

Minutes of the GPA General Membership Meeting

March 24, 2024 at 4:00pm

at the Charlotte Square Community Room and on Zoom

AGENDA

- Treasurer's Report. Balance on hand is now \$11,276.40. The insurance policy renewal is due in April.
- Beautification Committee. Pam DiPaola reported. Additions to committee: Dennis, Rory and James have joined for specific projects. Clean Sweep is May 4th. GPA's sweep is separate from the City's. GPA will provide coffee and donuts. Pam will give up chair of this Committee after the Annual Meeting. We need a new Chair. Pam will still organize Clean Sweep and flower planting in the 10 planters owned by GPA in mid-May.

Dennis will monitor Block F, which is owned by UR. Some of the perimeter sidewalks are asphalt, some concrete. The City has responsibility for maintenance of sidewalks. Property owners are responsible for buffer planting/guardrails.

James and Mark are monitoring trees. Mark did a map of GPA areas included in the City Forestry Service inventory. There's an Urban Forest Master Plan that is 12 years old and will be updated this year. Goal is to plant 6,000 new trees by 2025. The inventory also accounts for where trees are cut down and need to be replanted. The City found 14 missing trees. Mark found 16+ more. A target of 100 new trees was suggested. James will seek out who is responsible for the forestry plan to coordinate getting trees in the GPA area.

The SWNSC had a zoom meeting. Pam and Barb attended to hear from Jeremy Cooney. Nothing at SW really impacts our area. A police officer is assigned to our area. Community safety issues: there's talk about freezing the tax rate for people over 65. If that passes where is the other money coming from? ROC Your Job Initiative helps teens find summer jobs. 170 teens participated last summer. It should be repeated this summer. 48% of City youth live in poverty. See the SWNSC website at <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/swnsc/>

- City Registration and Required Classes for Community Garden: Suzanne Mayer reported. Suzanne went to a class to ensure we get the garden area we want. Rory also volunteered to work on the garden concept. The vacant lot on University Ave. near Scio St. is our target. It's next to the flat parcel owned by the Veteran's Outreach Center. The assignments will be announced in June. The City will post signs at community gardens showing restricted hours.
- Roz Goldman reported. The Banners – we have a grant from the State. Each neighborhood has been allotted 5 banners to be installed on black metal poles purchased by the City. The banners must be uniform throughout all neighborhoods. The City logo must be on each. The City/County/State Cost is \$2,000 per banner. Grove Place has a logo, but it may be too late to add it to our banners.

- Code Compliance: Suzanne reported about a Second Walk Around with Charles Reeves on March 26th at 4pm. We will meet at Ugly Duck. Richard Rosen reported about his complaint to City re: 110 Scio St. parking lot at the corner of E. Main St. (the one with the Barber Shop sign). The building is out of code compliance. Discussion ensued re: other areas where garbage accumulates and perimeters are not maintained. You can call 311 to ask the City to put trash cans on streets where you can document excessive trash.
- Update re: West Construction - status of building of the former Downstairs Cabaret. At the parcel east of 540 E. Main St. behind Peppa Pot, fencing has been installed. There are broken windows. The dumpster at the former Downtown Cabaret on Windsor St. takes over 4 parking slots and blocks up half of the street. Suzanne will ask Chris Kowalski if he can move it to the Carpenter Alley side.
- The BID proposal has failed due to lots of opposition from various artists groups and small businesses. See letter at <https://partnershipfordowntown.org/press/a-message-from-the-partnership-for-downtown-rochester>
- Richard reported about his personal letter to David Reilly, Project Manager for the ILN Transformation Project and David's reply. Concerns were raised about traffic volume and traffic control under each of the six proposed plans. Only Concept 6 removes the road. The others will have a two lane road at the level of the neighborhood streets. David's letter gave assurance that traffic impact would be examined for all streets and will describe the methodology of collecting and analyzing traffic data. The ILN website <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/innerloopnorth/> has updated information.
- Grove Place marketing update. Tricia Bhattacharya reported. An update email was distributed to members prior to this meeting. We have the www.groveplace.org website and a Facebook page that hasn't been updated in ages. Tricia opened an Instagram account to showcase our neighborhood and counter-act perceptions of downtown as an unsafe and scary place. Tricia needs access to our Facebook account. She wants to update it with visual content – photos, videos --- to promote nearby community resources (e.g., festivals, movies, music venues, ESM, RPO etc.). Our brochure is very out of date and needs updating. The hope is that marketing will attract people who use social media and follow pages. Neighborhood businesses need customers, so our efforts must tie into them. Our website has a Resources page but it's password protected. It needs improvement and easy access for members.
- Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will have the slate of officers for the next term ready to distribute to members on April 13th. The membership will have until the April 28th Annual Meeting to review and prepare to vote on it. *All members who have paid their dues may vote on the slate.*

Motion to adjourn made by Richard. Seconded by Mark.

Adjourned at 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Loeb, Secretary