

**DRAFT** General Meeting Minutes

East Passyunk Crossing Civic Association and Town Watch

Monday, 2/4/08

St. Agnes Continuing Care Center

1900 Broad Street, Philadelphia PA

**Board Members Present:** Sarah Ausprich, Roger Bruno, Kim Buckwalter, Jo Cardillo, Melody Damis, Darren Fava, Joseph F. Marino, Patti Pitt, Robert Reilly, Millie Ruffino

**Board Members Absent:** Sean Doyle, Robert Slack, Theresa Simmonds

Joseph F. Marino called meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Tonight's meeting agenda and January general membership meeting minutes approved.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**Co Chair Joseph F. Marino**

- Met with realtor via Senator Fumo re proposed EPX headquarters at 1340 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street; discussed plumbing, sewage issues. Board members will clean, spruce up premises on Saturday, 2/16.
- EPX was approved for PA tax-exemption status.
- Attended Mayor Nutter's inaugural party with fellow EPX board members Darren Fava, Millie Ruffino, Jo Cardillo.
- Had extended discussion with Lowe's represented about their Tool Box grant program; EPX is not a qualified applicant as we haven't been in existence long enough.

- Attended 1/27/08 second of four public space forums at Kimmel Center. The process will culminate in a report. See EPX website for more information
- Met with Newmann-Goretti reps on 1/31/08 to discuss DCED grant for Clean-N-Green project to beautify Neumann-Goretti grounds.
- Anyone taking a recycling container needs to sign for it.
- East Passyunk Avenue News
  - o Spoke with Michelle Gambino of East Passyunk BID re EPX's role in helping fill slots on various BID committees. Michelle will be the guest at the next EPX general meeting, 3/3/08.
  - o The BID has applied for a farmer's market grant.
  - o New women's clothing boutique, Aci Nae, to have grand opening 2/28/08 at their new store at 1928 East Passyunk.
  - o Sweat Gym on Passyunk Avenue, just north of Black & Brew, to open in late spring.
  - o New tavern to open up at 1909 East Passyunk; will have 50 varieties of beer on tap.
  - o Delay of opening of rehabbed Passyunk Tavern.

**Co Chair Darren Fava**

- Obtained free office furniture for EPX headquarters @1940 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street via new EPX member Tara Williams. Many thanks to Ms. Williams.
- Marketing/Events Planning Committee is moving forward.
- Broad Street Planning Group (outgrowth of South Philly civic associations consortium) Had a second meeting. Executing plan improving South Broad Street between Washington Avenue and Oregon Avenue. Met with City Planning Commission rep, who offered advice for getting funding.

**Recording Sec'y Jo Cardillo**: Nothing to report.

**Corresponding Sec'y Kim Buckwalter**: Nothing to report.

**Treasurer Millie Ruffino:**

- Little bank activity this month.
- Paid insurance and two bills.
- Submitted EPX tax documents to fellow board member Roger Bruno, CPA
- Bank account currently @ \$4,614.00, less 1,399 for Clean-N-Green, equals: \$3,215.00.

**Membership Chair Patti Pitt** welcomed new member Amy Asher Gimbutas of the 1900 block of South Jessup Street. Total of 30 attendees @ tonight's meeting.

**Clean 'N' Green Chair Sarah Ausprich:**

- Newmann-Goretti Project - Joined Darren Fava and Joseph F. Marino to meet with Newmann-Goretti (NG) about plan made by EPX member Jeff Goldman to beautify their grounds. NG reps were very receptive to the plan. Work will start this spring and continue through fall, beginning with area on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. NG will recruit student volunteers to help. Part of the plan is to add benches, sculptures to area between school and convent, which will be open to the public, but not dogs. (Sorry, Lola Cardillo.)
- Has recycling information and stickers for containers available to attendees.
- First street-cleaning: Saturday, 3/8/08, 10 a.m., Tasker Street. Volunteers should meet @ Broad and Tasker.

**Marketing/Events Committee – Darren Fava**

- EPX Spring event is current big project.
  - o Date: Saturday, 5/3/08 or 5/10/08
  - o To be held in NG parking lot
  - o Would like to partner with one of the City's Fire Department engine companies to have combined Fire Dept. pancake breakfast. This will benefit the Fire Dept. as a fundraiser

and will also draw more people to the event. Would like to have a fire engine in parking lot.

- Would like to have hourly entertainment. Singers, musicians, dancers are invited to participate. NG loading dock will be the stage.
- Can use cafeteria in case of rain.
- Need lots of volunteers to help make this event a success, especially bake-sale donations.
- EPX Newsletter still being planned.

### **Public Safety Chair Melody Damis**

- Public Safety meetings have been moved to the third Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., St. Agnes.
- Next Town Watch walk: Wednesday, 1/6/08, 8 p.m., participants to meet in front of Tolentine Center.
- Planning a Public Safety/Town Watch social and fundraising event: "Night Out With the Phillies." Look for more news next month.
- Starting plans for dog-walking and bike patrol group.
- New Police Dept. Chief Ramsey has reached out to city's town watch groups; hoping this will translate to more support by the City.

### **Zoning –Darren Fava for Theresa Simmonds**

- Zoning notice for 2022 South Juniper to approve property for two-family residence, which is already in existence there. This street is the site of warehouses and relatively few homes; therefore, the committee supports this application.
- Plan by developer to buy property @ site of Fox Electric has fallen through due to problem with underground oil tanks.
- The women's dress shop, Aci Nae, which originally wanted to occupy building @ 1819 South Broad Street, is setting up stakes on East Passyunk Avenue.
- The deal by a developer to build homes @ 11<sup>th</sup> and Emily is still pending. Our phone calls to them to discuss signage have not been returned.

**Order of the Day/Presentation:** Guests Donna Gallagher, Eric Stabler of Beneficial Bank, 2027 South Broad Street, gave a very short presentation about the bank.

- Beneficial was founded in 1957 by John Newmann.
- Beneficial offers free checking account service.
- Beneficial has Saturday hours.
- Beneficial will make a donation to Town Watch.
- Post-It notes, pens, key chains were made available for attendees.
- Held drawing for \$25 Visa gift card – won by Nettie DiFlorio.

**New Business (per Joseph F. Marino)**

- Issues to be voted on by EPX Membership next month:
  - o Changes made to EPX bylaws made by board members @ January '08 meeting.
  - o EPX Boundaries – Residents of South Eighth Street have asked that EPX's eastern boundary be extended to include Eighth Street.
  - o Changing of Some EPX Committee Names - See website for details.
- EPX voting-member status: member must have attended three EPX general members since its inception in September of '06. Committee attendance does not count, nor will attendance @ March's general membership meeting count.
- If EPX were to dissolve, it's been decided that funds in EPX coffers will automatically go to Free Library, and not include the Tolentine Center, as previously planned, since Tolentine is not a public entity.

**Announcements:**

- Senator Fumo will appear @ Central South Philadelphia Civic Associations (CSPC) consortium on Thursday, 3/27/08, 7 p.m., Newmann-Goretti auditorium.
- Joanne Dahme of the Philadelphia Water Department and Susan Jaffee, the newly-appointed ZBA chair, will attend an open meeting

of the SSPC consortium on Thursday, 4/12/08, 7 p.m., Newmann-Goretti auditorium.

- EPX Fundraising event: Auction to be held Sunday, 2/17/08, noon to 6 p.m., at Ego Thrift Shop, southeast corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and McKean. Joseph F. Marino will be the auctioneer, and 15 percent of sales will go to EPX.

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Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m., until Monday, 3/3/08.

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