

GROVE PLACE ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2023

Charlotte Square Community Room and on Zoom

Attending in person – Richard Rosen, Judy Loeb, Bob Keck, Bob and Pam DiPaola, Gloria Naurocki, Brian McLaughlin, Alex Lesser, Rick Papas, Sally Millick, Kathy and Scott Frame, Linda Reilly, Roz Goldman, Dennis and Kat Kuo, Sandy Shapiro, Mark W. Wilson, Brenda Porter.

Attending on Zoom – Steve Smith, Tom Fink, John Goldman, Ed Saphar.

AGENDA

1. Guest speaker, David Riley, is the Principal Transportation Manager and Business Development and also new project leader of the Inner Loop North. He gave a presentation on the project. An attachment with David Riley's reply email to Richard Rosen re: ILN and traffic study was sent to members in the Notice of Meeting emailed on 3/22/23. David will provide access to his PowerPoint presentation for us.

NOTES on Mr. Riley's Presentation:

David is a resident of Rochester. He started at his City government positions last Fall.

Background – The Inner Loop (IL) originally was constructed in 1950s when the Rochester population was growing. But by the time the project was finished, the population already had started to decline. The Inner Loop East (ILE) project in 2014-2017 opened up about 8 acres. The Inner Loop North (ILN) is at the end of its useful life and is rapidly deteriorating. Discussions about infilling the IL began in the 1990s. At this time, there are about 210,000 City residents. If the ILN were filled in, 22 acres of land would be freed up for rerouted roads, housing and other development and green space. GPA is member of the ILN Community Advisory Committee.

ILN is about 1.5 miles long. The initial planning study began in 2020 and concluded in Fall 2022. It is envisioned that the actual construction of the infill will begin in 2027.

Six different concept designs have been proposed. Public comment was sought. The City has selected Concept 6, "Preferred ILN Transformation". This which restores some of the prior urban grid, improves pedestrian and bicycle traffic and connectivity in the neighborhoods that were torn apart by the ILN. At the West of Genesee River the plan proposes removal of some of the raised portions leading to 490W. At the East of Genesee River the plan will reconnect Central Ave. and University Ave. About 14 acres is deemed feasible for development. A portion of the land will be set aside for playing fields and open space at the School of Inquiry on E. Main St. and University.

See <https://www.innerloopnorth.com/resources> for a map of Concept 6 and other resources.

NYS has committed funding of the project. Funding has also been obtained from the Genesee Transportation Council for the specific purpose of determining the scale of future green space.

The study opines that removal of the ILN is feasible. Over time, it is expected that the benefits will outweigh the project costs.

The next steps will be to move from conceptual design #6 to the final design phase.

The next public engagement meeting for comments has not yet been scheduled. The timing will depend on how long it takes to select the general contractor.

At this stage, about 48,000 cars currently traverse the ILN.

Richard Rosen said: Concept 6 might not be feasible with what the traffic study results will be. A traffic impact analysis is supposed to precede the preparation of construction plans. The GPA members want to have a voice on the traffic study. Our main concern will be the impact of the project on University Ave and S. Union St. David said there will be a robust state of the industry traffic study, including an origin and destination study. They will model it based on projected additional population living in the City. There will be a traffic simulation to determine the best options. What if none are feasible? David replied – right now it looks feasible. There may be some tweaking.

What is being planned for access by EMS, police etc. to the additional residential and mixed use areas? David took a note on that issue.

Monroe County DOT will be consulted about traffic/transportation plans. It should be part of the ILN process to plan for safety for pedestrians, bicycles, etc. on S. Union and University.

David has met with Hinge neighbors and Suzanne Mayer several times and will continue those communications.

We asked David to make sure the ILN has a page of FAQs, and a page where citizen comments are saved. (In contrast, Bergmann's website on the ILE project did not save public comments so there was no indication of what people opined and whether they were actually considered).

Mark Wilson commented: Rochester is in the midst of unprecedented downtown revitalization efforts. If successful, and we certainly hope they are, city population for residents, business, offices, and traffic will again reach peak levels. When probed at several ILN forums about population and traffic studies, the decimated city population has been touted as one reason the ILN is no longer needed. In addition to decades of traffic decline, it was admitted that ILN fill-in traffic data was collected during the covid shut-down. It is critical that ILN studies include projections and models that factor in successful City population growth.

There being no additional questions, we thanked David for his presentation.

2. 125 Charlotte St. Open Parcel Update – Correspondence between Richard Rosen and Mayor Malik Evans was attached to the March 22nd Notice of Meeting sent to members. This concerns our request for the City to maintain this parcel at Charlotte St., N. Union and Pitkin St. as open space for the neighborhood. Richard asked Bret Garwood, CEO of Home Leasing, to contact tenants, Ugly Duck Coffee and the Op Shop, who would agree to participate in planning regular activities on the parcel. There are many young families in the apartments on Charlotte St. and N. Union. It will be important to get them involved too.

3. GPA position on the pending application before the Preservation Board concerning parking lots at 51-55 Windsor Street owned by Mark Siwec. Please review the attached memos provided by Bob Keck.

MOTION: by Rick McGrath, seconded by Richard Rosen. *GPA members approve the communications of the issues in Bob Keck's memorandum "GPAPositionV2.pdf".* This memo was sent to members in the

3/22/23 Notice of Meeting. Bob provided a revised "GPAPositionV2a" dated 3/27/23 after the meeting and it is attached below.

Re: Zoning Problems at 51-55 Windsor St. Lot Line Removal. See Bob's memos. The lot line was removed in error. Bob is challenging Zoning to correct it before the Preservation Board rules on Siwiec's parking lot proposal.

MOTION: Rick McGrath made a motion, Roz Goldman seconded: *GPA members are concerned about the legality of the removal of the lot line and hope that the City will review this action.*

Individual members can submit their own comments about the site plan by Sunday April 2nd to the Preservation Board. The meeting will be held Monday April 3rd and will be recorded.

At Symphony Terrace – exterior brick maintaining walls are in disrepair. There's a proposal to replace the exposed joint brick with a concrete cap.

4. Block F - Parking lot across UR Wellness Center - Update. UR has owned this lot and no development has been done per the terms of the deed. For 10 years the UR has used it for parking. (It's also used by Fringe Festival and Jazz Festival.) We should be more concerned about the City deciding to subdivide the lot, with some portion used for Wellness Center parking and the other for something else, including possible development.

Issue - can the City take back this parcel because the UR failed to improve Block F within the five year time frame in the deed? John Goldman believes the City does not want to take it back. We must be vigilant. Anything the UR proposes in a site plan now must be reviewed by the City. There can't be a plan for a portion of that lot without a plan for the entire 1.4 acre parcel. Plans will be subject to public review.

Also UR had expressed its desire to purchase the East End Garage and build a skyway bridge connecting the garage to the Wellness Center.

Treasurer Update: Balance is \$11,171.65.

New Business.

Roz proposes an ad hoc committee called "Fun". We used to have social opportunities to get to know each other. There are many new residents in the apartments on Charlotte St. and Union St. Such as – block party? Street party?

Pam DiPaola announced that GPA will participate in the City's Clean Sweep again this year. The City has scheduled it for April 29th. Pam will submit a request for tools and will send out emails for GPA volunteers. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided by GPA.

Sally Millick announced that 141 University was purchased by James Tabbi, a musician.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary

See Attachments:

Final versions of Bob Keck's two PDF documents discussed at the meeting.

David Riley's PowerPoint presentation.