Minutes from Kaisertown Coalition Meeting

October 7, 2025

Board Members present: Kevin Mason, Cindy Lawson, Gerard Kissane, Susan Bradbury

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Lindsey Zgoda reported on the following:

1. There is a new Drug DEA representative that is hungry for leads.
2. The homeless have been removed from under the bridges.
3. When calling 311 to report a non-emergency to the police, just leave your phone number. The system has been revamped.
4. New cameras installed around Houghton Park can be watched live. The question was asked, "Who is watching the cameras?" Officer Zgoda will find out.
5. Report suspected drug houses to the police. Officer Zgoda said that dealers are delivering, rather than having users come to their house. Methadone is the most common drug on the streets right now. The police suspect there is a meth lab somewhere in the area – possibly on Weiss or Weimer. People on those streets should watch for suspicious activity and report it.
6. New laws will be coming regarding e-bikes.
7. When questioned regarding the person who smashed windows on Clinton St, Officer Zgoda said he is court ordered to a mental health program for counseling, and drug rehab. She encouraged concerned people to call the DA for more information.

Jacob Schlesser from the Housing Inspection Office reported on progress with code violators:

Weiss is improved, for the moment.

Weiss has cut the grass.

Barnard has lots of ongoing citations. Carries a lot of stuff into the house.

Jacob stated that there will be some new code laws taking effect soon.

Kim, assistant to Bryan Bollman's office, is sending 311 calls to him.

Cliff Street in court.

Matejko Street in court.

End of report.

Emergency Preparedness Kits: There will be a meeting at Autumnwood Senior Center on Monday, November 13th at 12:30 pm to distribute kits. Cindy will put this on the webpages.

The concrete project at Hero's Grove is complete. They were also able to fortify the installation of the buffalo at the site to prevent anyone from removing them.

The pumpkin carving contest is coming up October 18th from 10-12 at a Houghton Park pavilion. Rain or shine. Cider and donuts served. 1st and 2nd prizes awarded. Pumpkins are donated.

Guest Speaker is April Baskin, State Senator from the 63rd district. She committed to making a $500 contribution to the Christmas in Kaisertown event. She introduced Kelly, her district director.

Senator Baskin spoke about the bail reform law and its unintended consequences. It was originally meant to assist people who couldn't afford bail to not suffer undue incarceration awaiting a

court date. But it has taken away the discretion of judges to determine whether it should be applied to a particular case and has allowed some indicted people to be immediately released when they pose a danger to the community.
There are bail reform changes coming.

A comment was made that in landlord/tenant disputes, it seems that all rights are given to the tenant and none to the property owner. Tenants don't pay rent and leave after causing a lot of property damage. It takes owners 2 years to evict someone. Their only recourse is to take the renter to civil court to retrieve damages, but that is expensive and, in many cases, the former tenant doesn't have the money to make payment.

Senator Baskin said Spectrum has a monopoly in Buffalo now, so their rates will continue to rise.
People talked about how much their water and electric bills have risen. The Senator said she will be keeping an eye on these problems.

Senator Baskin asked Cindy to contact her office about letters for the businesses who need funds for the cost of replacing windows.

She referenced BURA – Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency, Hope Watkins. She hoped to have an answer about the $100,000 grant in November. Kim, from Bryan Bollman's office hopes to hear something by next month. This grant award has been held up for months.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Bradbury wanted to clarify that the $300 fee paid

for grant writing didn't come out of the award to the Coalition, it was added in addition to the requested funding submitted for the banners.

Gerry Kissane reported that the banners were delivered at 5:00 pm, before the meeting. He will open the box and let Sue know if there are any issues. Gerry got the name an phone # of a community member who offered his 10-foot ladder for installation of the flags. Jerry expects to do the install on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Christmas In Kaisertown Report by Kevin Mason

Modern Disposal is a corporate sponsor and has donated $500 to the event.
Kevin is looking at closing part of Clinton Street because he anticipates the need for increased road safety.
The event, in its 3rd year, is much bigger than last year.
There are 80 vendors, two bands.
The vendors will be introduced online.

The drawing for the 50/50- $15 was collected, and half won was donated back to the Coalition.

Meeting was adjourned.