parking lot at Main St. and Gibbs) might be developed as a combination of a green space park and parking lot. The City wants some development on that lot, likely on the Main St. side. They don't know yet if the UR would turn that block back to the City. (Suzanne Mayer commented - if UR takes over Block F, that would take the block off the tax roles).

Also under consideration: turn Gibbs St. into a pedestrian walkway; use part of East End Garage for employee/staff parking. (Tom Fink commented – the Y fitness spaces were important for students, community. Some fitness use would be important.) Jamal said they may be keeping the pool and the gym for public and ESM use.

ESM needs to look at its curriculum, because the repertoire has been focused on dead white male composers. They need to create more programming to reflect the diversity of the student body and composers/artists.

## **Remaining Agenda Items**

141 Gibbs St. Townhouse on Gibbs Street - Tom Fink reported that the City has foreclosed the building and it may be sold to a company that takes on liens.

Treasurer's Report. Rick McGrath said there is now a total of \$10,262.03 on balance in the bank account, of which \$6,307.03 is General funds, \$2,100 is for the University Ave. legal fund, and \$1,855 for the Art Fund.

Development Committee – Richard Rosen reported - we have not met. The upcoming ZAP plan will be presented on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be posted online on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. On February 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> there will be meetings for community input. Discussion ensued at the end of the meeting on this.

Membership Committee – no report.

Beautification Committee– Bob spoke for Pam DiPaola. There's nothing new to report.

Safety Committee – no report.

Art Committee– Rosalyn Golden. She now has a contact number for someone who had designed the old banners. Roz mentioned perhaps City Blue may be able to create new banners for GPA. Bob K. said The City has this responsibility. Jeremy Cooney brought in state funds for banners.

Hinge Neighbors and ILN - Suzanne Mayer reported. They developed a macro design for what the ILN should look like. The City will decide later this month so they can proceed to the design phase. That will take 2 years and require funding. RFP's are required. Daisy Algarin oversees the Neighborhood Service Center. [daisy.algarin@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:daisy.algarin@cityofrochester.gov). Hannah Davis is working with RIT and Landmark Society to develop an updated history of Grove Place. They also want to identify historic buildings in the neighborhood – commemorative plaques are envisioned. Next phase at Hinge – consider land trusts, and community development association so smaller developers can be involved.

Who is the replacement for Heidi Zimmerman (ZAP Planning Commissioner?).

Bob K. asked - does anyone have architects contacts? All the developed buildings in the ILN area look the same. We could use their input regarding better exterior building.

Nominating Committee – Sandy Mayer reported on its progress and said that if no one volunteers to serve as the new President, GPA will not be able to maintain viability.

Mercedes Vasquez Simmons was invited to tell us more about herself and District 22's boundaries, issues and concerns, including policing, crime, development, and redistricting. She advised that while the Democrats on paper have a majority in the County Legislature, one Democrat, Sabrina LaMar, is caucusing with the Republicans. On Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, she was elected Permanent President of the Monroe County Legislature. Some of the former legislators are being hired by the County in various departments, which is a concern.

The next General Meeting will be Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 4pm on Zoom.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made and accepted at 5:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary