

3/19/15 Stockade Association (SA) General Meeting Minutes

Board Members

Stephen Boese, Vice President
Connie Colangelo, Director
Mary D'Alessandro-Gilmore, President
Diane DeMeo, Director
Beverly Elander, Director
Joe Fava, Director
Susannah Hand, Director
Karen Mallia, Treasurer
Colleen Macaulay, Director
Peter Pasternak, Director
Robert Stern, Secretary

Guest Speakers-

Eric Shilling, Director of Schenectady City Code Enforcement, made a presentation concerning sidewalks in the Stockade. He reported that he had a recent discussion with Congressman Tonko's office. They are willing to help the City find funds to improve the sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. He invited the the Association to offer input on a plan.

City Council Member Leesa Perazzo made a presentation concerning a program she leads to cover graffiti throughout the city. A team of youths are available to paint over graffiti on private homes and private property. She urged residents to contact her via the city website to report graffiti, or text her at 334-1346.

John Samatulski of Urban Initiatives made an exciting presentation regarding a plan to rehabilitate three houses on Ingersoll Avenue that have remained vacant for several years. He noted examples of dilapidated structures in Schenectady that his organization has revitalized, and stressed the importance of assuring that these homes are preserved. He stressed that he is "not looking to flip" the buildings, and that he is committed to a long term strategy for the benefit of the neighborhood.

A motion was unanimously approved that the Secretary draft a letter to the appropriate city officials in support of this Ingersoll redevelopment project.

Meeting called to order at 8: pm

1. Minutes accepted.
2. Spy Report- Sylvie Briber presented an update on the publication of the Spy. Due to current fiscal restraints, the Spy issues are currently limited to eight pages. This limits the amount of content space available.
3. Walkabout - Sylvie also presented on the planning for the Walkabout. She is pleased to report that eight committees have been formed to address various parts of the planning process. The goal is to raise \$10,000. Four homes have already been recruited. All should "like" the Walkabout Facebook page to show support, and to stay up to date on the planning.
4. President's report - The President discussed the final report from NY Rising. She noted that the proposed plan to study flood mitigation plans for the Stockade was not part of the report's recommendations. Mary urges all to contact their representatives in city government to urge that they support this funding moving forward. The membership agreed to send a letter from the Association to the appropriate people at city hall in support of this initiative.
5. Nominating Committee - A 3 person slate was presented by the Board for election to the nominating committee, including Susannah Sherwood, Jean Zegger and Colleen Macauley. There were other nominations from the floor: Lily Alvarez nominated herself, Rich Unger nominated Lyn Gordon. A motion was made by Stephen Boese to accept the slate. There was discussion about the Bylaws rules on the makeup of the Nominating Committee, whether to accept nominations from the floor and how to vote on the slate and nominees from the floor. The motion to accept the slate was withdrawn. Motion to close the nominations was made by Greg Sauer, seconded and approved. A vote was taken and Susannah Sherwood, Jean Zegger and Lyn Gordon were elected to the Nominating Committee.
6. Finance Committee report - Carol DeLaMater co-chair reported. Copies of a revised annual budget and the finance report (see attached) were distributed by email and at the meeting. The Committee and Board's goal is to only use the existing checking account balance for basic operating costs of the Association for the remainder of the fiscal year. It appears there is a sufficient balance to cover those costs. Additional transfers from savings would need to be approved by membership.

Carol discussed the need for additional revenue, such as raising the membership fee. The basic operating costs of the Association are currently not covered by the fee revenue. Other fundraising options were discussed and the membership was urged to help. Reducing spending was also discussed, including the Spy. Changing the fiscal year was another Committee proposal since the budget needs to be approved soon after the initial general meeting and before

September revenue is fully known. October 1st and January 1st were discussed as potential alternatives.

7. Treasurer's report - Balance of \$27,525
8. Traffic Committee - Richard Unger presented information about the master plan for Mohawk Harbor and discussions with City planning and engineering staff. The developer appears to have included Committee recommendations in their plans such as inhibiting right turns onto Front St. , slowing traffic from the circle onto Front St. and generally directing traffic from the site to Erie Blvd. The Committee will be meeting with the E. Front St. Association to discuss the plans and try to reach consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm