

MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – MARCH 22, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary R. McCarthy at 7:10 P.M. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Rev. James C. Simmons, Bethel AMC Church, to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Mayor Brian U. Stratton to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to being present:

Present – Council members: Joseph L. Allen, Denise K. Brucker, Mark W. Blanchfield, Margaret C. King, Tom Della Sala, Barbara Blanchard and Gary R. McCarthy.

Absent – None

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Eileen M. Versaci and Corporation Counsel L. John Van Norden.

At this point in the meeting Mr. McCarthy asked if there were no objections, he would like to call upon Mr. Blanchfield. There were no objections.

Mr. Blanchfield invited several members of the cast from Annie to perform for us.

Also, at this point in the meeting Mr. McCarthy asked if there were no objections, he would like to take Agenda Item #10 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2010-44 Adopted Unanimously

Mr. Della Sala invited Gary Comley, Jean Baldauf and Louise Gundrum from The Schenectady School District to accept a resolution proclaiming March 23rd, Family Day in the City of Schenectady. They thanked the City Council for this recognition.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Blanchard moved that the minutes of the City Council meeting of March 8th,

2010, be approved as submitted by the City Clerk. It was seconded by Mr. Blanchfield. Hearing no objections, Mr. McCarthy declared the minutes approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Official –

From the Mayor, a list of appointments.

General --

A letter of thanks from Thomas J. Kelly, badge #168, read by Councilmember Brucker.

Mr. McCarthy:

On February 21, 2010, I was assisting the Special Operations Squad in serving a search warrant. Upon making entry into the house, an occupant fired a shotgun at Officers.

One of my fellow team members, Jeremy Pace was struck in his gas mask pouch on the rear of his gear. The shredded the pouches traveling through the struck the front of my bullet proof vest. It shattered my chest mounted holster and impacted the bottom of my trauma panel.

I want to thank everyone who made this gear possible. The gear we use was made possible by grants through Homeland Security. I called and thanked retired Captain Mike Wager who I know pushed for the gear and wanted to thank City Council who I understand also made the vests available by matching grant money.

I appreciate the support and thoughts I received from members of the police department, the community and my family.

On behalf of my family I would like to thank my fellow team members, my brothers and sisters of the Schenectady Police Department for the work they do day in and day out and the City for providing the necessary equipment that I believe saved my life.

Sincerely,
Pt. Thomas J. Kelly #168

PETITIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to address the City Council on any item of the Legislative Agenda to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Katherine Delain – 12 Huron Court: Resolution #4 – I object to the City Council becoming lead agency for SEQR Review. First of all, it is too early and I don't believe that you are listening to the residents of the Stockade. I believe this must be tabled. I'm tired of the City Council strong arming the people instead of listening to them.

Paul Gonsowski – 138 Front Street: I'm a 21 year resident of the Stockade and I'm here to voice my opposition to the proposed DOCK at Riverside Park. I'm entering my concerns to this project for the record: Reference to Proposed Dock in Riverside Park in the Stockade. Some background, I am a homeowner and resident of the Stockade. I have been a resident of the Stockade for 21 years, but my association goes back to the late 50's in regard to the neighborhood and Riverside Park. My family, until 2007, had owned a home at 106 N. Ferry Street, since 1928. For these reasons I feel I am qualified to make reasonable concerns about the proposed dock for which I am opposed to.

Concerns:

1. Liability to the City on potential lawsuits resulting from after hour misuse of the Dock. Example: Beer parties etc. by after hour revelers which exist now. But I feel it will greatly increase with the docks installation, creating a bigger temptation with that element. It now exists that the presence of drugs, alcohol and sex at the Washington Avenue, No. Ferry Street, North Street, and Ingersol Avenue are inevitable. I feel this will increase mainly after hours, but possibly at any time.
2. Strain on existing city services: 1. Police Patrolling would have to be stepped up. Will they be responsible for making sure the dock is vacated at the hour the dock is to be closed? And, getting out of the patrol car to go down to the dock, as the line of sight to the water level where the dock will be located will be hard to see while sitting/driving through in a patrol car. I have talked to one of the patrolling officers already informing him of the plan. In his opinion he sees an increase of the existing problems related to the park such as more people more trouble. On average, he stated he arrests 1 person a week now. 2. Trash: Will city service be required to be utilized more (daily) to go to the park for daily pickup? As it is now, many of our community mixed residents volunteer to help keep it clean. Will they be asked to do more?
3. Bathrooms: Where are provisions for this use? Porta potties installation. Who pays? Will they wind up in the river like the newly installed esplanade bricks that are protruded over the banks of the river, when tossed in by vandals? Will the on

site trees/bushes be used for their relief or neighbor be pestered for emergency bathroom use.

4. Security: Will security cameras be installed? Will lighting be installed, resulting in increased light pollution for neighbors who buffer the area? Who pays this bill? Many street lights in the stockade now are dimmed. This could be aided by this taxpayer money to increase lumination of our streets thereby helping to curtail the vandalism that goes on. Now – car breakings and property damage- overturned potted plants etc. I have personally thwarted potential care breaking.

5. Onrust location. Will this ship be secured? How will potential revelers be kept off of it so as not to use it as a diving/swimming platform after hours? I would think they would be concerned with any vandalism to it given our history of vandalism to homes/cars surrounding the park.

6. Parking: Very little exists now for the neighborhood. With this potential influx of activity this situation is sure to worsen for our residents. Whether it be daily tours to the Onrust; buses, adults bringing their vehicles to the neighborhood. It's been said the dock users who pull up to tie up don't have cars. True, but their friends do and when boaters notify them that they are tying up for the day/evening they will be here with their cars occupying the spaces that people coming home from work. Will be hoping to find where their consideration is. They reside here. This will add to more tension. You have no idea what it is like. These 1800/1900's years built homes here, half family subdivided into 2-4 or more apartments. They all have cars as do their friends. They are none too pleased with this most assured problem getting worse. I'm sure there will be friction amongst residents and invading parkers. We are a small neighborhood park with a kiddy playground, tennis court not a marina. Also of Note: 1. we have secured the signatures of James Schmitt and Werner Feibes. These two gentlemen were responsible for the stockades "Historic Designation". They both support our no to the dock. 2. Albany/Troy's waterfronts are developed primarily in commercial areas not within neighborhood parks. 3. All consideration for this project should not be only considered by what the stockade association endorses. They represent only paying members opinion/support. There is more here. We have homeowners, renters, absentee landlords whose opinions should be considered. They live here to. Just because 100-150 of association members support it, by no means represents the whole of the stockade. These groups are taxpayers and voters too. They pay taxes via their rents, property taxes and supporting neighborhood establishments all should have an equal 1 vote, 1 person. 4. Has Union College been informed, by the increased use of this dock would interrupt their rowing program, misuse of their dock (when the riverside one is full) parking impact at their facilities by their dock? 5. I have had conversations with 2 marina managers, both of whom doubt its economic impact. They indicated pleasure craft, Jet skies or small boaters primarily have their supplies (beer, food) on board. They just look to have their picnics etc. use convenience facilities and move on, leaving their trash behind. Also, if they have pets aboard they will need to relieve themselves as well. More pooper bags opened if they bother to use them at all. If boaters do egress to the neighborhood, who watches their crafts? Who keeps

wandering children in the playground off said crafts? 6. It is understood that 50% of funds are from City taxpayers which is why all stockaders are entitled to be heard. So far, the initial cost to put the dock in has been addressed. What about it's on going-maintenance, insurance for liability? Increase of use of already strained city services, police, trash collection etc. Overall, all signers of the following petition have voiced these concerns and more. As more signatures and opinions become available they will be forwarded to the Council. These so far only represent 3 or 4 days canvassing. Please consider our efforts and views. If the dock is approved/installed, many residents feel many more police calls and calls to the council will result from all the problems they envision and stated here.

Connie Colangelo – 111 N. Ferry Street: I have a petition with approximately 138 signatures opposing putting a dock in the Stockade, 4 communications from Jean B. Zegger. Concerns about a Proposed Seasonal Public Dock in Schenectady's Riverside Park:

From time to time during my fifty years in the Stockade, boat docks have been proposed for the Mohawk River at Riverside Park. Each time the membership of The Stockade Association passed resolutions rejecting them. On March 16, 2010, *The Daily Gazette* reported that the City proposes a dock 300 feet long, running along the shore. Such a dock, along with the features boaters would expect at such a site, would be counter to the best interests of the residential neighborhood and park. The Schenectady County Historical Society's brochure of September 1963 states that "the object of the (Historic District) ordinance is to preserve the atmosphere of the District as a whole rather than simply preserve historic structures." That atmosphere was described in December 1961 by the architect/editor of *Architectural Forum* as "probably the finest thing of its kind in America." The lawn reaches the riverbank without the parallel railroad tracks that so often border rivers. The park is, as a member at recent Association meeting described it, "magnificent." A public dock would detract from its unique attributes. The Schenectady City Council passed a Resolution in January 1989 referring to the Association's "concern about development of the narrow park along the Mohawk within the district" and Resolved: "that Riverside/Rotundo Park in Schenectady's Historic District is recognized as a unique component of the District and best serves residents and visitors as a quiet place to view the natural beauty of the Mohawk River." Past Association rejections of a public dock have always included noise at the dock and additional traffic it would create into and out of narrow streets. The park officially closes at 9 p.m., but monitoring is difficult and a dock would be an attraction for those who misuse parks. Livability for Stockade caretakers is essential. This is an issue that transcends the region. On the National Register of Historic Places, Schenectady's Stockade Historic District and its preservation take on larger meaning.

Schenectady's Historic District

With the passage of local ordinance Number 14,221 by the City Council on May 14, 1962, Schenectady became the first city in the State of New York to establish a legal "Historic District" having special zoning regulations. It is bounded on the east by College Street, on the south by the rear line of property on the south side of Union Street, on the west by the Binne Kill and on the north by the Mohawk River. Architectural historians say that the several hundred houses in this District represent a unique collection of early and intermediate American styles. Despite considerable differences in age, the buildings have been blended by time into a pleasing and harmonious unit. The object of the ordinance is to preserve the atmosphere of the District as a whole rather than simply to preserve individual historic structures. The basic mechanism is a requirement that a permit for the construction, demolition, or alteration of any building within the District must be approved by the Historic District Commission before being issued. In carrying out its mandate the Commission takes into account public health and safety, architectural and historical significance, effects on neighboring property and economic feasibility of preservation. While the objective is preservation, the ordinance has served also to stimulate restoration. Since virtually all of the houses in the District have been maintained in usable condition, restorations have usually been possible without extensive reconstruction. This has been done at the expense of the property owners, no public moneys of any kind having been expended. No attempt has been made to convert into museum pieces the structures which are essentially charming and comfortable homes, but simply, so far as practicable, to retain their original architectural characteristics. This has been going on for the past twenty years or longer, but the progress of restoration has greatly accelerated since the passage of the Historic District Ordinance. In 1955 a program was launched by a group of residents of the District, generally known as the Stockade Area, to place date markers on as many of the houses built before 1825 as could be authenticated. Home owners were encouraged to look into the histories of their houses and the Schenectady County Historical Society agreed to the use of its seal on the markers after verification of the data supplied. The State of New York also erected some markers. Altogether a total of about fifty buildings now carry these markers. Their locations are shown on an accompanying map. Descriptions of individual buildings of historical or architectural significance in the District are given below.

FRONT STREET

(Number following name indicates location on accompanying map)

NO. 17

GOVERNOR YATES HOUSE' 1760

Originally of two stories with a gambrel roof, this house was erected in 1760 for Tobias Ten Eyck, a prominent merchant of the city. Next owner was James

Ellice, an Indian trader whose widow, in 1791, married Joseph C Yates, first mayor of the city of Schenectady and governor of the State of New York 1823-25. The small attached building on the west was the governor's law office. The third story was added late in the nineteenth century. The romantic lawn along the Mohawk that has been created out of the Stockade park strip is probably the finest thing of its kind in America. I'm against this Council voting on declaring itself. Lead Agency for SEQR Review – without informing the resident of the Stockade. The residents of the Stockade, not the Stockade Associates object to a Dock in the Park.

Marty Colangelo – 111 N. Ferry Street: I am the 5th generation resident of the Stockade. My ancestors have been there since the turn of the last century and my father was instrumental in instituting the History District. The concerns that bothers me the most is the handling of this matter by the Stockade Associate. Apparently, there was some discussion between the Association President and Board Members with the City's representatives, but not the Association memberships, nor the residents affected by the proposed dock. I really believe that this deliberate effort to slide by before it was too late for the residents to rally. I'm asking the City Council to give Mr. Strickman a realty check or send as the resident who can address our concerns including the new environmental statement, which I just read in the Council Chambers that a Historic District Designation means Preservation, Restoration and not Transformation.

Jennifer Wolf – 17 Washington Avenue: A Stockade resident, member of the Board and creator of the website for the Stockade Association. I have been living in the Stockade for 13 years. And first I want to thank the Council and the City for their focus on making the Stockade a more attractive and livable environment and supporting initiatives and focus on the area and make it an attraction for the City of Schenectady. However, I was on the Board when the "Resolution" that Connie read, was enacted and I was under the impression that the Association took a firm stand against any water front development at the time. I'm not necessarily against the Dock. I think the proposal that has been presented has been poorly brought out and is departmental to the neighborhood. I think this is poorly timed because the City does not have the finances to support such a costly endeavor.

David Marhafer – 3 Washington Avenue: This afternoon, I was walking my dog and I did a small demographic study of my block, Washington Avenue. I counted 11 houses, 7 of those are owner occupied. Within the 11 houses there are 27 rental units and it happens much to my amazement, 14 garages attached to those particular 11 houses. I think that is unique for the streets leading into Riverside Park yet if you got into your automobile right now, you could not find a parking place on Washington Avenue. I'm very concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed traffic that the dock would integrate. What

I think you have to do is look at what this dock is going to do to this so called “gem” in the City of Schenectady. Please do not put a dock in Riverside Park.

Barbara Marhafer – 3 Washington Avenue” I have one quick comment. I predict that if you vote to put this dock in the Stockade, at some point you are going to be sitting here with your head in your hands saying, what were we thinking of when we voted yes. Thank you.

Derrick D’Amico – 131 Front Street: I have been a Stockade resident for the past 10 years; I know that the Mayor cares because he came to the Stockade at 2:00 or 3:00 o’clock in the morning when it was flooding. I remember walking several streets with the Mayor and he was concerned and I know everyone here is concerned and we are all trying to do the right thing. People here are passionate and some of us are border line angry. The way to approach this is to look at progress verses how progress can be applied. I like Riverside Park the way it is. Some may find it boring. It’s nice to have the kids on the swings and enjoy the solitude. We also have many things going on like the “walk about.” There was a proposal to have a dock near the Community College and to have a trolley to come down. This is a special place and I would not want to see the tranquility disturbed. Don’t take away the special ness of the place.

Stephen Boese – 32 Ingersoul Avenue: We virtually live in the Park in the house down at the end of Ingersole Avenue. We live in the house that the City sold to us about 3 years ago and at one time was slated to be demolished and I am also a member of the Stockade Association. I am speaking today to not take this action and I’m speaking in opposition to the DOCK. I want to speak on the document on consideration tonight. Page 4 states that a majority of residents support this application. There is no basis to make this claim, which I’m aware of. As you can tell this neighborhood is very active and sometime heated debate about this dock. There is much about this dock, pros and cons. The Neighborhood Association has not taken a position, because they are reserving judgment, until our meeting on Aprils 22, 2010 and it is wrong of our neighbors to state that a decision has been made. This Stockade is a very unique community. I urge you not to take this action.

