

General Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2026
Stockade Inn

Program: Richard Ruzzo, Richard Patierne, Omar McGill. County Legislators for District 1.

The legislators reviewed the services that the county offers. They noted that the Community Grocery is giving tours of the Wedgeway Building site on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM and on Saturdays at 11:30 AM. They also mentioned an effort to redevelop parts of East Front Street. Metroplex is working with a developer on a property on John Street.

Questions included the following issues:

Is there any way to leverage money that the Stockade brings in with events like the Gilded Age? The legislators mentioned Film Schenectady and Discover Schenectady and noted that the Stockade benefits from increased economic activity that also benefits the whole city.

Aquatic Center: Richard Ruzzo gave a brief history of the aquatic center. It was proposed several years ago by a nonprofit swimming group to teach swimming. Various locations were considered. SUNY Schenectady has agreed to own the future center which will be located behind Frog Alley. There will be public access. Activities will include a learn-to-swim program for all second graders throughout the county. There will be three "bodies of water" for different water activities.

There were many questions about the need for a center and the increasing costs. The legislators said it will bring in more sales tax. However, as a property of SUNY Schenectady, it will be tax exempt from city property taxes. In response to questions about the negative impact on the Stockade, Ruzzo noted a consulting firm is working on traffic and parking.

890 Exit 4c: A question was asked about where to find plans. A bridge was suggested over the Binnekill at Cucumber Alley.

In response to a question about the general lack of upkeep on city properties, the legislators noted that BCNI funds are available for house maintenance.

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:30 PM by Dan O'Neill, vice president. He announced Earth Day Clean Up on April 18 and handed out flyers. Participants will meet at Arthur's at 10 AM. Leaf bags will be available from the city and other bags from Market 32.

Gateway at Erie and Union Construction on the Gateway will begin next week. Improvements were listed, including a statue of Dr. Gillette at Erie Blvd and Union Street. There will be new trees, and new brick work.

Lead Pipe Program The city is continuing its effort to replace lead pipes and is seeking cooperation from home owners. For more information go to: "Lead Safe Housing Program" at cityofscheneectady.gov.

The following activities were mentioned:

Park Beautification Weed and Wine at Riverside Park with a wine and cheese party at Eric Johnson's on May 16. The sidewalk sale will be June 6. Registration is free to association members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. The annual meeting will be May 21 and the Stockade Walkabout and Streetfest is scheduled for September 26.

As part of the Schenectady One project, Inner Bliss is offering "Peace Steps with Mati" on March 29 from 4 PM to 5 PM. This is one in a series sponsored by Schenectady Steps toward Peace, a Change Makers Project. Contact Inner Bliss for more information.

Schenectady Heritage Foundation will be offering its Historic Preservation Awards in May and its annual Candle Light Ghost Tours in October.

On April 25, there will be a city-wide community celebration in Central Park from 12 PM - 4 PM. There will be music and food.

There will be a history fair at Proctor's on April 18.

Dan O'Neill noted the Stockade Association is looking for places to plant new trees. Discussion followed on planting more trees, especially in the empty tree pits.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne S. Unger, Secretary