

Kaisertown Coalition Community Meeting

March 3, 2026

Call to Order 6:02 p.m.

Officers Present: Kevin Mason – President, Gerry Kissane – Treasurer, Susan Bradbury – Secretary. Cindy Lawson – Vice President, not in attendance.

Community Officer Anthony Avolio –

1. Community day is June 6th and will take place at the Mychajliw Center, 82 Harrison St, Buffalo, NY 14210
2. Regarding the Squatter program – people talked about Spann and Casimir St – people going in and out of the building on the corner. Officer Avolio was not aware of that problem. Call 911 when you know they are in there. It's an out of state owner, but they can make arrests.
3. An attendee's friend was murdered on Fenton St. How many domestic calls need to be made before both people are arrested, the sister of the murdered victim wants answers from the police.
4. Patrolling in Houghton Park to catch drug activity; increased presence has been asked for. Regular patrols, people swimming at night. Community policing is still going to happen according to Council Member Bryan Bollman. He'll check to see if the police department has written grants for funding for foot patrol between 10 am – 8 pm.

CM Bollman Report:

1. CM Bollman confirmed that working cameras are outside of the Autumnwood and Machnica centers. 360-degree recording.
2. Small business grant moving along. Not all businesses have been notified about the awards. Priority was given to businesses with window reimbursement.
3. He reported that the two signals between Willet and Ogden seem to be better synchronized. He will follow up to see if there is an improvement.
4. City Budget comes out April 15th – this administration has asked for a 15% tax increase. Mayor Sean Ryan has since then announced a 25% tax increase.
5. Governor Hochel is giving Buffalo \$30M this year and \$10M next year. There have been 3 tax increases in the last 3 years. In general, CM Bollman will be transparent about what the increase will be – he doesn't feel it should be 15%.
6. There is unspent money for infrastructure in capital budget because the comptroller wouldn't sell the bonds. There is a lot of \$\$ that could have been leveraged in capital

budget. If we invest \$1M, we get \$20, state will reimburse 97% of it. CM Bollman said there isn't \$40M in an account sitting somewhere.

7. User fees are not covering the cost to operate each year. People complained that they are paying more money and not getting better service. CM Bollman said Mayor Byron Brown didn't raise taxes for 20 years.
8. Nolan Skipper was an engineer at DPW and everything in city was put into DPW- infrastructure and parks. It became an enormous amount of oversight in one department so different areas will probably be split into different departments.
9. A request was made for speed bumps on Cochrane St. Mayor Brown stopped the 3rd round of speed bumps. CM Bollman didn't know if the program to install speed bumps will restart.

Reading of any communications. None.

Treasurer Report : Gerry Kissane – See report Approved.

Secretary's Report: Sue Bradbury – no new items to report at this time.

Unfinished (old) Business:

1. Bylaws – update from Sue Bradbury, revisions set to be approved by the Board at their next meeting March 17th.
2. Our guest speaker is Cecelia from the Food Pantry operating out of former St. Casimir Social Center Garages.

Cecilia reported that they are serving 300-350 families a month plus 57 homebound residents that they deliver to. They require proof of residency in zip codes that Feed More assigned to be served by the food pantry. **Hours – 3 Mondays a month 9-1. 1 Evening. 1 Saturday they deliver to home bound.** Even people working 2 full time jobs can't afford food. People don't need to be on SNAP to get food from the pantry. Pantry is part of St Casimir's – they share the electric bill and are covered under St. Casimir's insurance. They will be doing some fundraisers online. Save A Lot on Rossler has been wonderful about donating items, Our Lady of Czestochowa, and other churches donate. Feed More, Food Shuttle WNY, SPCA for pet food. Paula's Donuts. Tops on Harlem and Mineral Springs, West Seneca Chamber of Commerce, and Bryan Bollman's office.

They recently needed upgraded electric for the refrigeration.

A sponsor donated a security system. They have a few racks of clothing. Someone goes to The Goodness Project at Clinton and Bailey to get items. Amish grow food for the pantry.

Old Business:

1. The Deadline for new orders for the veteran street banners is March 16th – application, payment, photo must be in at the time the order is placed.
2. Discussion about a Community Garage Sale –Kevin Mason talked to Danielle Rizzo about whether a private garage sale on their own property required a permit, the answer was no. But if the Coalition advertises the event, then we would need a permit. She is confirming that this info is correct.
3. **Beautification up and down Clinton St. is in need of people. And a volunteer is needed to serve as Community Liaison.**
4. Grants – no news from Sue.

New Business

1. Upcoming Events – dates will be announced soon.
 - a. Bison Tailgate Party
 - b. National Night Out – Kaisertown is registered with the national organization, and we may be eligible for some giveaways and other items.
 - c. Pumpkin Carving Event
 - d. Christmas in Kaisertown
2. Discussion about future guests: Gail Bauer suggested someone coming from utilities to instruct property owners on smart meters.

With no further business to discuss, Kevin Mason called for the meeting to adjourn.
The next General Meeting @ Machnica Center is April 7, 2026