



Kaisertown Coalition Community Meeting

September 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Houghton Academy

Present Board Officers: Kevin Mason – President, Cindy Lawson – Vice-President, Gerry Kissane – Treasurer, Susan Bradbury – Secretary
Absent: John Poniewierski – Community Liaison

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence

Introduction of Guest Speakers

Buffalo Community Police Officer Lindsey Zagoda

If the police have a report, they have to give it to you if you request it.

To report homeless inn park, you need to give specific locations. Residents can call Officer Zagoda to let her know specifics. You don't have to leave your name but you need to leave your phone number so they can follow up on any questions the police may have.

If you see a group of unlicensed people driving on a street – call police to report it. They may not be caught but this will put more police in the area.

Officer Zagoda reported that there is no Police Chief right now in District A.

Reported that 1833 Clinton Street, the former St Casimir's Social Center has lawn chairs on the roof, vandalism, windows broken. Kids seen on the roof.

Officer Zagoda stated that police officers are assigned based on the number of 911 or 311 calls. Very few officers are assigned to Kaisertown. Put in calls about speeding. Some officers are assigned specifically to traffic control. 311 call today for truck going down Barnard and Weiss. Detour for exit being closed -sign needs to be moved so trucks aren't going down side streets.

Commissioner wants to increase arrests, not just give bail tickets to appear.

It was reported that Houghton Park loaded with bikes and ATVs. Councilman Bollman will address the vehicles in the park.

Councilmember Bryan Bollman

The Lovejoy picnic is this Thursday, 9/10 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the former Fontana's Grove.

Bulk trash is only one time a year. City Council budgeted for two times a year. Residents can put 3 items out every week, but he's gotten reports that collectors don't pick up completely. Spoke to a deputy mayor about the issue – will watch it more closely. Got calls on Barnard between Griswold and Clinton about attempted car break ins and looking into cars. He's asked for extra patrols.

Houghton Park shelter house will be coming down soon. He hasn't seen bids go out for a contractor but it may happen this fall. Most people recognize it's a huge liability; it's been destroyed inside: vandalized pipes for pool and splash pad. It will be reinvented with the new construction. Could start construction as soon as next summer. A preservation group was trying to stall it, but he is supporting it being torn down.

The plan is for an all-brick building with smaller windows to be used mostly for mechanicals, showers, and bathrooms. Who has final determination of house? Community input was taken for the initial planning of the project.

Reported that Cochran is getting large trucks being diverted down their street due to the construction.

There is an officer in police he will reach out to about ticketing trucks. He will follow up on signs missing for maximum weight allowed on specific streets. Sign needs to move up closer to Ogden because it looks like trucks are supposed to use these smaller side streets. Sign near Luckys. Need weight limit sign at Cochran.

From Thruway to Cliff to Clinton: that traffic signal is really long. 3-minute wait. A resident called the department and was told they didn't want to change timing.

CM Bollman reported that there is now a 3rd party contractor who will be boarding up the houses, an inspector will check the work to make sure they are secure before the contractor gets paid. This isn't a perfect solution.

There's a cut and clean crew assigned to cut grass on city and private lots. Owners will get fined.

Building Inspector Jacob Schlossin and Kevin Hoyt

New 311 complaints 302 Barnhard. Looks like people in there gutted one side of the building. Kids hopping fences, throwing garbage around. He'll check it out. Trash is being stacked up behind the garages.

When owner passes away with no will for the property passing on to someone else vandals and squatters move in. There currently isn't any way to evict them.

The city is going to reinstitute the process for property if taxes are not paid for 3 years, then the house will be auctioned off. This hasn't happened since 2020. Boarded up houses are even more attractive because people can break in and be hidden. Police can arrest under an order to vacate, but it's a process. It takes 3-6 months to get an order to vacate. Housing court judge is only one who can order to vacate. The city will post an order to vacate but it is not sprayed painted on the building anymore. The building owner has been identified – board it up in 5 days or we will board it up and bill you.

Proactive Rental Program will be sending inspectors into every non-owner-occupied building to make sure they are following city codes every 3 years.

Mayor moved away from having an impact team. He doesn't want taxpayers to pay to care for other properties that are not being maintained by the property owner.

How many vacant City-owned lots are in Kaisertown: about 100.

How many City-owned buildings are in Kaisertown: 25-30 city owned buildings. DPW responsible.

Properties listed with the Building Inspector:

Rejtan – get judge to issue a tow order to get the RV out.

Matejko – lot of debris in the building.

Clinton – was previously in court. Grass cut on back yard.

Clinton- vacant building.

Clinton- needs to be boarded up

Clinton – wrong permits for the roof – was doing rafters when he has a permit for shingles.

Clinton – building leaning – needs roof and siding

Clinton weeds were cut in front but not side.

Fenton

Fredro is a flop house.

Laurie Ousley, Development Director at Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust

The conservation area at Houghton Park is 25 acres, and managed with City of Buffalo, DEC, National Wildlife, and Tuscarora Nation. Mayor Ryan and Councilmember Bollman have been very responsive. There are 3 more meetings planned to work on master plan for the area with the result of this area being a major asset for the area. NNRLT is working to make it safe and welcoming in perpetuity.

NNRLT applied for a \$450K grant to do some abatement of area adjacent to the property and renew some other areas.

They are always applying for funding. They do get funding right away from the city. Ongoing planning for the conservation area at Houghton Park and registering to attend can be found on the following link:

[Events | Join Community Events — BNRLT](#)

Upcoming Planning meetings: Location to be determined

Workshop - October 7th from 6:00-7:30 pm

Project Review - October 13th from 6:00-7:30 pm

Final Review - November 10th from 6:00-7:30 pm

Kelsey Capruso - Arts Services Inc. [ASI Mural Trail - Buffalo Rising](#)

Kelsey serves as the Public Art Manager of Communication and oversees all initiatives. Funding is obtained by Kaisertown Coalition with the advisement of ASI. We are pursuing grants from NY State and elected officials. ASI will get our project and local artists linked. ASI has successfully completed 50 murals throughout the Buffalo area.

Some artists do national work – but some are specific to WNY. Murals inspire pride in the community. It's been shown that three murals increase business 30%. Possible funding activities and requests which brought in mural funding:

Festivals bring in funding

NY State Assemblyman Patrick Burke (District 142)

NY State Senator April Baskin (District 63)

Murals found at:

Kenmore public library [New mural brings color to Kenmore library's exterior | wgrz.com](#)

William Gaiter Parkway mural [Mural Unveiled — The Buffalo Criterion Online](#)

Treasurer Report : Gerry Kissane

Secretary Report: Sue Bradbury noted that there are a sign-up sheets at the auditorium entrance table for for the **Christmas in Kaisertown (Dec. 4th at Houghton Academy)** event and to request a street tree.

Kevin Mason gave an update on the success of National Night Out.

Oct 17th pumpkin carving at Houghton Park.

Sign up and future events can be found on our webpage at [Kaisertowncoalition.com](#)

There was no drawing of the 50/50 ticket.

Meeting was Adjourned. The next meeting will be held at Houghton Academy on October 6th at 6:00 p.m.