

MINUTES OF GPA GENERAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

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

Christopher Carretta introduced our guest, Mayor-Elect Malik Evans.

Agenda – See attached for our questions prepared in advance and sent to Mr. Evans. His staff member, Daniele Riverez, is also on the call to take notes for follow-up.

Discussions with Malik Evans

Issue 1 – Parking Permits

We were told by the City that we would have to show 60% of the residents in favor of the parking permit proposal and we had 68%. City Council passed the proposal. Jeremy Cooney helped advocate at the state level. But feedback from the City was still negative. Evans has heard of the issue and was surprised that it hasn't been resolved. He said he will look into this.

Issue 2- Community Input for ZAP

What steps will he take to ensure community input for ZAP proposals? Reply -We may have to slow down the process so the community is made aware of it. Also, he will make sure there are enough people on the Zoning staff since presently it is short-staffed. He is in favor of organized community input opportunities.

Issue 3 – Quality of Life Problems

Evans' reply: A lot of the people that GPA has contacted for enforcement will not be in his administration. He is aware of quality of life issues, such as graffiti, speeding on city streets, noise issues. He is planning to create a "Citizen Experience" program to track quality of life issues, and to set up a process for community input that they will publish. Then the departments will be evaluated on whether they successfully follow through to resolve complaints.

Evans' spoke of a set of values that guide him, including creating a foundation of trust, transparency and accountability. He values collaboration across City departments. His staff knows his position on quality of life issues. See also <https://malikevans.org/compact-with-the-community/my-promise-to-rochester/>

Issue 4 – Inner Loop Design Study – Concept 6 is a final proposal in place. But no traffic study is planned for the projected traffic on the new in-fill grid. There's no budget for it.

Evans' Reply – he will have to confer with the County to see if they can fund a traffic study together. Then figure out how to address the issues. This should be a two step process: 1 Funding 2. Process for addressing results.

Issue 5 – Protestors at Planned Parenthood – City noise ordinance.

Evans' Reply – He said we have to look at this issue. He will ask his Corporation Counsel if the current noise ordinance can be amended. He would want the protestors to understand that there is a balance between their freedom of speech and the residents' rights to the quiet enjoyment of their property.

Issue 6- How can we as individuals and as an organization help you?

For neighborhood quality of life issues, he said we need to keep a consistent presence before City Council, and keep our neighborhood association active. He has concerns about lack of other associations that are not active. Citizens need speak up about what's happening in their neighborhoods.

Clint Eastwood film – he wants to be like that character. (name of film?) Empower departments and neighborhoods to help each other. Maybe provide small amount of funding for ie trash totes.

Suzanne – do we have an opportunity to have a Central Neighborhood Service Center. Right now we're part of the SW neighborhood. We need help enforcing issues in our specific Center City. Evans' reply: his first task as mayor will be preparing the 2022-23 budget and that is when the proposal for a Central City neighborhood Service Center can be reviewed.

Remaining Agenda Items.

The GPA proposed Budget for 2021-22 this was sent to members prior to this meeting. Bob Keck presented the budget. At the time of its preparation, there was \$6,000 left in the GPA bank account. That is high because there were fewer expenses during the COVID shut-down. Over a majority of members present accepted the budget, so it is passed.

Treasurer's Report. Rick McGrath said there is now \$7,830 on balance in the GPA bank account. We have 62 individuals and 4 business members.

Development Committee – no report.

Membership Committee – Josh Doolittle said there has been discussion to have a post-holiday party in-person social even at the Charlotte Square community room. Pot luck style. He wants to expand the committee to be pro-active again. He is contacting some businesses to encourage membership.

Beautification Committee– Pam DiPaola– the leaf collection is behind in the neighborhood. City is aware of this but has taken no action yet.

Safety Committee – Pam DiPaola – she attended the Chief's PCIC meeting last week. Acting Chief Smith presented a very brief overview of RPD services that will address gun violence in the City.

Art Committee– Rosalyn Golden – She has been talking with John Lovenheim about replacing the banners for the neighborhood. She has obtained the stats for how many banners and supports will be required. Our current planters are not uniform and some are damaged. Planters designed by RIT students is not economically feasible. We need 18. Roz found a website company that has nice designs. Ordering is slow so we must give company adequate lead time. Can GPA provide funding for this?

Suzanne Mayer said that the Hinge Neighbors obtained a grant from AARP for planters. Can we piggy-back on that grant to extend the catchment area to Grove Place? She will talk to Shawn Dunwoody about grant options.

Other Business

Linda Reilly said she had a meeting with Clayton Jones of UR (he is the Community Outreach for the entire University). There have been two meetings so far. The UR is bringing forward changes for downtown. Discussions are in the works regarding the use of the Carlson YMCA and the establishment of a Creative Corridor from East Main/University through to West Main. The UR wants to bring more arts events downtown, such as street performances, ESM community school programs. This is a reflection of a new administration at UR as well as pressure from downtown residents. Sometime in the first quarter of 2022 they'll go public with their ideas. We should monitor this because there is talk about developing the parking lot on Main/Gibbs.

