

MINUTES OF GPA ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022 at 4:00pm

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

Call to order

Treasurer's Report- Rick McGrath reported at the Executive Committee meeting that as of 11/14/22 the balance on hand was \$11,039.56.

Beautification – Pam DiPaola reported: After trying for a year, the plant pots are not available. We will leave the pots we have where they are this winter. Pam is getting quotes for new pots that are uniform size. We need 18 pots and the cost at least \$100 each.

Public Safety and Code Enforcement Committee – Pam DiPaola has no report today. For 10 years, Roz has complained to the City about the “Skinny House” behind Symphony Terrace which is dilapidated and an eyesore. The City fines the owner but that is not a deterrent. The City has ignored enforcement.

Police Chief Meetings - Pam used to go to the Police Chief's meeting but now they do “enrichment” sessions that aren't relevant to GPA. Ever since the new Police Chief, David Smith took over, there's been much less transparency in the reporting to the public.

Status of proposed park at Charlotte and Pitkin Streets at Christa property. Richard reported that the City has agreed NOT to extend the Christa deed. Any development on that parcel would be through a process TBD. Over 300 people signed petitions at Ugly Duck in support of the park. Richard reported that a story by WXXI reporter Brian Sharp is will appeared on the WXXI website on 11/28/22.

<https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2022-11-28/inner-loop-east-neighbors-want-park-in-vacant-lot>

Update on Proposed Tours of Grove Place area. Sally Millick reported that first we need to develop the content for tours, brochures. Sally would train volunteers on crowd control and making presentations focused and entertaining. Suzanne mentioned phone app options for people to be able to walk the neighborhood and be educated in that medium.

Membership and Meetings. Richard reported that no one has volunteered to chair this committee. John Goldman said no one will volunteer, so why not hire an advisor to help contact current members and find new members. Roz said when she and John moved to GP 25 years ago, GPA members did more socializing and got to know each other. Roz opined we shouldn't expand membership, but find ways to get existing members more involved. We used to hold wine and cheese gatherings after meetings, but it got involved and expensive for the hosts and there were too many members to fit in their homes.

John asked why hold General Meetings every month? Suzanne said if we do fewer meetings, GPA will lose the power GPA has and we won't be effective. There are still many issues to monitor and advocate for. John said we can always schedule a special meeting.

We used to invite speakers to meetings but it was difficult to find speakers for a Sunday afternoon. Sally suggested we might have more members attend if we chose another meeting time. Bob Keck said we don't need monthly meetings unless we have something to discuss. The issues we're discussing today could easily be communicated via emails to members.

URMC Wellness Center and Urgent Care Subcommittee. Bob DiPaola discussed a proposed letter to URMC that he and Scott Frame crafted, outlining the GPA's concerns about the University's plans and outreach for this project. Last March, Kathleen Parinnello, PhD, Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer of URMC, presented UR's plans for the restructuring of some of the premises into a Wellness Center. (See minutes of March 20, 2022). They have not communicated with us since – and meanwhile, the UR is proceeding with their plans.

John mentioned that when UR bought Block F (at East Main and Gibbs, across from Eastman Theater), GPA neighbors were concerned that UR would go ahead and develop that lot (and not leave it as a parking lot) and the UR gave assurances that GPA would be involved in future plans.

The proposed letter must be approved by the membership. It will be emailed to members with a second Notice of General Meeting on November 18, 2022.

Motion to Approve sending the proposed letter to UR - by Bob Keck. Seconded by Pam DiPaola. All 11 members present voted in favor and 18 members approved by proxies. Motion passed.

Update on Anti-Abortion Protestors on University Ave. at Planned Parenthood. Sandy Mayer reported: There has been some progress - Mayor Evans wants enforcement of the noise ordinance, and to require protestors to hold signs instead of posting them. The courts approved PP's proposal to build a new site in Henrietta. Maybe the protestors will go there.

ZAP Zoning Update: Bob Keck reported that the City had promised to release plans this fall but the third draft won't be published until early 2023.

Downstairs Cabaret – Rehab construction has started.

Other Business:

Bob Keck suggested that people who want to make restaurant recommendations send info to him for posting on the website.

New Bethel Church owns five to 10 parcels that they want to establish single family housing. Suzanne will be monitoring this. Richard mentioned "Buy The Block- Greenlining for a Better Rochester". The City aims to turn vacant city lots into single family housing.

5:30pm Adjournment.

Next General Meeting: Sunday Dec. 18th at 4:00 pm in the Charlotte Square Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary