

# MNA Town Hall Meeting

September 4, 2019

Notetaker: Amie Alscheff

Attendance: 24, not counting RPD officers

Bill Collins, MNA Vice President, started the meeting at 7:20 pm.

## Announcements

The Landmark Society will be offering a walking tour of Seneca Parkway architecture on September 18. Tickets are available from the Rochester Brainerd: <https://rochesterbrainerd.com/collections/walking-tours/products/architecture-in-the-wild-exploring-maplewoods-architectural-history?fbclid=IwAR0Sy0NEt93IYZb86ARVUChy4bbUN16nrd6fSuzcBwYrkCFKva6AZa9wvf8>. The Home Tour is on hiatus, so this is the only similar event available this fall.

## Report from the Rochester Police Department, Lake Section

Only one major crime this month: Street robbery 1006 Lake Ave, August 20 around 4:30 am. Victim was riding his bike, people approached him and displayed a handgun, took his stuff.

Burglaries: 5 this month, down from 12 in August

Car breakins: 18

Stolen vehicles: 4

Next PCIC meeting: September 17

## Q&A

Q: Someone witnessed a person stealing a package from a porch, when she called 311 the police told her she couldn't file a report because she wasn't the victim.

A: That was totally wrong information. Call 911 anytime you see a crime in progress, 311 is for routine City stuff.

Q: A drunk driver plowed through the Dewey/Driving Park plaza last month, took out garden and one of the stone pillars. What happened with that? Will he be required to pay? Will he lose his license?

A: Someone would have to take him to court to pursue damages. Driver was arrested, but officer didn't know his background/history offhand. Up to the courts.

Q: Bicycle/vehicle accident on Lake around 4 pm. Any follow up information on that?

A: Doesn't have a lot of information, but presumably everyone would know about it if the bicyclist had been killed.

### **Guest speaker: Frank Keophetlasy**

He is running for Cindy Kaleh's County Legislature seat (unopposed). He grew up in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood, went to RCSD, Wilson, MCC, and SUNY Brockport. He's currently chairman of the County Democratic Committee, which votes to designate the party's official candidates. He wants to be accessible to anyone who wants to contact him. He's only 25, which is young in politics. Hopes to get other young people interested in local politics.

Political committee meetings are open to the public. Next date has not been set, but he will try to get that information out to the public as soon as possible if anyone wants to attend.

Q: Do you have any goals for the legislature?

A: Wants to be a buffer to fill gaps in politics, bridging age gaps, racial gaps, etc.

### **Report from Molly Clifford (NW City Council Representative)**

Jose Peo, NW City Council Candidate is also here tonight. There is another candidate in that race, but he is hoping to win the election in November.

This Saturday at noon: 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Charlotte Library. Flyers available at the meeting tonight.

Gary Kirkmire (formerly in code enforcement) replacing Baye Muhammad as the Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development. He can be contacted at 428-6910.

The city is naming a new road through the industrial site near Mt Read/Driving Park (spur that goes into development—formerly PhoTech). It will be named Phil Banks Way.

Sunday September 22, 3-6 pm: There will be a community picnic organized by all the west side neighborhoods at Lexington Avenue Community Farm (at the corner of Lexington and Curlew St). Bring a dish to pass. A flyer with more info is posted on the Maplewood Neighborhood Facebook page.

Speeding issues: you may have seen new lawn signs around, suggesting that people slow down. There are several different themes. They are available at NW Service Center if you want to put one on your lawn.

Q&A

Q: Shouldn't there be speed limit signs in school zones? There's just flashing lights.

A: Thought that was a requirement, she will ask about it.

Q: Corner of Ridge and Lake hasn't been cleaned up yet. Why no action yet?

A: Don't know what stage that project is in right now. Some neighbors called her about the grass being high and she put in a request to the city to mow that. (Follow up: the brownfield remediation is complete.)

Q: What's the process to encourage property owners to clean up their property if there is a lot of litter?

A: Call 311 and report the issue. They will pass it to the correct person. Can depend on whether the problem is litter, vs. trash cans being put out on the wrong day, etc. Bruce Wilder is good about following up with repeat offenders.

Q: What's the story on the vacant Tops location?

A: There is no story to her knowledge. They are trying to sell it, but have no buyer yet.

Q: Once a street gathers enough signatures to justify putting in a speed bump, how long is the process from that point?

A: County has to do a traffic study to confirm that traffic is as fast as perceived, which takes a couple of months to complete.

Q: In the Dewey Ave plaza between Seneca Parkway and Magee, since it's private property, can the businesses there get the city to make it one way?

A: Part of it is city-owned. If all the business owners agree, that would push city to install them. On private property, the property owners can put up No Loitering or No Littering signs themselves.

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

Reminder that schools have started. Build in extra time to stop for school buses. New bus safety act takes effect tomorrow (Sept. 5). Will be fines of \$250 dollars for drivers passing a school bus.

MCC will receive SUNY money to reimburse County for new workforce development center. State of the art facility to address workforce shortages in high-demand fields like tool and die.

Monroe County Home Improvement Program has funds available of up to \$20K per homeowner for repairs like roofs, plumbing, and accessibility modifications (ramps, lifts). Call 752-2000 for details and application.

Contact Tony at his cell number: 585-314-0200 or at his office: 585-753-1940.

### Q&A

Q: What needs to happen to create covered shelters for school kids waiting for buses on Dewey Avenue? Saw a bunch of kids getting rained on this week.

A: From Bill Collins: RTS is very reluctant to install shelters for buses going north on Dewey, they are very focused right now on people traveling downtown.

There's a shelter in front of Aquinas with a huge hole in the roof for over a year now and RTS hasn't gotten around to it.

From Cindy Kaleh: Student population changes so much from year to year that RTS doesn't like to plan. We should take photos of the kids with umbrellas and send them to RTS.

### **City of Rochester Mayor's Office (Andy Raus)**

There are Census 2020 job opportunities right now (flyers available at the meeting).

There will be a resource guide for the NW coming out in the next few weeks with specific phone numbers for services, business directory, block club contacts, etc. Will be updated at least once a year.

There will be another resource guide for senior citizens coming out later.

Remember to call 911 for any urgent issues, 311 for routine issues. Don't wait 3 or 4 days and then come to Andy about it. He is glad to talk to people about issues, but call 911 and 311 for immediate help.

Q&A

Q: When the city cuts down trees, aren't they supposed to grind the stump and replant? Not individual house trees, but in city parks and medians.

A: They don't automatically replace every tree, it has to be part of a park forestry plan. Email Andy with the location and he'll see what he can find out.

### **Bruce Wilder , Northwest Neighborhood Service Center**

Knights of Columbus are having their second annual Food Truck Rodeo, Sunday October 6 at Nazareth Elementary on Flower City Park.

REOC is holding a College Fair for prospective students, Tuesday, October 1 at Blue Cross Arena.

For 2020, Flower City Work Camp will be here in Maplewood. They are looking for projects that need doing on a single family home or owner occupied double: painting, porch roofing (no second story work—the kids don't go up on ladders). Call the NW Service Center to recommend a project and find out more. (Flyers were handed out at the meeting.)

Q: Four-six months ago, weren't you on some campaign to stop littering on Dewey Avenue?

A: That's an every day campaign. If you see businesses that have litter issues, call NWSC. Bruce can have the difficult conversation and write them a \$25 ticket if needed. He tries to work with the code enforcement officer for the area to write the bigger tickets (\$150), or send in a city crew to clean up and bill the property owner (\$2000). He likes to hit them in the pocket if they don't respond to a civil conversation.

Follow up (Devon Bey): Most of the landlords don't live in Rochester, they use a property manager. Is there a stipend we could use to pay people to clean up for them?

Bruce: He thinks business owners should be responsible for that. Same thing with loitering. If it's a problem, business owners should get together and hire a security guard.

Devon: Most of the business owners aren't local either and don't care about the neighborhood.

Bruce: He talked to the liquor store owner about this and she didn't take any action.

Devon: He spoke to all the business owners and none of them were interested.

Bruce: He knows the cell phone shop, the braiding shop, Salvatores are all frustrated and want to take action. But you have to be consistent and deal with it every day. This is stuff RPD needs to hear at the PCIC meetings. Bruce is personally frustrated by seeing illegal gambling all the time on the streets (shooting dice). Residents need to call the police and complain every time.

Bill Collins: The MNA picks up litter every week, with more volunteers we could do more. If no litter becomes the norm, people will stop littering. Volunteers meet every Monday evening, at the corner of Alameda/Dewey at 6 pm. City will supply trash bags and pickup sticks.

Devon: If we can get a group together, how much advance notice is required to get supplies?

Bill: Clean Sweeps can be done at any time, just give Bruce about a week's notice.

### Cindy Kaleh, 28<sup>th</sup> District

At this point in legislature they are anticipating the budget coming out. Might come out before elections, might not. The legislators usually don't see it before the public does. The Democrats are writing letters to department heads to let them know what they support adding to the budget. It's not a demand, just a hint that they will push for it when the budget comes out. They deal with public safety, library funding, early intervention for young kids.

Tomorrow (9/5) is the unveiling of the downtown DMV at 200 West Main. Reopening a full-time DMV downtown, which has been in the works for two years. This will give easier access for workers on lunch breaks, and for people using downtown bus lines.

Cindy will be attending funeral services for Mrs. Culligan, mother of a large family from the old days of Maplewood.

Roc the Riverway, October 4-6 (formerly called River Romance). There will be events all around the river from the lake up to Genesee Valley Park. One event is renewing of vows by a judge on the Pont de Rennes pedestrian bridge. MNA will offer Gorge Tours on Saturday from 10-2 (last tour leaving at 1). All this info will be online on the City's website. This is a great event, providing lots of information about the history of the river and its development.

Re: litter. There is a website called Litterati that maintains a database of litter sightings. Operated by a non-profit and can be used to give municipalities a free snapshot of litter problems in their area. You can download the app to your phone, upload pics, and the database will add a GPS

location. It has been used to put pressure on cities and businesses to change their practices. (For more info, this is the organization's webpage: <https://www.litterati.org/>)

### **Announcements and discussion**

Devon Bey: Brothers & Sisters Unisex Salon Thanksgiving Food Drive is starting now. They are collecting non-perishable items now. They will start collecting perishable items (like turkeys) on November 15.

They also have a food pantry open year round, donations can be dropped off at the salon during business hours. 1274 Dewey Avenue.

Pat Connor from Rochester Public Library: Centennial Celebration for Charlotte Library. Starts on Thursday, but main events take place on Saturday. (Flyer available at the meeting). She also brought additional flyers giving updated times for Maplewood Library events like TASC and ESL classes (available at the meeting).

Meeting ended at 8:20 pm.