

MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - OCTOBER 1, 2023 4PM

CHARLOTTE SQUARE COMMUNITY ROOM

Attendance:

Mark Wilson, VP (Chair of Meeting today), Bob Keck, Richard McGrath, Judy Loeb, Alan and Judy Wertheimer, Sally Millick, Barbara Wager, Dexter Frank, Tricia Bhattacharya, Jill Orbach, Scott and Kathy Frame, James Tabbi. (No Zoom capability today).

Treasurer's Report: Rick McGrath said the balance in the GPA account is \$10,771.40.

AGENDA

General Membership Meetings Schedule - Sundays at 4pm at the Charlotte Square Community Room. After today: October 29, November 26; January 28, 2024, February 25, March 24, April 28 (Annual Meeting). Optional: May 19. Minutes are posted at www.groveplace.org

Our fiscal year starts in May and ends in April. Voting members are those who are up to date with their dues payments. Annual dues payments are requested after the April Annual Meeting.

Public and Neighborhood Safety - Pam DiPaola provided a written report which was read by Rick McGrath.

Pam attends the monthly zoom meetings of the Southwest Neighborhood Service Center, which covers our GPA boundaries. The last meeting's topic was Aging in Place. Discussion ensued about how much housing stock within a neighborhood is conducive to the needs of aging adults, and what some neighborhoods are doing to address this need.

The foreclosure auction list should be available soon. The auction will be in November.

There is a new code enforcement position at the SW Neighborhood Services Center for a part-time position. The person in training will start soon, and will be able to address code violations in the GPA boundaries. Pam will ask for a review of the former Blessed Thistle Bakery on University Ave.

There has been a concerning increase in petty thefts, panhandling, people cutting down flowers and stealing planters, broken windows, vandalizing cars (mostly Kia's in models through 2011) which lack theft immobilizers, whereby computer chips in car keys and steering columns must recognize each other before the engines will start. Kia manufacturers started to correct this problem earlier this year.

Pam will attend the meeting of the Police Citizens Interaction Committee (PCIC) in mid-October and will raise this issue then. Please be watchful and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Other actions Pam is monitoring:

Sandy Shapiro donated the tree that the GPA decided to purchase in memory of our beloved neighbor, Miriam Shapiro. The tree has been planted and a formal dedication will be planned at Sandy's convenience sometime in October.

The GPA Book Club is reading *Makes Me Want to Holler: A Young Black Man in America* by Nathan McCall. A discussion will be held October 10th at 4pm at Brenda Porter's home. The book for November's meeting will be *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. All are welcome to attend these meetings.

Grove Place Banners– there's a design ready to go, but the City hasn't made any progress with their installation. Hold this issue until Richard Rosen explains what's going on. Kathy Frame will follow up with Roz Goldman.

The East End Green Update - The City installed the concrete pads at the N. Union Street side of The East End Green near Charlotte St. (Benches and tables were recently installed after this meeting). The City located these on N. Union St. as part of a Union St. beautification plan (as opposed to locating them opposite the Op Shop and Ugly Duck Café, which are private businesses).

Judy Wertheimer and Judy Loeb are co-chairing an informal steering committee to keep in touch with our neighbors and business owners so we can brain storm activities to promote The East End Green. These include Ugly Duck Café (Rory Von Groh, owner) The Op Shop (Jo Carroll, owner), our contacts at Charlotte on the Loop (Amber), 270 East Ave. at N. Union (Veronica) and Union Square (the third Home Leasing development at 275 N. Union St.)

Pedestrian Crossing at Charlotte St. and Union St. Members of the City/County Traffic Control Board have started to respond to the request we made for better pedestrian crossing safety measures at N. Union and Charlotte Streets. Attached is a reply from the Transportation Director to a letter sent by Josh Doolittle and Richard Rosen.

ZAP Zoning Update: The City just released the draft zoning ordinance and a new map. You can download it at www.Rochesterzap.com Copies are available at all the libraries. Comments will be accepted through January 31, 2024.

Upcoming Meetings Open to the Public:

On Wednesday Oct 18th at 6:30pm the City of Rochester will hold an open Zoom Webinar to discuss the ZAP changes in the Grove Place area. The link is not yet available. It will be at the City's ZAP website.

On Wednesday November 29th at 6:30pm there will be an in-person meeting at the Rundel Library, 3rd floor auditorium. GPA officers will attend and report back to all of you.

Bob Keck summarized the history of zoning issues. It's an important issue for GPA to monitor and comment on.

270 On East - The owners have started to regularly do landscape maintenance on its frontage on N. Union St. and East Ave. which has been neglected for months. We had flagged that neglect to the Neighborhood Conservation office.

Tree replacement at Charlotte on the Loop - We also filed a complaint with the City to replace two dead trees at Charlotte Square on the Loop, and the City has promised to replace them.

Issues with University of Rochester – Reported by Scott Frame about the East End Garage and YMCA Ownership Transfers: The East End Garage still is listed as owned by the City. (The D&C had reported that it was purchased by the University). The City still owns the Carlson YMCA Building, even though that also supposedly was sold the UR. We need to monitor these transfers. Scott and Bob DiPaola have been communicating with UR's Clayton Jones and met with him on 8/23/23 to voice concerns that the nature of residential space shouldn't be negatively impacted. They walked the neighborhood with him so he could be an advocate for GPA within UR.

Points of concern: (1) change the Wellness Clinic entrance to a location on Main St., instead of on Windsor St. (2) do not destroy the existing playground (3) the UR has been using the Windsor St. adjacent side for deliveries from large trucks that block Windsor St.) (4) UR also hasn't maintained the landscaping on the YMCA property, including on Gibbs St. Tricia Bhattacharya will provide the name of her contact to whom she had complained.

Scott and Bob did a presentation with Jamal Rossi, Dean of the Eastman School of Music and Kevin Gibson (ESM Executive Director of Operations) concerning the huge truck traffic on Windsor St. There is a gate that presently is non-operational where the loading dock is located and that will be repaired. ESM said they wouldn't use large trailer trucks for deliveries - but they continue to deliver. Jamal Rossi said he would deal with this.

Carpenter Alley: Mark Wilson has created an "Alley Team", which, while quite informal, slowly continues along in open-minded, info gathering stage. He will schedule routine working sessions again. Please contact Mark if you can volunteer to participate. There have been some changes so far and potential changes that might arise. This area is critical to GPA's strategic planning for our neighborhood.

Membership Update – We still do not have a Chair for the Membership Committee. Increasing our membership is critical. If you have any friends/colleagues/family members who are interested in joining the GPA, let them know that the Membership Application is on our website and that membership dues checks should be mailed to Rick McGrath, Treasurer, at his office address at 20 Grove St.

540 E. Main Street building: Developer Chris West has or intends to purchased the former Downstairs Cabaret property. We know that he is holding or sponsoring live music both inside the building and on the roof top, usually on Tuesdays. This should be monitored and discussed with Chris so that these activities do not violate the City noise ordinances. If he's sponsoring live music, he should have to obtain a permit. Mark will contact Chris and discuss this issue with him. (Chris had told us earlier this year of his plans, but we had expected he would update us before proceeding.)

Trees in Grove Place/Selden/ Windsor Sts - There are several areas where trees are missing. Is there a procedure to add those areas to the City's replacement list?

Directory of Members – Pam DiPaola will prepare a membership list. We have around 60 members currently (down from over 80). The Physical Hood list of 139 people to which Notices of Meetings are emailed should stay intact, because it's a list of everyone in the neighborhood, whether they are members or not, and we want all neighbors to be well informed of GPA advocacy efforts.

Inner Loop North - no new information and no meetings scheduled to date.

BID legislation - No update. Dex Frank mentioned there is a Facebook Page "No BID" that he said include objections that are not part of the BID proposal, and that people who are objecting to the BID actually don't live in the proposed areas.

Social Event – Bob and Pam will host a social at 65 Windsor St. after our next General Meeting on Sunday October 29th. Rick McGrath proposed GPA could provide wine, beer, and members could bring hors d'oeuvres.

Other Business

There's garbage accumulating in front of Dream Town Deli, and the owners aren't cleaning it up. We can contact the SW Neighborhood Services Center for action.

Main Street sidewalk repairs - Richard Rosen walked to the Eastman Theater recently and observed that his request for the City to re-level the hazardous brick strip inserts in the sidewalk at the parking garage and theater was promptly corrected. Those using wheelchairs or canes should appreciate that.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Rick McGrath, seconded by Sally Millick.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary

Please review the attached letter from Thomas J. Frys, P.E. Director of Transportation.