

DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

EAST PASSYUNK CROSSING CIVIC ASSOCIATION and TOWN WATCH

Monday, September 9, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

St. Agnes Continuing Care Center

1900 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA

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Board Members Present: Sarah Ausprich, Roger Bruno, Kim Buckwalter, Josephine Cardillo, Melody Damis, Beth Dougherty, Sean Doyle, Darren Fava, Christopher Johnson, Margaret Kalalian, Joseph F. Marino, Pat Pitt, Robert Reilly, Millie Ruffino

Board Members Absent: Marnie Hall

Joseph F. Marino called meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Agenda approval and May general meeting minutes approval: Moved by Nettie DiFlorio, seconded by Charlie Gilbert.

Darren Fava welcomed, introduced newest at-large board members, Chris Johnson and Beth Dougherty.

Cochair Report - Joseph F. Marino

- 1.) Extensive work re new EPX office space. Met frequently w/contractors and Realtor. Oversaw each stage of building repair/sign installation, including zoning and grand opening reception. Secured Roselena's donation to opening reception. Arranged for much of the used office furniture donations.
- 2.) Secured Sweat Gym and Jane's Yarn Shop for October presentation by board.
- 3.) Signed over 35 thank-you letters to donors of baskets for raffle.
- 4.) EPA Gateway meetings: 7/8 w/BID Board, City agents; 8/19 w/City agents.
- 5.) Secured Paradiso and turned it over to M&E for July Meet-and-Greet.
- 6.) Met repeatedly w/EPA Bid Board New executive director, Bob Thiel.
- 7.) Conversations w/Tolentine Community Center re board position.
- 8.) Spoke with and wrote to ZBA Chair Susan Jaffe re zoning of office and signage appeal process. Filed application and extensive ancillary paperwork for zoning appeal, attended ZBA hearing on 8/13 to secure same.
- 9.) Met w/prospective EPX Board Member At-Large candidates.
- 10.) Secured funding for office signage and awning.
- 11.) Extensive work w/EPX Zoning Committee re Bella Rosa II.

12.) Secured Arts on the Avenue for EPX Art Auction venue.

13.) Met w/Bill Fahringer, Branch Mgr., St. Edmond's Federal Savings Bank re several items, including EPX newsletter.

Cochair Report ñ D. Fava

Met w/Central South Philadelphia Civic Associations Alliance re design collaborative for South Broad Street (Washington Ave. to sports complexes).

Secured used furniture from Tara Williams for EPX office.

Acknowledged and thanked EPX member Kathy Migliarese for hard work on fall '08 edition of EPX newsletter.

Recording Sec'y J. Cardillo

Advised attendees of 16th Annual Alfonso Cavaliere concert, ìAfternoon Serenade,î Sunday, 11/2/08, 4 pm, Neumann-Goretti. General admission is \$15; senior citizens \$12, students \$5.

Corresponding Sec'y K. Buckwalter

Advised attendees of newly-added PayPal option on EPX website.

Treasurer's Report ñ M. Ruffino

Opening Balance: \$5,269.00 (including \$660 from Meet-n-Greets)
(Less EPXtravaganza bills)
(Less EPX ins., rent, office utilities deposit)
Closing Balance: \$2,241.00 (\$500 earmarked for EPX newsletter)

Clean & Green ñ S. Ausprich

Worked on planters for office.

Next street-cleaning: Ninth Street, Saturday, 9/20/08, 10:00 a.m., to meet @ Ninth and Tasker.

Next C&G meeting: Monday, 9/22/08, 6:30 p.m., at Pub on Passyunk Avenue. To be informal meeting just to discuss C&G committee and goals.

Attendee asked about getting tree through PA Horticultural Society and was advised that form is available online and to see S. Ausprich or D. Fava at end of meeting.

Marketing and Events Since Marnie Hill is absent, M&E events will be covered in new business portion of this evening's meeting.

Membership ñ Pat Pitt ñ New signups Today

Nathan Casale, 1100 block of Emily Street.

Tim Daly, 800 block of McClellan Street.

Vincent and Janet Friano, 1800 block of South 12th Street.

Paul Geraghty

Chris Page, 1900 block of South 13th Street
Amy Roncare, 1300 block of Sigel Street

Public Safety ñ M. Damis

EPX won 4th Precinct Award for Town Watch of the Year.

Reminded attendees that Town Watch walks are every third Wednesday and last Friday of the month. Meet @ 8 p.m. @ EPX office. There's been great attendance lately.

Zoning ñ M. Kalalian

1. Bella Rosa II ñ 1712 South 10th Street Zoning hearing is scheduled for 9/24/08, 3:30 p.m., 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor. Hearing is open to public. Prospective purchaser, Jonathan Klein, is asking ZBA to approve extension of restaurant from first floor to second floor or property. EPX has indicated it will support application only if ZBA grants conditional variance, which will require that use registration permit can only be issued after Klein completes purchase of property and title is transferred.

2. 1640 South Broad Street Application has been made to use this property as a hostel. Property is zoned R10-A, which is single-family residence. The Hometown Hostel, which was created and incorporated in PA on 7/22/08, want to provide communal sleeping and living space for twelve persons. EPX board members attended community meeting conducted by the S. Broad St. Neighborhood Assoc. last month. Following the presentation by a representative for Hometown Hostel, a vote was taken, which unanimously opposed this use for the property. EPX sent letter to Zoning Board indicating its opposition to proposed hostel.

3. 1728 East Passyunk Avenue Application was filed for an optical shop in the former TEN store. Hearing is scheduled on 9/10/08, 2 p.m., at ZBA. EPX will ask ZBA for continuance to permit applicant to meet with the community at the September 24th committee meeting.

4. Fox Electric Site Johnny Chang met with the community in July and presented preliminary plans for seven rowhouses on Emily and 12th Street. He has since revised plans and decided to build three-story dwellings without garages on the three 12th Street houses; Emily Street houses to be two-story dwellings. EPX is pleased that Chang wishes to transform site to residential properties; however, EPX has communicated to Chang that there are a number of concerns that need to be addressed before EPX can support the project, including: need for demolition of existing structure; fire alleys; compliance w/building and fire codes for windows in sleeping rooms; very small bedrooms without closets in the two-story plans; no indication for laundry equipment. EPX has asked for opportunity to review complete architectural renderings and elevations.

5.Barbershop @ 12th and Mifflin No more activity for shop owning has happened. Per Joseph F. Marino, it's unlikely as this business will open there after all; business will probably not open by default.

Presentation - No presentation tonight, as our invited guest, rep from Franklin Federal Savings Bank, was unable to attend. They have donated \$2,000 to EPX; \$1500 will be spent on office space, \$500 on fall newsletter. Joseph M. Marino also noted that \$3,000 from Philadelphia Activities Grant Fund will be spent on office equipment.

Old Business

1.2nd Annual EPX Art Auction ñ Friday, 11/7/08, 6:30-9:30

One-of-a-kind art by local artists to be auctioned off.

100 tickets are available.

Per Bob Reilly, a local business is donating a keg of beer for attendees.

2.DCED Grant ñ Joseph F. Marino signed contract, is awaiting funds. To receive \$20,000 for Newman-Goretti landscaping

3.EPX Office Space ñ 1940 South 13th Street

Grand opening: Thursday, 9/11/08, 6:30 pm ribbon-cutting, where refreshments of punch, champagne, bakery will be served. Followed by EPX two-year anniversary party @ Le Virtu.

Major renovations were paid for by Sen. V. Fumo; cosmetics paid for by grants from Conestoga Bank, St. Edmond's Bank, and individual contributions.

Awning paid for by Marino Family Trust and Chris Johnson

We are soliciting donations to pay for shed, which will cost about \$1,000.

4.Summer Meet-and-Greets ñ We netted \$660 in profits.

5.Film Festival - ñEPX Storiesî (per D. Fava)

Date: 11/14/08, Newman-Goretti.

M. Kalalian is heading committee for this event with lots of support by members of Big Bang Festival.

Fifteen area children attended film-making workshop at Free Library branch @ Broad and Morris.

Will meet with senior citizens at SPOAC on 9/9/08, soliciting their participation by sharing memories of life in South Philly.

See website for more information.

Community Service Awards

Zoning: Theresa Simmonds

Membership: Netti DiFlorio

Marketing and Events: Kathy Migliarese

Clean & Green: Alice Gongalewski

Town Watch: Charlie Gilbert

Announcements:

Residents are encourage to patronize the latest new E. Passyunk business: Adobe Cafe, which is now open.

Adjournment:

Moved and seconded by Scott Collins, Meghan Walters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

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