

# GPA Meeting Minutes

Meeting #: G09

Date: 11/16/25

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Room 209, Eastman School of Music

**Type of Meeting:** General Scheduled

**Participants:** (see attached)

**Speaker & Discussion:** Kate Sheeran, Dean, Eastman School of Music

Dean Sheeran, who is herself a French horn player, graduated from the Eastman School in 2002 and spent her career working in music and leadership. She was appointed Dean in July 2024. Dean Sheeran noted that ESM is consistently ranked in the top 20 music schools worldwide and is third highest in North America by QS world rankings. She highlighted Eastman's status as one of the world's great music schools, attracting students from 46 states and 35 countries, and employing 110 faculty who are among the best performers, teachers, and scholars. She emphasized the broad impact of Eastman's alumni across top orchestras, opera companies, K-12 education, and various media.

Dean Sheeran noted the growing connections between Eastman and the wider University of Rochester, with approximately 40% of undergraduate students taking classes at the River Campus, and 20% pursuing dual degrees. She mentioned collaborations such as Soundspace, a partnership with the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences designed as an institute that extends the technical and artistic abilities of music and sound. This team is focused on developing a world class hub for research, education, performance and public engagement that combines music and technology. Dean Sheeran also highlighted new developments at the Miller Center, where the fifth floor is being converted into the innovation hub for music technology and recording.

Dean Sheeran announced the new joint appointment of a professor of music and medicine with the School of Medicine's Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience. This role, filled by David Greenberg, will research how music improves people's lives and focuses on using music to combat cognitive decline.

The Eastman hosts about 1,200 performances annually during the academic year, with 800 to 900 of these being free and open to the public. Dean Sheeran proudly announced that 17 named Grammy nominations this year included Eastman alumni or faculty.

Eastman is ranked third in North America, behind Juilliard and Curtis. Regarding international student enrollment, Dean Sheeran reported that while they watch the situation daily, they have not experienced a large impact from visa issues, attributing a small decrease in student enrollment partly due to market changes affecting students like those from Canada.

A member raised questions about the undeveloped Block F parking lot and the relationship between the GPA neighborhood and the University of Rochester (UR). She responded that there are currently no active plans for Block F development.

Grove Place Association members commended the Eastman Presents series that brings world-class artists to Rochester. The Eastman Community Music School (ECMS), serves about 1,700 students, including approximately 40% adults. Dean Sheeran also noted that the Sibley Music Library, which is open to the community, is the largest academic music library in the country and second worldwide only to Oxford.

In response to a question about low concert attendance, Dean Sheeran admitted that post-COVID audience behavior is unpredictable, with people waiting until the last minute to purchase tickets. She speculated that the physical structure of Eastman's buildings might not feel welcoming to all, suggesting a need to bring music out more into the community.

Concerning neighbor's concerns for student wellness and safety, Dean Sheeran noted that the new head of public safety for the university is Chief QE Collins and suggested that residents can quietly contact public safety at the student living center for immediate concerns about any students or to request wellness checks.

**Approval of Minutes:** Suzanne Mayer moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2025, General Meeting; Scott Frame seconded. Acceptance was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report

### **Committee Reports:**

**Beautification:** No report

**Membership:** They are working on redoing the membership form to reflect the recent bylaw discussion.

**Public Safety & Code Compliance:** PCIC meeting is December 17.

### **Action Items/Decisions:**

- (G01-02) Follow up on code violations. The code violations follow-up for 57 University Avenue is moot since we have won the case with the zoning department and now the tenants have moved out and the building is for sale. This item is Closed.
- (G02-02) Sandy Mayer provided an update on ROC Vision Zero, noting that Rochester has one of the highest vehicular accident rates involving pedestrians in New York State. He cited lack of enforcement and dangerous driving behaviors as key issues, mentioning attending a regional transportation safety summit. A major effort is to reduce the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, supported by studies that showed that this reduced fatalities and crashes even without police enforcement. Sandy discussed enforcement mechanisms, including the recent implementation of arm cameras on all Rochester school buses, which will issue fines for passing a stopped bus with flashing lights. Sandy also mentioned the use of red light and speed enforcement cameras, noting that while the technology exists and has been successful in Albany, our city has been slow to adopt such measures. Concerns were raised that simply reducing the speed limit without enforcement may be ineffective. This item continues In Process.
- (G02-03) The refurbishment of the neighborhood benches is on hold until spring, as the remaining two have been put in storage for the winter. This continues but is on Hold.
- (G03-03) The bylaws are due to be amended soon to reflect the voting from the previous month. This item is Closed.

### **New Business:**

- Linda Reilly presented on the "Save the Green Space" committee concerning the lot bounded by Pitkin Street, Charlotte Street, and Union Street South that was temporarily converted into a modest park after an abandoned construction project. The city is currently looking for a developer and received two proposals in response to an RFP. The Save the Green Space committee plans to speak at the City Council meeting in January and is seeking to involve residents of nearby affordable housing buildings, stressing the social and mental health benefits of the park. This becomes item #G09-01 on the Action Items Log and is Open.

**A motion that the Grove Place Association support the preservation of the green space bounded by Pitkin Street, Charlotte Street, and Union Street South was proposed by Tom Fink and seconded by Scott Frame. The motion passed by majority vote of voting members.**

- Suzanne Mayer informed the meeting that Hinge Neighbors submitted a proposal for the green space, which includes building 11 townhomes with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), offered for sale at 30% Area Median Income (AMI), as an alternative to another tall building. The City has received two development proposals. Richard Rosen as filed a FOIL request for information on the site plans and proposed uses, with a reply expected by December 1st.
- Richard Rosen presented a case for placing the building at 51-57 Charlotte Street, the former Rochester Sprinkler Company, on the city's directory of Buildings of Historic Value, similar to its identical neighbor. This listing would impose a 60-day hold on demolition or exterior alteration permits, should the owner file for this. Concerns were raised about imposing new costs and restrictions on the owner, prompting a suggestion to table the motion and invite the Landmark Society to speak to the association for clarification on the ramifications. Richard Rosen proposed a motion as follows: **The Grove Place Association supports the request to the city of Rochester to list 51-57 Charlotte Street on the City's Directory of Buildings of Historic Value. Ed Saphar seconded the motion.** Discussion ensued about the short-term impact of a 60-day hold on alteration or demolition permits, which would allow the city to negotiate with the new owner and consider permanent historic preservation status. A point of order confirmed the motion must be voted upon. **The motion passed with 13 affirmative votes to two opposed votes of voting members.** This becomes item #G09-02 on the Action Items List and is Open.
- An announcement was made that 120 East Avenue, the former Rochester Club, has been acquired by a Syracuse developer who is planning to build 32 affordable condominiums.
- The GPA Holiday Party is scheduled for December 14th. Since the invitation was sent to members only, this prompted a discussion about updating the membership form to allow non-voting members to provide contact information such that the invitation can be emailed to them as well.

**Open Comments:**

Suzanne Mayer announced that the city is undergoing a project on alleyways that are currently located within both residential neighborhoods and commercial/mixed-use districts. There are many alleyways in Marketview Heights and Grove Place Association boundaries. While serving important functions, alleys can become neglected and underutilized. This project will re-envision how alleyways function and study cost-effective, practical strategies to potentially reduce vehicle cut-through traffic and other undesirable activities, while improving the user experience and connections for pedestrians and cyclists. The project's scope of work includes:

- 1.) Developing an inventory of alleyways and documenting how they function today;
- 2.) Developing typologies for different types of alleys;
- 3.) Gathering input from residents and stakeholders on issues and potential solutions; and
- 4.) Developing a plan that recommends strategies to activate, beautify, and otherwise improve alleys while retaining their necessary functions (e.g., property access, deliveries, municipal services such as trash pickup, etc.).

**Action Items/Decisions:**

<u>What?</u>	<u>Who?</u>	<u>Deadline?</u>	<u>Status?</u>
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G02-02 ROC Vision Zero Update	SMayer	ongoing	In Process
G02-03 Neighborhood bench refurbishment	BDiPaola	Sept/Oct	Hold
G07-01 Initiatives for Exec Cmte	Members	Open	
G09-01 Update on Save the Green Space Committee	LReilly	ongoing	Open
G09-02 Update on Bldgs. of Historic Value	RRosen	1/18/26	Open

**Adjournment:** 5:56 pm

**Next Meeting:** January 18, 2026, 4:00 pm, Rm. 209, Eastman School of Music

Respectfully Submitted:  
Pam DiPaola  
Secretary

Attachments: Participant Sign-In Sheet

Grove Place Assoc.

Meeting Sign-In:

- Barnatones, Brian
- Bhattacharya, Tricia
- Buckpitt, Charles
- Carretta, Chris
- Carroll, Joanna
- Chafik, Jake
- Chafik, Liz
- Conquest, Deborah
- Cooney, Diane
- Cooney, Jeremy
- Coppard, Bill
- Demina, Regina
- DiPaola, Bob
- DiPaola, Pam
- Doolittle, Nicki
- Doolittle, Tex
- Eisenberg, Jack
- Eisenberg, Sue
- Fink, Janet
- Fink, Tom
- Frame, Kathy
- Frame, Scott
- Frank, Dexter
- Goldman, John
- Goldman, Roz

ESM Room 209

- Hamm, Robin
- Kelly, Jessica
- Kelly, Ryan
- Kirvan, Liana
- Kirvan, Lars
- Kolbe, Elizabeth
- Kolbe, Jim
- Korjenevski, Sergey
- Kuo, Dennis
- Kuo, Kat
- Lewis, Linda
- Linehan, David
- Linehan, Janice
- Marvin, Bill
- Matthews, Anthony
- Mayer, Sanford
- Mayer, Suzanne
- McGrath, Rick
- Millick, Sally
- Orbach, Jill
- Papaj, Rick
- Paris, John
- Pond, Chris
- Pond, Kim
- Porter, Brenda

- Reilly, Linda
- Rosen, Margery
- Rosen, Richard
- Saphar, Ed
- Saphar, Gabriel
- Shapiro, Sandy (+aide)
- Smith, Julie
- Smith, Stephen
- Staropoli, Rick
- Staropoli, Tiffany
- Sudak, Joyce
- Tabbi, James
- Tabbi, Joseph
- Wager, Barbara
- Weyerts, Gloria Marie
- Wilson, Mark
- Woodring, Suzanne
- Wright, Dennis
- Wright, Sandy

**Additional Guests:**

John Edsiano guest of Linda Reilly  
 Stephanie Fischer  
 Jim Fischer  
 ROBERT KECK  
 BILL COPPARD  
 LINDA HARRIS  
 Steve Roll