

Kaisertown Coalition Community Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Officers Present: Cindy Lawson – Vice-President, Gerry Kissane - Treasurer, Sue Bradbury - Secretary. Kevin Mason – President was unable to attend.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence

Community Officer Lindsey Zgoda reported all cameras in the area are operational and are being monitored in the district camera room.

Crime map report will be sent to Cindy from last month. Let Officer Zagoda know if anyone suspects there are squatters. It is illegal for a renter to sublease to someone else. Short discussion about a drug arrest in January.

Interim Commissioner Craig Macey spoke briefly. He was formerly Chief of Detectives for 3 years and a police officer for 17 years. He stated that there is a national search for the permanent Commissioner. Some opposition was voiced for the need to search for someone outside the WNY area.

District A Police Chief Paul Mullen spoke briefly. Reminded everyone that the next District A meeting is February 20, 2026 at 10 a.m. at 1847 S. Park Ave.

Complaint was made that police don't respond to a call for hours. He will track officer's arrival time for nuisance calls over the next month and report back.

Andres from CM Bryan Bollman's office: updates and took questions for the councilmember to address. CM Bollman's office will put a notice on Autumnwood digital display for anyone interested in veteran banner for a loved one.

Water main break should be repaired by now. St Casimer's HVAC funding has been secured. Regarding the Window Grant: 15 applications are complete, 6 in progress. Timeline – it's a rolling deadline.

Christmas decorations will be coming down. DPW will get to it soon.

Sue asked about who to contact regarding the community garden in Houghton Park. Nolan Skipper, the Acting Commissioner of Public Works, is the best person

to go to for approval for park.

Request was made for trash pickup for dumped items in the park.

Jacob Schlossin – Building Inspector. He is getting a lot of 311 calls, mostly about snow and frozen pipes. 1954 Clinton Street has a stop order on it.

Jeremy Sasidiak, from Senator Baskin’s office, addressed why people in this community can’t vote today. When Sean Ryan became Mayor, his seat needed to be filled for remainder of the term, which did not impact this district.

Guest Speaker Principal Kevin Garcia from Houghton Academy. He has been at the school for 8 years. The students scored the highest academic achievement in the history of school last year. The NYS Target and Support Intervention Program, which made that possible, is no longer available because of their success. With the loss of funding, he is looking to build support for the school through private funding. And he wants the school to be a community connection.

He introduced Sarah Geiger – teacher advisor for the school community garden expansion. She will assist National Junior Honor Society students in caring for the garden. Rob Harris and Max Grundy at McKinley High School, instructors in the woodworking program, have students making 12 growing boxes.

Treasurer’s Report: Gerry Kissane – See Report. Approved.

Secretary Report: Sue Bradbury – letter was received from Bryan Bollman expressing his support for expansion of the Community Garden.

Unfinished Business.

1. Bylaws: Sue will have ready for the next Board meeting in 2 weeks.
2. Veteran flags: Cindy reported that only 2 people expressed interest.
3. Grants:
 - a. Street Trees Ambassador: application sent to hold this open for Kaisertown Coalition. Info will be posted on Coalition web page.
 - b. Lunenfeld Grant for \$1,500 was submitted for garden materials, deadline is March 15th.
 - c. Meeting is being set to speak with Erie County Legislator Timothy Meyers to talk about the Houghton Academy community garden expansion and seek funding.

New Business: Need to place Committee Chairs for:

- a. Bison Tailgate Party

1. National Night Out

- b. National Night Out
- c. Pumpkin Carving Contest
- d. Christmas in Kaisertown
- e. Refreshments at the community meetings

Next Meeting is March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was Adjourned.

