

## MINUTES OF GPA ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022 at 4:00pm

In-person at the Charlotte Square at the East End Community Room.

Call to order

Recording Secretary's Report – Judy Loeb announced that Minutes of GPA General Meetings are posted at [www.groveplace.org/Resources/Minutes](http://www.groveplace.org/Resources/Minutes). There were no objections to the Minutes of September 18, 2022.

Treasurer's Report- Rick McGrath reported that as of 10/23/22 we have 54 individual members and 4 business members. The ending balance as of 10/23/22 is \$11,039.56.

Agenda:

4:05 to 4:10pm Presentation by Suzanne Mayer: Review of Hinge Neighbors activities and status of plans for the Inner Loop North (ILN) removal, now that it is funded and the design process is about to start. (Subcommittee, Development).

Suzanne provided a City Fact Sheet Titled *Rochester's Inner Loop North Transformation Project*. See document attached. She said that the City has approved Concept 6, City Grid Restoration. That plan does not incorporate most of the comments proposed by the Hinge Neighbors. The Hinge Neighbors have advocated for the City to proceed with the ILN *design phase* simultaneously with its determination of land use planning.

Suzanne Mayer has written a federal grant proposal for \$525,000 for “reconnecting communities” under a Pilot Program, to include neighborhoods around the Inner Loop North that haven't yet participated in communicating their wishes for their neighborhoods, as Hinge Neighbors has done.

Dana Miller of the City Office of Planning and Rich Perrin, Commissioner of Environmental Services met with the Hinge Neighbors. They told us they did not want us to apply for the grant since we would compete with any funds their departments would want to apply for in the future. Also present was Erik Frisch, who is Deputy Commissioner of Economics and Neighborhood Development (he reports to Dana Miller). Erik was upfront and said that if we did apply, they would still work with us, as they had done in the past.

So Hinge Neighbors met with Mayor Evans to get city support that we could talk about and the Mayor was receptive. Funding is potentially available from Greater Health Foundation and Eastman Savings & Loan Foundation (and possibly also via Jeremy Cooney's advocacy if he wins the mid-term election). For more info see <https://HingeNeighbors.org>

4:10pm URMC Wellness Center at the Y and adjacent vacant “Block F” parking lot. Vice President Bob DiPaola seeks members to serve on a new committee which will participate in meetings promised by URMC to guide this development forward. Bob requested volunteers to join this subcommittee. Last March, Kathleen Parinnello, PhD, Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer of URMC, presented UR plans for the restructuring of some of the premises into a Wellness Center. (See minutes of March 20, 2022).

The YMCA of Greater Rochester's Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Ernest Lamour as President & CEO. He will officially assume the role of President & CEO on January 9, 2023. For more information go to <https://rochesterymca.org/news/ernest-lamour-appointed-president-ceo-ymca-greater-rochester>

4:15pm Delivery Trucks at Windsor St. and Grove Place. The present truck routing for deliveries to the Eastman School Dorm and kitchen on Gibbs Street impacts the historic residential area of Windsor Street and Grove Place. Trucks longer than 52 ft. trailer (with a cab of an additional 14 feet) have been blocking traffic in the neighborhood. This neighborhood road wasn't created for heavy trucks to use. They appear at 6am and are very noisy. The City has no interest in protecting the historic nature of Grove Place. The Eastman School's original intent was to NOT have a truck landing area and trash bins in sight of the neighborhood. The City has not been enforcing this so its promises should not be relied upon.

Our Treasurer, Rick McGrath, whose office is in his Grove Place historic home, seeks volunteers to persist in confronting the Eastman School to seek a solution. (Safety Committee). He also suggested there be a limit on truck weight. He encouraged us as individuals to engage in advocacy.

4:20pm Business Improvement District (BID): We learned from Galin Brooks, President & CEO of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC) during our September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting that affected neighborhood associations and other stakeholders will be invited over the course of the next year to recommend the purpose, methods, boundaries, and financing of this possible new tax district for downtown. A committee of our members could select leadership for this participation. The GPA in the past has had real clout with the City administration and Council. (Potential ad-hoc committee) See Minutes of September 18, 2022.