Grag Sauer- 19 Washington Avenue: My name is Thomas Gregory Sauer and I reside at 19 Washington Ave. My wife and I first moved to the Stockade in 1970. My wife and I are both opposed to the construction of a large floating dock in Riverside park for the following reasons:

1. In our opinion, the dock will detract visually from one of the most pastoral riverside parks in America and adversely effect the historic character of the Stockade.
2. Based on the neighborhood experience with the Gateway Landing dock, the dock will attract miscreants who drink, litter and disturb the peace.
3. It will be difficult to adequately police the dock because the steep river bank

- will serve to mask activities. Patrolling cars will not be able to see the dock.
4. Based on the experience with the Gateway Landing, it is highly unlikely that any significant number of transient boaters will use the facility.
 5. It is highly unlikely that local boaters will use the dock to access the Van Dyke or Stockade Inn. It is a two and a half block uphill hike to those venues. There are easily addressable waterside restaurants at Freeman's bridge.
 6. Crime in the Stockade is a persistent problem. The dock will likely attract more miscreants to the area, increasing the overall problem.
 7. Schenectady lacks the funds to adequately maintain our public infrastructure, whether they are pools, parks, roads or utilities. There is a constant problem with keeping city swimming pools open because of funding. Where will the city obtain the funds for the annual installation, removal and maintenance of this dock facility?
 8. We are confident that if sufficient time was allowed for the Stockade neighborhood to become educated, a large majority would oppose this project. We are the highest taxed area of the City and a Democratic Party stronghold. Surely our Democratic council and Mayor will listen to us. It is wrong for our tax dollars to fund something that will injure us and be of minimal benefit.
 9. The City should hold public hearings on this project; The City should reject any environmental impact statement that does not have a public hearing. I both respect and disagree with Mr. Strichman who I understand has drafted the current impact report from past interactions; I know that Mr. Strichman has wanted to develop the park. It is likely that he was involved in preparing the funding grant. It appears that it is a conflict of interest for him to make the impact assessment.
 10. The City plans development in the East Front Street area and on the old ALCO property. Why would this dock not be better located there?

Karen Mollia – 9 Washington Avenue: I'm in favor of the Dock. Just three reasons! I like the idea of the Onrust docking there. For local boaters traveling the canal system and access to visit the Stockade, it would make the Stockade a destination for out-of-state boaters. Lastly, and most importantly, Riverside Park is a Public park for the City Residents and I think it should have public access place.

Beverly Elander – 227 Green Street: I'm a veteran of City Schools and proud of it. I own my own home. Read letter in favor of Park. Four points, #1, Riverside Park belongs to the City, not the Stockade. In fact, the Park is not part of the Historic border, so should a small community dictate to everyone else. What is and what is not acceptable in the City Park. If people are permitted to drive to the park than why can't they be allowed to cruise to the park? #2, No one should say that the Park should be untouched by development. The idea that the park should be kept under developed is simply an opinion. #3, The Onrust is to be docked there and this will attract tourists to the Park. In our opinion, the more tourists in the park, the better to push to drug dealers and hooligans out. Ample parking is

available on the lot adjacent on Front Street for those who worry about parking. #4, We are all for a curfew on dock usage. To conclude, why not simply try the idea. We can always petition the City to remove the dock, should it be troublesome.

Brett/Lavern Kennedy – 128 Front Street: My wife and I walked through the neighborhood last night and spoke with residents. And a majority of them are completely unaware of this unless they have been on Historic Yahoo. I think people should get an unbiased proposal of what is going to be happening. I have even spoken to people outside and they think the cost would be prohibitive and the money should be spent on more important things.

Dennis Meyer – 29 North Street: I own property in the Stockade and I do have off street parking, but most of my neighbors do not. Looking at the parking in the Stockade, there is obviously a problem. Also, the three streets we are talking about going into Riverside Park are kind of one-way in both directions. Getting around the Stockade is no easy matter. I would like to know how the police plan on getting down there in an emergency. Lastly, I have concerns for the Onrust being vandalized and it is such a beautiful boat. It would attract that kind of person.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. 44	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 45	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 46	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 47	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 48	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 49	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 50	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 51	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 52	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 53	Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: (CITY BUSINESS)

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to address the City Council on any matter of City Business to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Barbara Katz – Downtown: The biggest issue right now is CDTA, they are going to cut half their bus routes, like Nott Street, Campbell Avenue. They claim they don't have enough drivers right now.

