Minutes from Kaisertown Coalition Meeting

September 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order.

First guest : Anthony Avolio, Community police officer

Officer Avolio is assigned to our community with Officer Zgoda. Members of the community requested more patrols. Kevin Mason said Mayor Scanlon promised more police presence, but there hasn't been a noticeable difference. Cindy Lawson commented that someone had defecated in the entrance of her business and the police couldn't wait two minutes for her to return to the office to speak to them. Residents also requested more presence in Houghton Park. Cindy stated that a lot of destruction was done to the Community Garden last weekend, and problems with dirt bikes being ridden in the park is still happening. Homeless are seen naked taking a shower in the splash pool.

Chief Mullen is aware that the community needs more police presence to help deter these kinds of incidents, but nothing seems to be done in response to repeated requests.

No one attended from Councilman Bryan Bollman's office. It was announced that the grant money for replacement of broken windows along Clinton Street is waiting for the final signature and should be coming in a few weeks.

Guest Jacob Schlesser – city building inspector has been to all of the properties given to him in the last meeting. He explained the process is to first send a letter, then go back in a week. If nothing

has been done by the property owner to address the code violations, the owner will start to receive tickets. Current property owners won't be scheduled for a court appearance until December

2025. Jacob encouraged people to keep calling 311 to report a property, this keeps it on his list of violators and repeated tickets build the fines and show a pattern of habitual violations to build a case against the property owner.

Guest Nicole Hill -NFTA, spoke about the Bus Rapid Transit project that will happen along Bailey Avenue, with new bus stations going in on two sides of Bailey Ave. at Clinton Street.$102M has been earmarked by the state for the Bailey Ave project. The installation of designated bus lanes, busses running every 10 minutes, heated stations, and security cameras will allow riders greater freedom to travel along Bailey Ave to other bus lines.

Guest Debbie Lombardo – President of the Block Clubs of Buffalo and Konrad Heinonen will assist Kaisertown Coalition to review and update their bylaws and bring them into compliance with current block club practices and guidelines. Kaisertown Coalition bylaws haven't been updated in over 13 years. Of particular note, the bylaw that allows the board members to decide the new Board Members. This will be changed in the future to allow the general membership to vote on the election of board members. Installation of board members is 3 years.

Buffalo Clean Sweep has not responded to requests for clean up on the streets of Kaisertown. Debbie Lombardo will follow up with another phone call.

The following Board Members were inducted by Debbie Lombardo:

President – Kevin Mason

Vice President – Cindy Lawson

Treasurer – Gerry Kissane

Secretary – Susan Bradbury

Christmas in Kaisertown – Kevin Mason reported that all of the vendor spaces have been sold. There will be 2 bands this year, and the petting zoo. He asked for volunteers to help before or the day of the event, December 5th, and several people offered to help.

More people are needed; there are spots for working at tables. Please consider giving even an hour of your time to support this wonderful community event. Kevin mentioned that people are coming from all over the city, as far as Niagara Falls, so this is on the radar for a lot of people from Western New York!

Finished Business

John Poniewieuski, former president of Kaisertown Coalition, thanked everyone for the plaque he received at National Night Out, recognizing his outstanding service to the community.

Kevin Mason reported that 100 backpacks were distributed to children in Kaisertown through Bryan Bollman's office and the Kaisertown Coalition.

New Business

A general request for a cherry picker to install the Veteran flags that will be installed before Veteran's Day. Someone should check with Bryan Bollman's office to see if the city can supply that.

The Albright Knox Gallery, through grant funding, will come into Kaisertown and paint murals on several buildings for free. There was discussion about where these murals would go. Kaisertown Coalition will pick 4-5 locations and the subject of the mural will be approved by the Coalition. It is expected that it will be 12-18 months before the murals are started. Initial suggestions: the building across the street from Buszka's Funeral Home (on S.

Ogden), Autumnwood Senior Center, and near the Bailey/Clinton intersection.

Request was made for a Bylaws Committee made up of members to assist in review of the bylaws and update.

Guest Joy Kuebler, working on the Houghton Park development project, said that phase 1 of the project is nearly complete. Pavement is in, field leveled. Still to be completed: concrete work, boulders and bollards, and signage. Erie County was voting on 600K for this project tonight, it was expected to pass. If passed that money is earmarked for playground rides, benches, new concrete circle at Heroes Grove.

The Historic Wall will need to be taken down in sections and will be put back up to allow for the sewer authority to do their underground work in 6-8 years. The Park project will wait to do stabilization of the wall because of the need to remove/reinstall it.

There will be a gravel trail from Cable St, through the conservation area along the Buffalo Niagara River, to the parking lot. The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust will oversee maintenance of the pathway.

Bollards and gates will be placed to secure the park from vehicles at the Clinton Street entrance, a double row at Houghton Academy and at the Community Garden. National Grid tunnel will be closed.

John Poniewieuski mentioned that the buffalo placed at Heroes Grove need to be more permanently secured and placed in concrete to prevent theft. Joy responded that this will be looked at when the concrete is done at Heroes Grove.

Meeting was adjourned.