

GPA Meeting Minutes

Meeting #: G05

Date: 3/16/25

Time: 4 pm

Type of Meeting: General Scheduled

Participants: (see attached)

Speaker & Discussion: A planned presentation by Sally Millick was unable to be delivered due to technical problems.

Approval of Minutes: Kathy Frame moved to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2025, General Meeting and Scott Frame seconded. Acceptance was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Balance is eleven thousand five hundred sixty-one dollars, fourteen cents (\$11, 561.14).

Committee Reports:

Beautification: No report

Historical: Sally Millick reported that she has three presentations that she can provide the membership as well as tours in the summer.

Membership: Roz Goldman reported that GPA will be applying for a grant to refurbish the neighborhood benches with neighbors providing the labor and also included will be the request to buy an additional bench to replace one that was stolen several years ago. Roz is working with Liz Chafik on seeking the grant in the next round of awards. Scott Frame commented that the material cost is likely in a range that GPA can afford and rather than wait for a grant perhaps we would want to just go ahead this spring and refurbish the benches. This engendered a discussion of the materials with the general feeling being that use of a tropical hardwood would be the preferred material. Bob DiPaola has an estimate of the cost. This will be brought up at our April general meeting for a discussion and decision on future action.

Public Safety & Code Compliance: No report

Old Business:

(G01-02)Steve Smith gave an update on code violations related to the barber shop that is operating at 57 University Avenue. According to the zoning regulation, having a barber shop at that location is a violation. It is not allowed. The barber shop has created some issues with traffic safety and parking. They have been given a violation Steve Smith and Bob DiPaola have been following up. No fines have been posted. Zoning has informed Steve Smith that zoning has decided to work with the owner to make the barber shop an approved use. This requires a variance of the code. The Zoning committee has not reached out to the neighborhood for input on changing the zoning code. When a variance hearing is scheduled the GPA membership will be informed. Ed Saphar asked if we were informed by zoning of what the other businesses are that operate out of that building. Suzanne Mayer volunteered to help with communicating with zoning should a variance hearing be scheduled.

(G03-01) Jack Eisenberg reported that his intent was not a formal investigation but rather his intent was to contact a colleague of his to informally inquire about the legality of a non-profit reimbursing members. He has not done so. Sandy Mayer does not feel we should reimburse; still need attorney's approval. If seek attorney's opinion it will cost \$ which will reduce the amount remaining. This item is "In Process" and will be discussed at our next meeting.

(G02-02) Sandy Mayer reported on the ROC Vision Zero. The committee has had two meetings thus far. The group is breaking up into subcommittees; Sandy is on the Enforcement subcommittee. There are ten priority actions: setting up the task force; traffic safety champions; safe speed city initiative; pedestrian priority zones, safe crossing city initiative, bicycle network, winter safety (when there is ice and snow), automated traffic enforcement, Lake Ave. enhanced high injury network focus, and ROC Vision Zero report. Regarding the Lake Avenue piece, there are more accidents on Lake Ave. than anywhere in the community. There are more hit and run drivers, more pedestrian deaths, more high-speed collisions. The plan includes having buses go straight through on an island. The task Force will meet again in April. Brenda Porter commented that Lake Ave. has been a problem for years and the solutions that have been proposed and then executed have not improved the situation. Sandy Mayer responded that the current plan is one that was done in Zurich Switzerland that has been very successful. James Tabbi pointed out that an important consideration is that Lake Ave. is not owned by the city, but is owned by New York State, which complicates attempts to relieve the problems. Brenda pointed out that although the street is owned by the State the city is responsible for its maintenance. This item remains "In Process". Sandy will update us at future general meetings.

(G03-03) Proposed bylaw revisions: The suggested revisions that were emailed to members in February are attached. James Tabbi introduced the revisions proposed by the Executive Committee, which are written in green on the attached document.

1. Under Article I, Name: It was proposed to strike this statement about the website: "The Association's website is: <https://www.groveplace.org>." The general consensus of the group was to strike the item. This was struck.
2. Under Article II, Purpose: under #a, "supporting the principles, regulations, and requirements of the Rochester Preservation Board, as it maintains the quality of life and the built environment", The majority of members felt this statement was unnecessary. A Motion from James Tabbi was proposed to strike the A subset. Passed by majority vote.
3. Under Article IV, Membership: A lengthy discussion ensued about the topic of membership which is Article IV in the Bylaws.
 - a) Under Article IV #1, the wording that was agreed on is: "A voting member shall be an individual residing, operating a business, or owning property within the above-stated boundaries who has paid current, annual dues to the Association. Having met the above criteria, they shall be eligible to vote on all motions and resolutions put before this membership, vote in elections, and hold office."
 - b) Under Article IV, #2, the wording that was agreed upon is what had been in the bylaws previously: "Non-voting members are all persons residing, operating a business, or owning property within the above stated boundaries."

They are welcome to attend all the Association's general membership meetings and social events." Therefore, this bylaw did not change.

- c) Under Article IV, #3, Non-Profit organizations: The proposed wording was accepted. It reads: "NFP Members: Non-profit organizations whose official address is within the boundaries of the Association are eligible for NFP membership by paying the non-profit organization annual dues and selecting a representative to the Association. The representative shall have all the privileges of voting members."
 - d) Under Article IV, #4, the proposed statement, "Membership dues are due at the annual membership meeting. Voting privileges commence upon receipt of dues. The membership year is May 1-April 30" was felt to be redundant and therefore should be eliminated.
4. Under Article VIII, Meetings: #2, a proposed change that reads as thus: Individuals who do not reside, operate a business, or own property within the Association's boundaries (as defined in Article III) are not allowed to attend general meetings without the prior approval of the Executive Committee. A formal decision was not made whether to keep this provision or to revise it. Therefore, it needs to come under future consideration. The bylaw revisions are "In Process" and will be discussed at a future general meeting.
- During the discussions about the bylaws, Rick McGrath suggested that Kathy Frame and Bob Keck work on wordsmithing the proposed revisions and once complete, send that to Executive Committee for discussion. Then the Committee will see to it that the general membership peruses and discusses that document. This becomes #05-01 under Action Items and is "Open".
 - Bob Keck stated that he feels that the annual filing of official state documents must be completed and that this item should be added to the bylaws under the Treasurer's responsibilities. This is necessary to maintain our tax-exempt status. Rick McGrath pointed out that it is a responsibility of the President and should be considered a dual responsibility. This becomes #05-02 under Action Items and is "Open".
 - (G03-02) Possible relocation of benches: Not discussed, status unchanged
 - (G03-04) Set up GPAC Task Force: Not discussed, status unchanged
 - (G03-06) Candidate's Night: Not discussed, status unchanged

New Business:

Rochester Police Department Chief of Police David Smith and Commander Michael Desain met with the GPA Executive Committee on Monday, February 3rd. A summary of the information gained at this meeting is attached.

Open Discussion:

- During discussion of the revisions to the bylaws, Richard Rosen proposed a new level of membership: an Associate membership, which would have a reduced membership fee (\$5-\$10). The suggestion was discussed but members were generally not in support.
- Related to the issue of the neighborhood benches which are detailed above under the Membership report, there was significant amount of discussion about GPA paying for the work to be done. Bob Keck stated that our treasury has a significant balance, and not-for-profits are not supposed to carry large balances forward. This could lead to the need to file tax documents. He feels we should be spending down that balance. Refurbishing the benches would be a good Association project with GPA paying for the materials outright.
- A question was raised regarding the due date for GPA dues. This is covered by the bylaws in that dues are due at the Annual Meeting in April, and it is implied that dues need to be paid by September. If dues are not paid by September, the person is a non-voting member of the Association.

Action Items/Decisions: Action Items/Decisions:

<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
G01-02 Follow-up on code violations	SSmith	ongoing	In Process
G02-02 ROC Vision Zero Update	SMayer	2/16/25	In Process
G02-03 Neighborhood bench refurbishment	BDiPaola	Spring	Open
G02-05 Welcome Gift Baskets	RGoldman	-----	Open
G03-01 Not-for-profit attorney RE: reimbursing	JEisenberg	-----	Open
G03-02 Possible relocation of benches	Exec. Cmte.	Spring	Open
G03-03 Proposed bylaws revisions to member	Exec. Cmte.	2/10/25	Open
G03-04 Set up GPAC Task Force	Exec. Cmte.	2/16/25	Open
G03-06 Work on Candidates' Night	Exec. Cmte	2/16/25	Open
G05-01 Wording on Bylaw Revisions	KFrame & BKeck		Open
G05-02 Adding tax filing to bylaws	BKeck		Open

Adjournment: 5:35 pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 27th, 4 pm, Room 209 Eastman School of Music. Speaker will be Nick Coulter, founder and EVP of Person-Centered Housing. The topic is homelessness.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam DiPaola
Secretary

Attachment: Proposed Bylaw Amendments
Summary of Meeting with RPD Chief & Commander
Participant Sign-In Sheet

Attachment

SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH POLICE CHIEF SMITH & COMMANDER DESAIN:

Background: The Executive Committee originally invited Commander Michael Desain to speak to the membership about Community Policing efforts being implemented in Rochester. He is not able to attend meetings on Sunday, so we offered him an Exec. Cmte. mtg forum that we felt could then be conveyed to the membership. We also invited Chief David Smith to attend the mtg. on Feb.3rd. We expressed that in the past, Grove Place neighbors have enjoyed positive relationships with the police dept. Recently, car thefts, car break-ins, thefts of packages and inconsistent responses to our 911 calls by police have caused us concern.

- Chief Smith explained that he is authorized to have 721 officers; currently they are short 107, spread over all divisions
- The elimination of the Center City Patrol was made for 'efficiency reasons'
- Response times for Class A 911 calls (n process calls) have remained steady at 5-7 minutes (from dispatch to arrival at scene); our 911 Center is overburdened
- There's also been a dramatic decrease in overtime, which has helped budgetarily and which in turn has reduced burn out of officers.
- Overall, nationally, crime has decreased, but in Rochester, the decrease has been quicker and lower than in other cities in NYS.

- Efficient reassignment of staff is often encumbered by labor agreements
- There is discussion with the Police Union about going to 10-hour days per shift. The Department is set up to do a 10-hour day trial in January 2026. This arrangement would give patrol officers more weekends off
- The police coverage for Planned Parenthood on Thursday and Saturday mornings involves two cars. This is an overtime detail, paid for by police department budget. The fact that it is an overtime detail means that they are not taking two police officers out of patrol to cover Planned Parenthood.
- There are a few locations that pay the police department for police services such as Wegman's East Avenue, the Walmart on Hudson Avenue, the Transit Center and the various festivals, with the agreement that those overtime officers will handle any calls that come in at those locations which avoids double staffing those areas
- The Chief feels that customer service is something the dept. has lacked in the past and it is one of his priorities.
- Community policing has been a priority. There are goals for Community Engagement and Public Service, which Commander Desain is in charge of. In April 2024 the directive went out to all sections that every police officer in every beat car had to walk once every shift. There has been 90% compliance. People and small businesses in the community have noticed and commented positively
- The majority of our officers are young. The majority of the patrol force has 10 years or less on the job. The lieutenants and captains have on average, 12-15 years on the force
- In Spring, Chief Smith is looking to get the bicycle patrol out
- Regarding the horse patrol, there are currently only three officers on that patrol. There is no support staff, including a veterinarian or a groomer to care for the horses nor anyone to maintain the stalls, so it falls to the patrol officers to do the maintenance. They primarily cover events
- ROC Vision Zero, which is attempting to reduce the number of fatalities on our streets, is gaining momentum. There's a lot of traffic issues which result in pedestrian crashes in such large numbers. The Chief stated that in 2019, the department averaged 18,000 traffic citations/year. We now average about 6,000 now
- There is low emphasis on traffic infractions; the traffic section has major workload issues. There is a dichotomy---we're enhancing our streets to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly but NYS in general is backing off on traffic enforcement.
- In March, Monroe County is going to start CAP (Centralized Arraignment Part) Court, which is essentially a night court. This has been done successfully in other parts of NYS. In the past in the county or towns, if you make an arrest and it's a misdemeanor you either wake up a judge or hold the person in the Town Hall until the judge comes in in the morning and can hold the arraignment. CAP will be at the Hall of Justice and is a night court. Designed for towns, the benefit is available to Rochester City police. So now if

there's an arrest and the person really need to be held downtown, they get taken to Central Booking, fingerprinted and arraigned. There will be two sessions of the court, 7 am and 7 pm.

- The juvenile program through Monroe County (Juvenile Enhanced Diversion Stabilization-JEDS) has been very successful. There is a 3% recidivism rate. Probation has to get involved whenever a juvenile has law enforcement contact. In the past, police would issue an appearance ticket, establish probationary contact, and probation would later on do a screening. Now, the juvenile is taken to Rush, the police call probation immediately, probation screens the juvenile, learns the child's history and obstacles and determines if the juvenile is eligible for JEDS. Interviews are held with the parents as well. Needed services are determined and the juvenile and family are supported and provided needed services through the Probation Department. The age range that's been served is 12-18. The good majority of stolen vehicles in our community are juvenile crimes, average ages 15-18. The program in Rochester has worked so well it's being adopted statewide.
- The ATV details that are being used by the police department involve air support (helicopters). Thirty (30) officers follow the ATV's while they are unaware of being followed. The police do not chase them. When the ATV's pull up to their location, the police swarm in and take the four wheelers. Often, the drivers can't afford to get them back and in fact, most of them are stolen. Many of these people don't know that it's illegal to drive a 4-wheeler on the road. This strategy quieted Scio St. down this summer.
- Chief Smith commented that customer service is something we have lacked in the past and it is one of his priorities. He also responded to a comment that police officers haven't responded to our 911 calls with the comment that we should call 911 back and ask to speak to a supervisor. The supervisor must call back within 30 minutes. If we are not satisfied with that then we should call the Chief's office (585-428-7033), and it will get handled the next day.

GPA Meeting Mar. 16

☒ Bhattacharya, Tricia (v)

☐ Briggs, Farran

☐ Buckpitt, Charles

☐ Carretta, Christopher

☐ Carroll, JoAnn

☐ Chafik, Jake

☐ Chafik, Liz

☒ Conquest, Deborah (v)

☐ Cooney, Diane

☐ Cooney, Jeremy

☐ DiPaola, Bob

☐ DiPaola, Pam

☐ Doolittle, Nicki

☐ Doolittle, Tex

☒ Eisenberg, Jack

☐ Eisenberg, Sue

☐ Fink, Janet

☐ Fink, Tom

☒ Frame, Kathy

☒ Frame, Scott

☒ Frank, Dex

☒ Goldman, John

☒ Goldman, Roz

☐ Guo, Chunlei

☒ Keck, Bob

☐ Kellogg, Carol

☐ Kolbe, Elizabeth

☐ Kolbe, Jim

☐ Kuo, Dennis

☐ Kuo, Kat

☐ Loeb, Judy

☐ Marvin, Bill

☐ Massie, Kate

☐ Massie, Rick

☒ Mayer, Sanford

☒ Mayer, Suzanne

☒ McGrath, Rick

☐ McLaughlin, Brian

☒ Millick, Sally

☐ Naurocki, Gloria

☐ Orbach, Jill

☐ Papaj, Rick

☐ Paris, John

☒ Petersen, Mark

☐ Pond, Chris

☐ Pond, Kim

☒ Porter, Brenda

☒ Reilly, Linda (v)

☐ Rosen, Margery

☒ Rosen, Richard (v)

☒ Saphar, Ed (v)

☐ Saphar, Gabriel

☐ Shapiro, Sandy (+aide)

☒ Smith, Julie (v)

☒ Smith, Stephen (v)

☐ Staropoli, Rick

☐ Staropoli, Tiffany

☐ Sudak, Joyce

☒ Tabbi, James

☐ VanGrol, Rory

☐ Wager, Barbara

☐ Weyerts, Gloria Marie

☒ Wilson, Mark

☐ Woodring, Suzanne

☐ Wright, Dennis

☐ Wright, Sandy