Question – is this part of the Arts in the Loop project? Suzanne said – the Arts in the Loop is a separate organization. Rachel Roberts has taken over from Jim Dozer for Arts in the Loop. They were inactive during COVID. She also talked to the Dean of Eastman School of Music regarding outreach to the community.

Suzanne on Hinge Neighborhood input on Inner Loop North plans. City is now reviewing Bergmann & Associates' Concept 6. Issues – concerns about speed of traffic going through the neighborhoods. There is a meeting scheduled for December 7th, when Bergmann will be presenting afternoon and evening listening sessions to the community about the concept changes. There's a difference between what City is reviewing and the Hinge proposals.

Suzanne shared her screen to show Concept 6 and explain the Hinge neighbors' visions.

ZAP website – Bob Keck checked it and there's nothing new.

ILN website shows community meetings and/or zoom sessions beginning Dec. 2nd. Suzanne said Bergmann hasn't published anything for us to review and prepare questions in advance.

None of the vacant lots north of Public Market are for sale. City has been targeting these properties for future development. Neighbors don't want large projects there. Larger projects should be located elsewhere – ie S. Clinton.

Nancy Mancusa is a leader in the Hinge neighborhood. She wants to communicate with the neighbors. Zoning in this area presently is in the same category as Center City. They are advocating for a different zoning designation. Neighbors want a stable neighborhood - which to them means single family homes. Still to be discussed – how to make affordable housing work? That usually means about 40 units in each building. If infrastructure is already present, that makes it easier for developers to participate.

ESM has offered the Rochester Music Hall of Fame site for our meetings when we are ready for in-person sessions.

Sandy Mayer announced the creation of the Nominating Committee and encouraged members to participate.

The next General Meetings will be Sunday January 16, 2022 (no meeting in Dec.) at 4pm on zoom.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made and accepted at 5:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary

Cover Email and Questions sent to Malik Evans:

We are looking forward to Mayor elect Evans attendance at the November 21 meeting of the Grove Place Association. While Chris Caretta's motivation in asking Mr. Evans to attend the meeting had to do with the parking issue in our neighborhood, there are numerous, arguably more important, issues facing the City and the neighborhood. We hope that Mr. Evans can address the parking issue relatively quickly and that he will have the time to additionally address the questions below. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the GPA, I'd like to thank Mayor Evans for agreeing to attend our meeting. I have also included the Zoom invitation to the meeting at the end.

1. Former Mayor Warren denied our request for a parking permit program saying it would be unfair to other neighborhoods, despite the fact that such a program already exists in Corn Hill and very few other residential neighborhoods have metered parking. What is your opinion on this request and would you allow our request?
2. With the departure of Manager of Zoning Jill Wiedrick, the ZAP team has lost its advocate for strong community input to the ZAP process. To date, there has been little effort to get real community input to this process. What steps can and will you take to ensure the citizens of Rochester have a say in how our city is rezoned?
3. There are several persistent quality-of-life issues in the City that have an outsized negative effect on current residents and make it more difficult to attract and retain additional businesses and residents. The persistent nature of these problems is seemingly due to a combination of: a) a lack of effective community/city hall communication, b) silo-ization and insufficient communication amongst departments within city hall, and c) a misapprehension within city hall of the severity of the problems and level of resident concern. How do you expect your administration to approach quality-of-life issues differently than those of your recent predecessors and what do you expect to be done differently in the implementation of potential solutions?
4. Many of us are participating with Hinge Neighbors in the design process for the Inner Loop North rebuild. The City consultant, Bergmann engineers, has just decided on a plan which would be the basis of the detailed design to be commissioned by an RFP process. That plan will utilize the surface street grid to replace the submerged highway. We, and our neighbors north of the Inner Loop in Marketview Heights, have concerns that there has been insufficient study of whether University Avenue, the new South Union Street and Lyndhurst Street will be overloaded with vehicles as a result of the project. Such a study is not budgeted. We believe that further design work needs be preceded by a professional origin and destination study of vehicles now using the loop to assess how much of that traffic will disperse elsewhere, and how much will be added to our major residential streets, which would seriously impact our quality of life. How will you ensure that the ILN project is not undertaken without sufficient attention to the effects of traffic on the adjoining neighborhoods?
5. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, standing on Scio Street, promised that the Inner Loop demolition funds would help rebuild the minority neighborhood that lost hundreds of homes to the 1960's Inner Loop construction. What assurance can you give us that the City will demand that both the newly created development land and the 70 odd vacant lots in Lower Marketview Heights will receive appropriate funding so that families in that neighborhood, whose incomes are mostly entirely below 50% of the AMI, can afford and will want to live there?

6. Our neighborhood is subject to frequent, loud, disruptive demonstrations that include electronic voice and music amplification devices used by those opposed to the Planned Parenthood clinic on University Ave. The use of these devices results in sound levels that normally would clearly violate both the specific provisions and the spirit of the City's noise ordinances. However, the amplification device use is allowed to persist because of exemptions in our noise ordinances for "political" or "religious" activities that are neither included in the ordinances for surrounding communities nor required under the First Amendment. How can these exemptions be removed from the City Code? Would you support changing the noise ordinances to make them more enforceable?
7. How can we help you?