

MINUTES OF GPA GENERAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

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

We discussed issues from last season that are ongoing.

Suzanne Mayer told us that Jill Wiedrich has left the City Zoning dept. for a position in Batavia. That's not good for the ZAP project. Jill quit because the City wasn't going to allow her to approach constituents for input.

Suzanne suggested that we should talk with Kevin Kelly, Manager of Planning about her successor. He is receptive to promoting neighborhoods. We should ask him to delay the ZAP until the new administration under Malik Evans takes over. Any new zoning has to be approved by City Council after recommendation by the Planning Commission. Individuals should consider writing to Council members and the Planning commission recommending they not approve any new zoning developed without sufficient community input. The GPA can potentially do the same as an organization.

Other neighborhood associations are very concerned too, because the city's re-zoning plans tend to allow for increased density and many neighborhoods are strongly opposed to that.

Suzanne told us that Hinge Neighbors meetings will be held every Tues. in October from 5:30-7pm at the Y on Lewis St. Goal – bring ILN neighbors on both sides of the loop to discuss how the infill will affect everyone. They are working with Highland Consulting.

Follow Hinge on Instagram @hingeneighbors, and on Facebook and on Twitter.

Bergman presented five proposals in the RIT downtown location this summer. The City told them their ILN concepts did not meet the City's expectations and asked for more concepts. This may give us an opportunity to comment before decisions are made.

We have new members: Welcome to Scott and Kathy Frame and Rick and Tiffany Staropoli - both new to Selden St.

Treasury Report: We have \$6,237 on account. We ran a surplus in 2020-21, mostly due to COVID restrictions on large gatherings.

Committee Reports:

Beautification- Pam DiPaola reported that the City won't do another clean-up this fall, so GPA may want to organize something. Pam is on the Police Chief's CPI Committee, and also another one that deals with the GPA area. No news likely until the change in administration. Pam will send a letter of complaint to the Carlson YMCA about the lack of maintenance and the garbage on its property. In the past, its staff did not manage the gardens – volunteers did.

Roz said we can't get the new planters project to work. We need 18. Costs of materials and labor are the sticking points. The City is not cooperating. Suzanne said the Hinge neighborhood got a grant from AARP for planters; maybe we could apply.

Quality of Life Issues. Josh proposes sending a letter to Malik Evans about concerns with quality of life matters in the City. Bob K. said it's better if we send individual comments. GPA can also comment as an association, and get other neighborhoods involved. Most city residents have issues with lack of enforcement of codes and laws. Send copies to City Council. Unless the Council enacts new codes for quality of life violations, there will be no effective enforcement by the City. Encourage Malik Evans to appoint commissioners that are pro-active, strong leaders on these issues.

Membership Committee has lost two members - Kim and Megan. Josh had no report.

Neighborhood Issues. RE: 141 Gibbs St. property, across the University Ave. townhouses. There's pending litigation and the owner is currently in contempt of court. A penalty will be assessed on Oct. 12th. 137 Gibbs St. – the skinny house- is an eyesore. Roz has called the City several times, with no results. The Neighborhood Services Centers are first contacts. John McMahon (John.McMahon@CityofRochester.gov) is the new Director.

University Ave. Protesters. Sandy Mayer had neighbors over to meet with Michael Patterson, who watched the two women protesters who are there all day every day. They park on the street and do not pay the meters. They are using voice enhancers. They encourage car honking. There's a \$200 fine for honking violations, but there is no enforcement of parking and noise violations.

Bob Keck said that the noise ordinance is unconstitutional because it doesn't treat all noises equally. The Ordinance has exceptions for religious and political speech, and the City treats all protests as political speech. But the protesters aren't registered as a religious or political entity.

Bob said the City has never been diligent about code enforcements. He suggested that we should start utilizing the "Speak to Council" session held before City Council meetings by having someone from the neighborhood attend each session to raise an issue affecting them personally – motorcycles and cars speeding, racing all evening and night, loud music noise violations, parking violations, reigning is the protesters, etc. By having someone different do it each time, we could avoid having a particular person just dismissed as "a nut case".

Suggest to Malik Evans that the City empower citizens to enforce these violations since the police don't.

The police have told Suzanne that there are 100 fewer officers and the City has reduced budgets for the police. They suggested that we go to City Council to request they reinstate funding.

Call 911 or 311? Use 911 for emergencies – including noise violations, because the police must catch people in the act. Use 311 for non-emergencies.

Can we form a Downtown Neighborhood Service Center? We need one.

Next General Meeting will be Sunday October 17, 2021 at 4pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary