

General Meeting

East Passyunk Crossing Civic Association and Town Watch

Monday, 12/3/07

St. Agnes Continuing Care Center

1900 Broad Street, Philadelphia PA

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Present: Roger Bruno, Kim Buckwalter, Jo Cardillo, Sean Doyle, Darren Fava, Mike Kimmel, Joseph Marino, Patti Pitt, Millie Ruffino, Theresa Simmonds

Absent: Sarah Ausprich, Robert Slack, Darcy Webb

Joseph Marino called meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Meeting agenda approved and attached hereto. November meeting minutes approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Darren Fava reported on South Broad Street Planning Group formation. Participating area civic associations: Lower Moyamensing, Newbold Neighbors, Newbold South, Passyunk Square, EPX. Will be meeting with a City Planning rep. about long-term strategy for future of South Broad Street to address zoning issues, trash, crime.

Joseph Marino

- Worked with EPX attorney to get PA tax exemption status finalized.
- Met with Councilman DiCicco re Fox Electric building at 12th and Emily. A current EPX member may buy it.
- Wrapped up scholastic book grant. Darren Fava took photos, narrative written.
- Attended Philadelphia Great Expectations event, including "Neighborhoods In Flux" session. Joe will write article for EPX website.

- Had numerous discussions with Fumo aide re EPX using vacant building at 1940 South 13th for our headquarters.
- Felix Cavaliere Memorial Foundation gave EPX \$48 commission for selling tickets.
- EPX will join Philadelphia Neighborhood Alliance (formerly Delaware River Neighbors Association), which has changed its focus from anti-casino stance to address environmental issues.
- Still working on \$100K grant application for EPX.
- EPX Board is in transition. New board will take effect in January. Changes: Kim Buckwalter is corresponding secretary and will also handle list server duties; Jo Cardillo is recording secretary; Sarah Ausprich is Beautification chair; Patti Pitt is Membership chair; Melanie Damis is Town Watch/Public Safety chair; Robert Reilly will be an at-large member in charge of block captains; Sean Doyle, Roger Bruno, Rob Slack are at-large board members; Marketing/Events Planning chair remains open.

Recording Secretary Jo Cardillo: Taking over for D'Arcy Webb, received EPX archives of files from Joe Marino.

Treasurer Millie Ruffino:

- Art Auction netted approximately \$2K.
- Bank account currently @ \$6,200.
- Complete report attached.

Membership Chair Patti Pitt welcomed new members:

- Jordan Dillard, 1100 block of Emily Street
- Lauren Herlich, 1900 block of South 11th
- William Scott, 1900 block of South 11th

Beautification – Kim Buckwalter in place of S. Auspric

- Next Clean-N-Green meeting is Monday, 12/17/07, 6:30 p.m. at the library branch at Broad and Morris.
- Single-stream recycling will be in effect for the City of Philadelphia effective week of 12/3/07. All paper, glass, aluminum, plastics can be set out in the same container.

Marketing/Events Committee – Darren Fava

- A meeting was held with the committee to discuss putting up outdoor bulletin boards throughout the neighborhood to announce EPX events for members without Internet access. Possible locations: 12th & Morris municipal parking lot, newsstand @ Mifflin & Passyunk, Tolentine Center fence, churches, restaurants, subway walls. The goal is to have this accomplished by spring
- Rob Slack shared event cards used by his employer, which could be used to mail announcements to EPX neighbors. The committee liked this idea and is looking for someone to design same for EPX.
- Need to find coordinator/editor to start up EPX newsletter.

Public Safety – Mike Kimmel

- Next Town Watch walks: Wednesday, 12/5; Wednesday, 12/19, Friday, 12/28. For each walk, participants will meet @ 7:30 p.m. in front of Tolentine Center
- Next Public Safety meeting is Tuesday, 12/11, 7 p.m. Will meet @ St. Agnes and then continue @ South Philly Tap Room to discuss recruiting more Town Watch members.
- J. Marino mentioned that Art Potts, from Managing Director's Office, will do a regional Town Watch training through Lower Moyamensing Civic Association

Zoning - Theresa Simmonds

- Property @ Juniper & McKean – The back of the building has a large deck and awning that appear to be very unstable and could be imminently dangerous. L&I has been contacted; if no response, Patti Gilberti @ DiCicco's office will be contacted.
- Fox Electric building is under contract to be sold. EPX to meet with buyer.
- Lot @ 11th & Emily has been bought by yet another developer who has agreed verbally to plant trees on the block. May also agree to have a mural.
- No December meeting due to holidays. Next meeting is last Wednesday in January.

Old Business:

- EPX Holiday baskets will be given out to area needy families. Millie Ruffino is coordinating this project. Millie has contacted some area churches to find potential recipients. Anyone aware of a family in need should see Millie after meeting.
- Friends of the Free Library - Joe Marino met with Laurie Zambrona from South Philly branch and Erin Decou from central branch. They are looking to build membership who can act as library advocates and fundraisers. Anyone interested in becoming a member should talk to Joe after meeting.
- Block Captains – Robert Reilly will be recruiting block captains.
- Committee Membership drive – We need to find ways to improve attendance @ general membership meetings.

PRESENTATION: Lowe's representative spoke about public safety, distributed handouts (copy attached), and also gave out free energy-saving light bulbs to members present.

New Business (Open Forum):

- Robert Reilly stated concern about low-lying area of his block (1800 block of South Sartain) which causes water accumulation after heavy rainfall or snowfall. Member suggested that he contact the Streets Department.
- Millie Ruffino solicited donations for holiday baskets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- America's Next Great City - Meeting on Tuesday, 12/4/07, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Fels Center, to discuss zoning and planning.
- South Central Philadelphia Civics to meet on Thursday, 1/10/08.
- Events Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 12/18/07, 7 p.m. @ St. Maria Goretti.
- Incentive to come to next EPX meetings: Come and pick up a recycling bin. Total of 50 to distribute to first come/first served.
- Goodies to be served tonight after meeting.

Meeting adjourned until Monday, 1/7/08.

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