

Kaisertown Coalition Inc. Community Meeting  
at Houghton Academy  
April 7, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Executive Board Members: Kevin Mason – President, Cindy Lawson – Vice-President, Gerry Kissane – Treasurer, Susan Bradbury – Secretary, Board Members: Marcia Skierczynski, Jeanette Pawlak, John Poniewierski.

The Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence

Jacob Schlossin, City Building Inspector. More complaints have been coming in. Several properties are now in court. A request was made to check on a house on Gorski which is a mess, several cars without license plates.

Reports were given on the following properties:

- ✓ A house on Gorski had a gas leak- squatters were living in there, it's in court.
- ✓ Burned out house on Glenn St., the windows are boarded up
- ✓ Clinton property owner did unpermitted work – stop orders are still in place. Open windows. Return visits to check on the property.
- ✓ Pontiac – an abandoned KIA is in the driveway. Clarification was made over whether you are allowed to have 1 unregistered unlicensed car. Yes, but it must be sitting on pavement, not in the yard or blocking right of way.
- ✓ There's a pop-up trailer on Casimer and Gorski. Jacob said officially they are not allowed to be stored on the property but there are so many around Buffalo, they don't want to target all of them. But if one is causing an issue, they will require it be moved.

Community Officer Anthony Aviolio:

Report on local properties:

The problem house on Gorski, the water and electric are now cut off.

The next District A meeting with the Police Chief is April 17th at 11 am at 1847 South Park.

The new Police Commissioner is Erica Shields. She will be sworn in next month. It was requested that she come to an upcoming meeting.

Principal Kevin Garcia – he spoke about how the school needs to be a beacon in the community and he wants everyone to feel comfortable here. He plans to strengthen the relationship with the Kaisertown Coalition and assist in moving the Coalition forward.

Note: The Buffalo News was Houghton Academy last week, and there is an article coming out next week. Houghton Academy had the highest academic achievement last year in the history of the school. (Everyone applauded.)

They have a NYS Regents math teacher. Every educator at the school is committed to excellence. Mr. Garcia is meeting next week with Buffalo School Superintendent. He met with a team at D'Youville to experience their pilot program for creating learning laboratories. He will be bringing this pilot program to Houghton Academy next year.

Principal Garcia warmly welcomed anyone who wants to come see the school to come. No appointment is necessary. He mentioned that Sue had been there and had a full tour of the building.

Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust [BNRLT] – Tracy Fletcher and Laurie Ousley. The organization began in 2012 with goal of cleaning up a contaminated lot. It cost 800 thousand dollars for a half acre. They look for brown fields, remediate them, and give them back to the neighborhood. Creating a conservation easement – which we have in Houghton Park near the river.

Joy Keubler and Laurie will be doing work on the conservation area in Houghton Park with volunteers on May 2<sup>nd</sup> between 10 a.m. and noon.

There will be minimal cleanup because it looks to be in good condition from last fall's cleanup. The goal is to plant 300 plants and shrubs back there. *Request for donations for plants is on the website.* The new plants will need to be caged for a few years to protect them from deer. Tracy will be doing an inspection at the site tomorrow. The BNRLT does a quarterly inspection of the area to keep an eye on it.

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Nature Inspiration Day- at the Shelters, the park and conservation area: educators, arts, face painting, food, Buffalo Sewer Authority will be there to talk about the project they are doing, different non-profits, confirmation from CM Bryan Bollman's office, Erie County Legislator Tim Meyers invited.

BNRLT is applying for grants to remove the invasive plants and do additional trails, pollinator gardens – forest, woods, meadow.

April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 – noon: Buffalo River Waterkeepers is doing a Houghton Park clean up in the park itself. All are welcome to join them.

The boat ramp was mentioned at the intersection of Clinton St. and Harlem Rd. The water would be too shallow at this time of year to go boating, but it

is a public launch site for access to the Buffalo River.

It was noted by people who are frequently in the park that the boulders and barriers are keeping a lot of the vehicles out and the area is greatly improved. But motor bikes are still getting through.

It was mentioned to Officer Aviolio that there are people in park with what looked like the making of a drug lab. He said he is working tomorrow so call him if they are spotted and he'll respond.

It was stated that more police presence in the area is being noticed and is greatly appreciated.

#### Old Business:

Saturday's Easter Egg hunt had an excellent turnout and everyone got a prize.

The Coalition was thanked for their donation.

#### New Business:

Cindy completed the order for 6 more Hometown Hero banners and two banners celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our country. Sue sent the order to Main Street Designs, where the first order was made. The proofs have been sent back to us for approval.

Tom Bisiorek requested the Kaisertown sign be painted.

The Welcome to Kaisertown sign also needs a solution. Sue had asked Council Member Bryan Bollman to have the sign repaired several years ago.

#### Reminder:

Volunteers are needed for all of our upcoming events. There is strength in numbers.

Sue will work to draft a letter for everyone to sign at the next meeting to be delivered to Mayor Sean Ryan personally to invite him to come speak about the proposed changes.

Kevin made the motion to adjourn the meeting with no further business.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Houghton Academy.