Rose Samau – I'm running a business at 881 Albany Street and my business was closed for 41 days. So I'm here to find out who is going to compensate me for those 41 days. My customers thought I was closed for good. Now I'm out of business.

Marna Isaacs – The City closed the woman's business for 41 days and the City has the obligation to see that this woman is reimbursed for the business that she lost. I think the money should come out of Keith Lamp's pocket.

Katherine DeLain – CDTA use to be the company that was driven to serve you. Now it's driven to make its paying customer crazy. There is a public meeting tomorrow night; but, we are not allowed to talk. But a public meeting will be held at the McChesney Room at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where they are going to outline their new schedules? The new schedule is a disaster; people will have to take two and three buses, where they would take one before. It is going to cost us more money and be more inconvenient. This is going to be a disaster. Also, a few years ago, Mr. Blanchfield, when you said there was no legal president for removing Veterans graves in Vale Cemetery. I couldn't believe what I heard; now they want to bring all these people into Vale Park. I'm not opposed to people in Vale Park; I'm trying to protect the Historic Sites. That was the site of the original Vale Cemetery. There are burials in their, old burials must be protected. This County is trying to strong arm this bike path though they don't want to admit that this is on the Historic Register. You can't just go in there and do what you want. You have to protect these sites, obey the laws, protect Vale and remember what it is, the site of a Historic Cemetery.

Steven Boese – My wife and I live practically in the park and there is a lot of good in that Park and we like it. But there is a lot of bad in that park. The police department can not keep up with the drinking, the loudness and the rowdiness in that park now. They are good people and they do the best that they can. What I have heard about a public dock it will increase the problems many, many times. It will cause disruption in the Park. I urge the City Council and the Mayor not to go on with this project.

Paul Gonsowski – I hope all of you read my pamphlet that I gave to you. I would meet with any of you to discuss this project.

Connie Colangelo – One issue that has not been spoken about is youth coming down to play on this dock. They play on the dock and toss someone in the river and then you have a tragedy. Parking is a nightmare now. There is drug dealing going on. This is not a good idea.

Derrick D'Amico – One thing that has not been mentioned, has anyone noticed that usually within 200' of the dock is some kind of refreshment stand, snack bar. That's all right for a place set up for it. But, I wouldn't like to see such a thing in the Stockade. We do not want these things in Riverside Park.

Gerald Plante – The City of Schenectady is waterfront community. The navigable waters of the Mohawk River are typically open from May 1st to the end of October. Six months of docking could only enhance our city's waterfront. Tourism is NY State's number one industry and tourists love history. The City's first neighborhood and the State's first recognized historic neighborhood district, the Stockade, will have the enormous opportunity of docking an historic replica of the Onrust at its shore. According to the "againsts", as the Gazette's op ed letter of March 19th points out, parking would be at a disadvantage. Not long ago there were similar againsts that said the same kinds of things about the Union College boathouse and the redevelopment of Riverside Park. For Mr. Gonsowski to say the "everybody who wants this dock doesn't live there" is partially false. Everyone that I know who lives in the 12305 zip code area want docking. It's been an issue with Stockaders and other 12305 neighbors and water enthusiasts since the mid-1990. With two more Front Street development projects in the planning stages, it's especially important to develop the city's waterfront. Also, kayakers are not a problem. Kayakers usually park at locks that have loads of parking. Through traffic signage, the city can discourage parking along the Front Street and side street's corridor during certain times of each day and evening because parking is mostly for residents. Another aspect of all this development is the continuation of the Mohawk-Hudson Hike-Bike Trail that'll breathe new life into our neighborhood districts from Niskayuna to downtown. Just another reason to allow the Onstar to have its new docking and breathe new life into an old docking port. The 21st century demands it. Kayakers demand it. Boat enthusiasts demand it. Bikers and hikers demand it. Neighbors demand it.! Thank you.

David Giacalone – I have lived about 20 years in the Stockade and I live about 4 doors away from Riverside Park. I probably go there 4 days a week to take pictures for my webpage. I love that Park, there is basically too little to gain and too much to lose with this dock. There is no reasonable way to believe that there will be added tourist. Even the Planning Commission said that there will be no significant increase in visitors by land and water to Riverside Park. This is a wonderful Park, and is wonderfully developed. There has not been enough planning and there is just too much to lose with the building of the dock.

Marty Colangelo – My wife signed me up for this one. It's great to see this animal out here in the hall (paper mach animal). That's great! I'm 72 now and I have enjoyed that park all my life. It doesn't need to be spoiled with a dock.

Joy Hall – I have lived in this town for a long time. You have to enforce safety rules, especially kids that hang in the parks. There is dope and crack everywhere. This town needs more cops on the street.

Greg Sauer – I know you voted for the SEQR to be lead Agency. I would like to know what the process is, when they will occur and whether there will be a public hearing. I assure the Council will decide when and where there will be a Public Hearing, is that correct? Can I ask that you provide Ms. Moore with the information so that the whole Stockade knows when things are to happen.

Harry Brand – I want to complement the people from the Stockade area. This is the most people I've seen come down to the Council on an issue, in a heck of a long time and be sensible. I hope that they continue to come down and talk about some of the other problems in our City. I brought a little paper with me tonight, just in case some of you don't get the Gazette. One is "When does Schenectady find such bad cops"? Another one is "Stratton must stop making excuses and tackle Police Contract" and another one today in the paper here about Mr. Tresmonte and his overtime. I don't know how you people run the City. You certainly need to nail some of these people, to get things in order in our City because it is out of control. It's a shame.

Meredith Acker – I guess I'm looking for a perfect world, unlike many people speaking here tonight. I have mixed emotions about this dock. I love seeing the Onrust anchored in Riverside Park during the "Walk about." If the City and this is a big IF, choose, to focus on the infrastructure and the beautification of the Stockade that would help it be an attraction and a dock would be an asset. That means putting the underground lighting in and really helping the Stockade to be a beautiful tourist attraction. My fear, that the dock is built and the City is done. #1, Trash in the Park has not been picked up in months. I walk in the Park and pick up at least a bag a day. #2, the parking issue, we don't have any. I don't have to say more. The biggest issue is the surveillance of the dock. I live across from the dock and many evenings me and my neighbors need to call the police.

Tony Buonome – I just wanted to let the Council know that about 10 days ago Hughie Williams passed away. Was a very kind gentleman, small in stature, but he had a heart of gold. He did a lot for the youth in this community. He was a great person, lot of fun to be with, our sons bowled together and we went on trips together.

Mary McClaine – I would like to say something about the City and Country historian, Mr. Don Rittner and the past weekend. From a unique idea, a shoe string budget and minimal manpower he brought laughter, happiness and fellowship and beauty to Schenectady. Plus a much needed financial boost to our economy. I was told the vendors at the green market sold out of their products.

Without a doubt, the Art Attack weekend was a phenomenal success and many people deserve thanks. To Mr. Rittner who planted the seed and his organizers who made it happen. Thank you. To the exhibitors whose spirit of good will and free time were willing to share their talents with the community. Thank you. To members of the community who visited the various venues. Thank you. Last but not least, to the custodial staff at the City Hall who opened the building before artists arrived and remained until everyone had left. In spite of the crowds the staff was about to maintain the restrooms in good order, provide ventilation throughout the building, mop-up spills and assist visitors wherever needed. Not only should City Hall pay double time to the custodial staff for their Sunday work, but the staff should also receive a bonus for a job well done. Speaking on a personal note, thanks to all who made my weekend a special one.