4:25pm Membership Committee: Richard Rosen presenting. Our membership includes only a small portion of the residents and businesses within the GPA boundaries. The Executive Committee sees the need for two co-chairs: one representing the original GPA boundaries north of Main St, and the other, the East End portion added south of Main Street to N. Union Street and East Avenue. We seek volunteers for this committee who will develop strategies to attract and retain membership. The difficulty will be figuring out how to attract renters to our neighborhood association.

4:30pm Zoning: The City's "ZAP" initiative has received advice from us in the past. We await continuing opportunities to comment and influence. The City is way behind their announced schedule. They are far behind their timeline. There's been no continuing input. Executive Committee member, Bob Keck, told us it's been hard getting people interested in monitoring ZAP planning and attending meetings. A draft document was issued last Spring and it's very disappointing. City officials' review was very unprepared. Bob suggested we study the zoning codes of Buffalo's Green Code and Hartford CT. Bob is willing to chair this subcommittee, but will need volunteers who are willing and able to take the lead on this effort and to prepare a presentation before the City Council.

4:35pm Carpenter's Alley. This alley runs parallel to Scio St. and runs from E. Main St. to University Ave. Vice-President Mark Wilson seeks support to prepare a bold re-imagining of this very narrow alley which backs up to Windsor Street residences. It is unsightly and so narrow it cannot be used to access rear-yard parking. The City wishes to rezone the parking lot between the Alley and Scio to Residential. It will be important to reconfigure the alley, since parking will be permitted only from the alley. Mark requested volunteers to pursue this inform "interest" committee. (Beautification Committee).

4:40pm Proposed East End Park: GPA members recently succeeded in gaining the support of City officials for making the unsightly vacant parcel bounded by N. Union, Charlotte and Pitkin Streets into a park. Christa Development originally planned to build a day care center on that parcel but nothing has been done. The deed from the City to Christa Development is a reversion deed. Christa had until 10/1/22 to start construction but did not. We expected that this parcel would revert to City ownership as of 10/1/22. But Christa Development recently asked the City to extend the Oct. 1, 2022 deadline to develop that parcel. The City has indicated it was willing to grant this extension. Ad-Hoc Park Committee chair, Linda Reilly distributed a petition for individuals to sign to object to the requested extension (GPA as an association will not submit any position). Ugly Duck owner, Rory Van Grohl, has secured 125 names on a petition so far, and his place attracts people from all over, not just the East End. Richard proposes to request Mayor Evans that he slow any City decision for the reasons he specified in the draft letter.

Suzanne commented that this parcel is similar to Block F (across ESM; purportedly owned by the University of Rochester) and the parcel between Speedy's and City Blue, both of which have pending RFPs. Neither projects have proceeded for many years. This is an enforcement problem that the City is ignoring.

4:45pm The History Committee has two items on its agenda: First, participating in creating the story for a new brochure for GPA, an essential tool for membership development. Secondly, creating, staffing, and publicizing regular free monthly tours of the neighborhood in an effort to make known our neighborhood to attract those who might want to make this their home or business location. Chair, Sally Millick, has experience organizing tours of historic places at Mt. Hope Cemetery and other places. She would appreciate members' help developing the research itself. She also needs people to serve as docents for small group tours of the neighborhood. Grove Place has very important history since the Selden family first occupied the area.

4:50 to 4:48pm Roz Goldman, provided an update about the City funded banners for light poles for each downtown neighborhood. They are underway, and it is hoped they will be delivered and installed next Spring.

4:48pm Old Business and New Business:

The 141 Gibbs Street townhouse will be sold at auction on October 26th by the County to recover delinquent taxes. Some members have said they are considering purchasing the property at auction.

Homeless persons tents on city owned land: Residents should contact the Neighborhood Service Center at 428-7630 to request that action be taken to help individuals find a more suitable place to live. Please report your contact to the President, Richard Rosen at 415-3448 with what transpired.

Questions and comments. Sign up for committees.

5:30pm Adjournment. Folks welcome to remain and chat. Coffee will be available.

**Next General Meeting: Sunday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Charlotte Square Community Room.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary