

**SABA General Meeting
February 9, 2004 @ 9:30am
The Women's Coffee Connection**

In attendance: Eileen Thomas, Dan Buyer, Tracy Saville, Sam Ezzzew, Philip Duquette, Nancy Molina-Sawyer, Daisy Rivera-Algarin, Dave Halter

No questions were presented regarding last meeting and or minutes.

Tracy reported on 02/07/2004 SWEEP meeting. SWEEP reviewed sculpture submissions from 4 local artists. A consensus selected Pepsy Kettavong piece depicting Nathaniel Rochester sitting on a bench welcoming people to sit with him. The piece incorporates mill stones obtained from High Falls and compliments the Victorian feel of the surrounding neighborhood. SWEEP members also felt using interest created by Pepsy's existing sculptures would provide an incentive for people to visit the area. Pepsy created a sculpture for the Susan B. Anthony House titled "Let's Have Tea." See the following link for more info:

<http://www.rit.edu/~umagwww/spring2002/career.html>

Dan provided the group with a general timetable for South Avenue bump-out construction of August 2004. The construction shouldn't last more than a season. Philip introduced a suggestion to develop a positive spin on the construction project. Philip requested suggestions be made at the next meeting. Dan added that the street may have up to 5 construction projects starting this year. The Flower City Management project at Byron St. and South Ave., South Avenue bump-outs/cross walks, Riverfront development, possible trees to South Avenue, possibly new street light lamp posts and the South Ave., and Alexander St. Piazza would start in Summer/Fall 2004. Dan is currently in discussion w/Ed Dougherty at City Environmental Services regarding street lighting. City council requirements state that funds cannot be used for decorative lamp posts. New style posts are sleeker than current posts and available in multiple colors (green, black and patina.) Decorative features or individual pedestrian level lamps can be added later using alternate funding. Installing new posts during bump-out construction saves \$\$ and is easier.

Discussions of how to notify media focused on a large single media event vs. continued media coverage to keep South Avenue in the news. This issue will be addressed at a later date.

The Restaurant Crawl on February 4, 2004 went well. Philip updated group on event. Philip and Tanya Smolinsky will discuss event with students further (goals and insight.) Dave Halter inquired if marketing plan will include a way to measure effectiveness of plan. Philip will notify students of Dave's inquiry. Philip recommended using same approach for other groups interested in South Avenue businesses. Daisy added that groups have contact her looking for "A Taste of Rochester" events. Groups are looking for crawl type events where they can get the feel for a neighborhood. N. Clinton, University Ave., and Park Ave. are developing participation programs. Both "30 Something" and women's groups, The Rochester Business Association and CATS are all currently inquiring about neighborhood events. Daisy updated group on CATS merchant directory (100,000 copies) as an affordable advertising option. Philip will investigate "A Taste of Rochester" event opportunities further and feedback.

Dan and Daisy both encouraged SABA to develop closer ties to UR Simon Business School. Contact is David Day. Daisy advised group that other area organizations are also trying to increase involvement w/UR and greater numbers increase the chance of success. Philip will contact Kathy Betlum (S.Clinton) and Joe Martin (Mt. Hope) business organization presidents to investigate possibly coordinating approach. The issue will be introduced at this evenings Sector 6 meeting.

Daisy updated the group to the smoke shop that has opened on Mt. Hope. Owner has agreed that current drug paraphernalia will be removed and not restocked. Owner wants to sell cigars and operate a smoke room. Owner wants to be a neighbor in good standing.

Dan updated the group on the Urban Enterprise Forum. Forum is March 5, 2004 and has partnered with The Urban League to provide classes for both new and old businesses. Classes will be taught at SWPC offices. Contact SWPC or SABA for additional information. Additional info located on the cover of The Wedge. Philip thanked SWPC for the current issue of The Wedge. Area businesses were prominent in the paper. Dan commented that this month's focus was business. Dan, Rose O'Keefe, Mike Fleche, and Bob Tucker currently produce paper and all article inquiries should be forwarded to them. Dan welcomed participation on the paper.

Eileen Thomas provided an update on street banners. City committee is holding up banner approval. Daisy will ask Ed Dougherty to put something on the table for discussion and move the process along. Issue continues to be text on banners and representation on specific businesses. South Ave. banners have generic text. See attached files to view banners. Carol Thomas will update president's council of committee position and progress. Eileen requested that when approval is granted that a ceremony recognizing the efforts of the students involved be held.

CHDO Meeting update was provided by Philip. City wants to rezone Comfort Street to downtown as center city district. Area is currently C2 and residential zoning. Rezoning aids Flower City Management project at Byron St. and South Ave. and Riverfront development. CHDO committee approves of rezoning. St. Joseph's will remain in district but due to restrictions will not be able to expand current location.

The machine shop located next to St. Joseph's was discussed due to apparent code violations. Since Downtown Motor Lodge was leveled the side of machine shop is exposed and code violations are evident. Group discussed a process for getting improvements made. Dave Halter will discuss with owner options for meeting city code prior to any formal city code enforcement requests.

Daisy advised group that the city \$5,000 grant has been received and approved. Philip has submitted invoices for reimbursement. Also required are hours spent by SABA Officers for matching fund reimbursement. Hours total are requested by 02/23/ 2004 executive committee meeting. Daisy also advised group that 2004-2005 budget request for \$5000 has been submitted and doesn't appear in jeopardy due to city budget cuts.

Philip presented the current financial report. See attached file for detailed information. Current budget surplus is \$3,691.00.

Group was updated of executive committee plan to forgo street flowers in Summer 2004 due to street construction. Another idea has flags instead of flowers but issue has not yet been decided. Please forward any suggestions to any executive committee member for further discussions. Eileen will forward flower info to Tracy.

Eileen presented group with information on a Travel Guide by Jack Robson. Jack produces a brochure with maps and business advertisements. Brochures are dispersed throughout area. Cost if \$590 for ad space and \$250/month for brochure display maintenance. Group agreed that current cost is out of SABA price range.

Dan updated group on SWPC website development. Cathy Martin is learning software to assist in updating site information. Dan and Tracy discussed a page to display all neighborhood group minutes to encourage information exchange.

NEXT SABA GENERAL MEETING IS MARCH 8, 2004 AT SWPC OFFICES.