

## MNA Town Hall Meeting

November 7, 2018

Head count: 20 people in attendance, not counting the RPD speakers

Notetaker: Amie Alscheff

Wayne Williams (MNA President) started the meeting at 7 pm.

### Report from the Rochester Police Department, Lake Section

(Officer Maldonado and Captain Dearcop representing RPD)

- Crime highlights for the month of October:
  - 574 Flower City Park: a woman was held at knife point during a burglary/domestic incident. A suspect was later arrested at 22 Clay Avenue.
  - On October 23, a young woman was robbed on the street near the intersection of Dewey and Clay. The victim had gotten off the bus and was walking towards a store when she was approached by three female black teenagers (approximately 16-18 years old). One was described as having a tattoo on her neck. They took a necklace from the victim and assaulted her.
  - There were seven burglaries and eight car break-ins reported. No serious patterns have been noticed.
- Upcoming events:
  - PCIC meeting, Tuesday, November 20th at 7 pm at Aquinas in Music Room
  - Coffee With a Cop, November 13, Lake Avenue Tim Hortons
- The officers responded to the following questions from the group:

Q: Re: the street robbery on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, it seems unusual to have a group of girls committing a violent crime. Could this have been an initiation of some sort?

A: Probably not, more likely to be either simply a crime of opportunity or a situation where the girls knew the victim.

Q: Re: Coffee With a Cop, how do they select the officers who attend? Why no rookies?

A: Rookies and regular patrol officers are likely to be occupied. Officers chosen to attend events like this are based on who's available, and usually that will be Community Affairs Bureau (CAB) staff.

Q: Any update on a decision about the new Lake Section office?

A: No. Also no new police chief appointed yet, although that will likely take place by March.

Q: Corner of Dewey Avenue and Magee remains an ongoing problem. Groups of young men loitering, with a large fight taking place last week that spilled out into Dewey

Avenue. Activity seems to center around a gray house on Magee, behind the beauty salon.

A: First step will be a meeting with the property owner to try to get cooperation. If that doesn't work, some of these incidents that result in calls to the police will trigger the City's newly established Nuisance Points System.

### Recognition ceremony for Sam Spoto

Wayne and Cindy Kaleh thanked Sam for serving as MNA President. Cindy described how Sam did not run for election in 2016, but accepted the responsibility after receiving write-in votes.

### Committee Chairs

Wayne asked at this point if the chairs of any MNA committees had reports to present.

Barb Ann Kupiec announced that she is resigning as chair of the Public Safety Committee. Responsibilities of this position include attending monthly PCIC meetings and taking notes to be shared via the Maplewood Crime Watch Facebook page, updating the neighborhood generally about crime news and trends, and attending a quarterly meeting presented by the police chief which takes place downtown. One board member has spoken to Barb Ann about potentially taking over this responsibility, but if anyone else is interested please contact the MNA.

Wayne spoke here about the value of serving on the various committees of the MNA, such as the committees that organize the Rose Festival and the Home Tour. Any MNA member can serve on a committee, not just board members. Wayne would like to see the talents of people in the neighborhood matched with activities and programs via committee work. If anyone has a vision for a new program, you can present your idea to the board and organize a committee to carry out the work.

(Note: A full description of existing committees can be found in the MNA By-Laws, online here: <http://www.maplewood.org/mna-bylaws/>)

### Report from Molly Clifford, NW City Council Representative

- The planned Monroe County Pure Waters project for the block of Raines Park between Magee Avenue and Clay Avenue has been added to the calendar for next year.
  - Project will include new sewers, new curbs, and a redesign of the center mall area to eliminate the large open spaces and multiple stop signs at either end.
  - Project may also include extending Electric Avenue to bisect the center mall area and connect with Raines on the eastern side. According to a resident, they will do this if residents of that block of Raines Park agree.
  - Further details not known at this point.
- The City has said that they will put a coat of sealant on the new wooden fence installed at the western side of the newly-realigned Dewey/Driving Park intersection. This will protect the fence from the elements and graffiti. Work is planned to be completed before we get a major snowfall.

- News released today about Tom Golisano pulling his promised funding from the proposed downtown performing arts center project. Molly pointed out that this project has been in flux for decades, with 19 different proposals in 25 years. Doubtful whether it will ever actually happen.
- Last in the series of Northwest Walks takes place this Saturday, Nov. 10 at Turning Point Park in Charlotte. Meet at 10 am in the Boxart Street parking lot. Dress warmly, snow is in the forecast!
- Lake Avenue between Lyell and Ridge is scheduled for a rehab project by NYS in 2021. The City did some patching recently (technically not their responsibility), and no further repair is likely to happen before 2021.
- City Council voted in favor of funding the purchase of the former Piehler Pontiac site for the proposed new Lake Section RPD office (vote was 8-1).
  - Question from an attendee: how will that be funded? A: Bonds.
  - Follow-up question: What is the City's current debt? A: Would have to look that up. It's found in the City budget, available on the City of Rochester website.
- Feedback (informal) about the Dewey/Driving Park Realignment has all been positive. People like the new traffic pattern.

### Report from Monroe County Legislator Cindy Kaleh (28<sup>th</sup> District)

- Tony Micciche, who represents the 26<sup>th</sup> District, recently switched his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat. So he is now part of the Minority Caucus of the County Legislature along with Cindy. (Note: Tony was not present at the meeting tonight due to a death in his family.)
- Monroe County budget has been announced. Major points:
  - Property tax rate reduction, from \$8.99/\$1,000 of assessed value down to \$8.89/\$1,000
  - No program cuts announced so far
  - Increased funding to Child Protective Services (CPS) to support hiring more aides, which a position that supports caseworkers. CPS caseload has been reduced from 30 cases (much higher than national average) to 25 per caseworker. There are still empty caseworker positions within CPS, both caseworkers and aides have a lot of turnover due to the high stress of the job.
  - Back-end details remain to be worked out, such as how much money exactly will be coming in from property taxes (rate reduction v. higher assessed property values)
  - Budget process is not transparent—all carried out between county officials and members of the majority party, so Cindy doesn't have all details yet
- Airport project is complete
  - Canopy looks great, especially if you drive past at night and see it lighted up
  - Enplanement (outbound flights) and deplanement (inbound flights) are both up
  - No more construction lane closures, traffic flow is much improved

### Meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

Wayne closed with thanks to all the poll workers who staffed our neighborhood polling stations for the General Election yesterday.

### Open Mic:

Devon Reynolds, the owner of Brothers & Sisters Unisex Salon (Dewey Avenue, is collecting frozen turkeys and non-perishable foods for a community Thanksgiving meal. Flyer is attached, with details and contact information. If you would like to help at the meal on Thanksgiving Day, contact Devon at the email provided on the flyer.



Brothers & Sisters Unisex Salon  
Presents..

**OUR 3RD ANNUAL THANKSGIVING  
COMMUNITY DINNER**

Thursday November 22, 2018 • 4-7PM

1265 Dewey Ave  
St. Luke Tabernacle

Contact Info: [Brosisunisal@gmail.com](mailto:Brosisunisal@gmail.com)

We will be collecting non perishable items

at

Majestic Hair Design: 2010 E.Ridge Rd  
14622

Kut-N-Edge Barbershop: 141 State St.  
14614

Guys & Dolls 765 E.Main St 14605

Brothers & Sisters Unisex Salon 1274  
Dewey Ave 14615