

MNA Town Hall Meeting

September 5, 2018

Meeting began shortly after 7pm. Sam Spoto (MNA President) was not present so Bill Collins (MNA Vice President) and Andreas Rau ran the meeting.

Head count: 19 people in attendance, not counting the RPD speakers

Notetaker: Amie Alscheff

Report from the Rochester Police Department, Lake Section

(Lt. Waldo, Officer Maldonado, and Captain Dearcop spoke representing RPD)

- In response to complaints from residents about traffic speed earlier in the summer, they set up a speed trailer in the area of Dewey Avenue and Knickerbocker Street. The results showed that, while a few extreme speeds were recorded, the average speed of cars passing through that area was 33 mph. These results don't justify taking any further action (such as a speed trap) at this time.
- Crimes: two serious crimes were reported during the month of August
 - On August 10, a 47 year-old woman was raped in Maplewood Park. She was walking on Driving Park Avenue about 2:30 am, returning home from a party, when she was snatched and dragged into bushes in the park. RPD is investigating.
 - On August 23, there was a shooting near the corner of Dewey Avenue and Magee. Officers found a victim with a single gunshot wound, and a suspect was later arrested.
- Re: concerns that have been raised about people riding four-wheelers/ATVs in Maplewood Park at night, the Lake Section will have an additional CPO working a night shift, starting soon. Officer Maldonado's shift will be from 7pm to 3 am, Tuesday through Saturday.
- Reminder about the "Coffee With a Cop" program: you can meet with Lake Section RPD officers on three dates this fall at the Tim Hortons at 1525 Lake Avenue. Tuesday, September 11. Tuesday, October 9th. Tuesday, November 13. Time of the event is 10:30-11:30 am on all three dates.
- The officers responded to the following questions from residents:
 - Bill Collins asked whether the resignation of Chief Ciminelli, announced a few days ago, will result in suspension of any existing programs. Captain Dearcop says no.
 - Captain Dearcop also made reference to the [police brutality incident](#) which took place in May on Fulton Avenue. Two Lake Section undercover officers are suspended without pay and face possible termination. Captain Dearcop stated that he has seen the body camera footage from this incident. He described the footage as "disturbing" and the incident in general as a low point that the Lake Section will need to rebound from.

- Kim Hare asked about the current status of the criminal case involving a store manager at Dewey Pawn & Gold who was [arrested in June](#) in relation to stolen property recovered from the store. The pawn shop is about to expand into the current Phat Boy building, which will increase the size of the store dramatically, and at the same time Maplewood has seen a rise in burglaries. Any connection there? Lt. Waldo and Captain Dearcop were not sure about the status of those criminal charges, but they stated that RPD monitors second hand stores much more closely now than they did even five years ago. They stated that they have noted a slight increase in burglaries during the summer months, but they attribute this to people leaving windows open in the hot weather.
- Molly Clifford and Kim Hare both raised concerns about an increase in loitering and open-air drug sales in the area of Dewey and Magee. Another resident also mentioned parking concerns, with cars parking on Magee so close to the intersection that it is difficult to turn onto the street. He says there are no signs there to prohibit it.
- Another resident asked whether police can confiscate four-wheelers/ATVs after pulling them over in a traffic stop. Captain Dearcop says yes, but only under certain circumstances. A lot depends on why there are being pulled over. People driving four-wheelers/ATVs on the street are required to follow the same laws as other motor vehicles in terms of registration, license, etc.

[Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center](#)

A representative spoke briefly from the back of the room and reminded the group about an upcoming outreach event during the month of September, which she referred to as their last outreach event for this year. Unfortunately, the notetaker was not able to catch all of what she said and the event doesn't appear on the City of Rochester's online events calendar. If interested, please contact the Service Center at (585) 428-7620 for more information.

[Report from Molly Clifford, NW City Council Representative](#) [Police Accountability](#)

City Council is considering a proposal to create a new, stronger Police Accountability Board to increase citizen oversight of RPD. This push is also related to the police brutality incident Captain Dearcop referred to. The current police review process isn't trusted by victims because it is not perceived as an independent entity. A draft proposal is currently circulating. Watch for opportunities for comment and feedback to be announced within the next month.

[Coffee meetings: new format for fall](#)

Molly plans to replace her usual 1st and 3rd Saturday coffee meetings with community walks during the upcoming fall months. More details tba soon.

[Concrete to Canvas](#)

New City project planned for Jones Square Park. (Note: According to a recent [City Newspaper article](#), this project will "create new play-oriented activities in the Jones Square Park

neighborhood, focusing on the cultural heritage of the area.” This will include “artistic work on pedestrian pathways as well as interactive sidewalk games.” According to City Newspaper, this project is one of three being created in the city, funded in part by Play Everywhere grants awarded by a national organization called KaBOOM! and the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. The Concrete to Canvas project will be managed by Pathstone.)

Skate Park

Also, design work is starting on the new [Skate Park](#) planned for downtown Rochester. This is the project that recently won funding from the Tony Hawk Foundation, and the location will be near the Frederick Douglass/Susan B. Anthony Bridge.

Mortimer Street Garage

City of Rochester is selling the Mortimer Street Garage to private owners. Molly says that the cost of upkeep and operating parking garages is huge, and in her opinion it’s a good thing to get the garages off the City’s books.

Lake Avenue surface improvements

Molly and Cindy Kaleh have lobbied for improvements to roadway conditions on Lake Avenue. In response to their efforts, NYS recently restriped some lanes and crosswalks between Driving Park and Lyell Avenue. Then the City of Rochester came along and repaved the roadway, obliterating the new striping. Unfortunate result of having multiple levels of government responsible for roads. Molly will urge the City to redo the striping as soon as possible.

Visitability Policy

An effort Molly has supported is the new Visitability Policy that the Center for Disability Rights advocated. Effective August 1, all new housing projects that receive funding from the City of Rochester will be required to meet accessibility requirements that will allow people with disabilities to visit them, such as no steps at the entrance and doorways wide enough to allow wheelchair access. This is a policy, not a law, and only effects new building projects that receive City funds. It will not affect projects currently underway; however, some of those developers report that NYS law already requires some of the same accessibility features.

Rochester Rhinos leaving the stadium

Molly says the City had other operators interested in the Marina Stadium before the current issues arose with the Dworkins (team owners). Not clear at this point whether any of them are currently interested.

Lake Avenue Tops closure

Bill Collins asked whether the plans for a new Lake Section RPD Office (currently slated for a new building at Lake Avenue and Ridge Road West) might be moved to fill the Tops location. Molly doesn’t think the Tops would be big enough to meet RPD’s needs, but will look into it.

Report from Monroe County Legislator Tony Micciche (26th District)

- Monroe County Airport installed an assistive technology to help deaf and hearing-impaired travelers.
- The airport construction project is schedule to wrap up by the end of the year.
- Monroe Community College budget passed (\$122 million).
- 911 Board plans to install a new director soon. He can't announce yet who the new director will be.
- Monroe County settled a [new labor contract](#) for Social Workers that will run through 2023.
- Seneca Park Zoo has a new [Savanna Animals exhibit](#).
- There's an [Honor Flight](#) event happening at the airport this weekend, which Tony encourages everyone to check it out.

Report from Andreas Rau, Mayor's Office Constituent Services

- Brothers and Sisters Hair Salon on Dewey Avenue held their [annual bookbag](#) giveaway last Sunday, September 3. They distributed 300 bookbags full of school supplies to local students. The City of Rochester contributed supplies, while the bookbags themselves were donated by the New Empire Motorcycle Club. Andy thanked Devon Reynolds, Sr. (owner of Brothers and Sisters) for organizing this event and donating free haircuts for the kids.
- The Mayor's Office is hosting an event on October 13 called "Inspiring Our Community: Today, Tomorrow, and Always." It's a full-day conference at the Riverside Convention Center that will connect attendees with service providers from the city, county, private sector, and other agencies. Registration details are available on the City of Rochester website: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/inspiringcommunity/>.
- River Romance Weekend is October 5-7. Enrica Fleming is organizing the Gorge tours for the MNA. If you are interested in being a Gorge Guide for this event, please get in touch with Enrica. (Note: If you don't know her, you can call the MNA Office at (585) 458-3460 and we will put you in touch with her.)

Open Mic

- The Historic Home Tour is coming up Saturday, September 15. Get your tickets now at the Peppermill, ReHouse, or Parkleigh. Or purchase them at the headquarters at Lake View Eyecare on the day of the tour.
- Enrica Fleming is organizing a "mini clean sweep" for September 13, on the streets that will be featured on the Home Tour. If you can help, meet at 5:30 pm at the corner of Lake Avenue and Seneca Parkway. Bags and gloves provided.
- Jim White wants everyone to know that this Friday, September 7 is Bob Stevenson's 90th birthday! Send him birthday greetings.

- Kim Hare mentioned a thing she heard about that is done in some cities, called a “Policy Pitch Night.” It’s an event where residents can pitch suggestions to city representatives, and then sit down with them to discuss their ideas in more detail. An alternative to other ways of getting community feedback, and maybe something Molly Clifford could suggest in Rochester.