John Samatvlsk – I’m “Urban Initiative Group” and I am joined by Thease Burke of Brown School. We want to let everyone know that on Thursday, April 1st, the City of Schenectady will welcome actress and philanthropist’s and children’s advocate, Goldie Hawn to the Capital Region. Miss Hawn, what people don’t know is her dedication and commitment to children’s issues and specially education. Brown School has had a long term partnership with Hawn Foundation, which Thease wanted to touch on. I’m Thease Burke and I have been a teacher at Brown School for the past 12 years and the “Mind Up” program which Goldie Hawn has funded is an integral part of our program for the past 4 years. We are the 1st school in the Country to adopt the “Mind Up” Program. We are very excited to have Goldie come to our area. There will be two events on April 1st, a luncheon at the Glen Sander Manor at 12:00 and in Albany in the evening. There will be a party at VIP Reception at Angelo’s Prume 677 and we want to thank Mayor Stratton for working with us to welcome Miss Hawn to the community. We just wanted the public to know that all funds raised from these events will go to Brown School.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Tom Della Sala – I want to thank those who come tonight to speak on these issues surrounding the dock. Our intent with tonight’s resolution was to begin the review process. I think it is safe to say the process has begun and is now under review. I want to echo Ms. McClain’s remarks about the art attack and Mr. Rittner and the terrific weekend for Schenectady. I saw so many people there and I am sure they had a great time. Finally, going back to the beginning for this meeting that tomorrow is now officially family night. The schools are not going to be giving homework or having tests the next day or having activities so I certainly hope that family’s will take advantage of it, and do things together. Thank you.

Ms. King – I also want to thank my neighbors from the Stockade for coming down tonight, arguing both pro and con. I think that they raised some very

legitimate issues, that we are going to have to look at very carefully as we move forward in this process. I will also emphasize that this is just the very beginning steps and there will be many opportunities for input. I want to ensure Grey Sauer that I will happily serve as elisions, if you will, in terms of letting the Stockade know the next steps in terms of anything happening. I too would like to congratulate Don Ritter, the Art Attack was great, and people were having a good time. Mr. Mayor, I wish you could purchase the Gail Port painting of the City, those were just wonderful, and they were here in City Hall. I also want to congratulate Peggy Amberton and her staff at Bethesda House, they had there official ribbon cutting on Friday.

Mr. Blanchfield – I also want to reiterate the comments of my colleagues that the discussion has begun, with the respect to the purposed dock in the Stockade. I also want to commend all the people who joined us here, not only for their thoughtful comments but there respect for one another as they approached the issue. We don't always get that and I think that there is something that should be recognized. Art Attack was a wonderful event and a great way to bring people to our downtown. It seems like half the town was here and the other half was in Albany at the Times Union Area watching Union College play its last hockey game. They had a great run and gave a lot of fun to see people in this community. Congratulations to the team! Thank you.

Ms. Brucker – I too would like to comment on all the individuals that came down here. Many people we haven't seen before, thank you for your comments, your feistiness, and having this be a discourse on the pro and cons on this issue and the respect you showed one another was incredible and certainly appreciated by us. Also, there is someone else I would like to thank you Art Attack, Councilmember Blanchard worked very closely with Don Rittner, also the great weather. I'll give you credit for that too. Also, I would like to thank Officer Kelly for his thoughtful remarks, not only to the Council, but the City in general and remarking upon what could have been a very tragic incident. Thank you.

Mayor Stratton – I too would like to thank members of the Stockade community that came down to voice their concerns and their views and share what I think important information that the Council and the Administration consider this project. Also, I want to thank Assemblyman Amedore for his member item which is going to provide tents, and I know we will use these tents. It's a great opportunity to have that resource for activities here in Schenectady. The City of Schenectady, Brown School and Capital Lycum will welcome Goldie Hawn when she comes into our community on April 1st.

President McCarthy – I appreciate the residents of the Stockade coming down tonight for their comments. Nobody seemed opposed to the actual resolution tonight, which was to designate the City Council Lead Agency for SEQR Review.

If we could put a schedule on the city website, the process for review and outcome, there seems to be a dialog for what should happen whether it is Capital Improvements in the existing Park, a modified dock or we use other facilities. Thank you for coming down, we want to make all neighborhood better and to do that we have to work together. This weekend was another great weekend in Schenectady. It shows it not single events anymore and its Schenectady is the place to be. We should all be proud of our community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

**BY EILEEN M. VERSACI
CITY CLERK**