

DRAFT GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
EAST PASSYUNK CROSSING CIVIC ASSOCIATION and TOWN WATCH
Monday, October 6, 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, Josephine Cardillo, Melody Damis, Beth Dougherty, Sean Doyle, Darren Fava, Marnie Hall, Christopher Johnson, Margaret Kalalian, Joseph F. Marino, Robert Reilly, Millie Ruffino

Board Members Absent: Kim Buckwalter, Pat Pitt

Joseph F. Marino called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda approval: Moved by Tim Day, seconded by Dominic Falso, unanimously approved.

September GM minutes approval: Deferred to next month.

Cochair Report/Governance Functions - Joseph F. Marino

- 1)EPX office space grand opening reception. Arranged for much of the used office furniture donations.
- 2)Secured Sweat Gym and Jane's Yarn Shoppe for October presentation as presented by board.
- 3)Attended and gave introduction at SPOAC for EPX Stories event.
- 4)EPA Gateway meetings w/BID board and City agents and Passyunk Merchants.
- 5)Secured vendors for Art Auction gift cards/food donations.
- 6)Met repeatedly w/EPA BID 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 and attended three ZBA hearings.
- 9)Met w/EPX Board Member re nomination process.
- 10)Secured funding for office awning and made presentation to ZBA securing variance for the installation.
- 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 sponsorship.
- 14)Met w/Farther Nick, Sister Mary Esther, and Bill Fahringer re St. Nick's "Most Improved Student of the Month" program.
- 15)Staffed EPX table @ St. Nick's Italian Festival.

Cochair Report ñ D. Fava

Met w/Jane Golden, Phila. Mural Arts Program (MAP) re their participation in gateway project at Broad, McKean and Passyunk. MAP may do a 3-D art project as part of the plan.

Attended meeting for South Philadelphia Heritage project, which is applying for \$200K grant through Pew Charitable Trust.

Met w/Central South Philadelphia Civic Associations Alliance re design collaborative for South Broad Street (Washington Ave. to sports complexes). Attended meeting of South Broad Street Neighbors; sample plans were submitted, project is moving forward.

Attended event at SPOAC re EPX Stories project.

Recording Sec'y J. Cardillo

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

Corresponding Sec'y K. Buckwalter - Absent

JFM noted that Kim is working on procuring shed for EPX office.

Treasurer's Report ñ Roger Bruno, Assistant Treasurer

Donations rec'd for office: \$3,614.35

(Expenditures on construction, rent, utility deposits)

Anniversary party net: \$ 180.00

August closing balance: \$2,441.08

(Holiday donation amount TBD)

Clean & Green ñ S. Ausprich

Expressed thanks to participants in September's cleanup of Ninth Street.

Mentioned that it was particularly challenging, as old tires were among trash to be picked up.

Next street-cleaning: Mifflin St., Sat., 10/25/08, 10 am

Next C&G meeting: Monday, 10/20/08, 7 pm., EPX office.

Joseph F. Marino noted that he will have 100 more recycling buckets available.

City is now issuing \$25 tickets to residents who are not recycling.

Attendee asked about getting a tree.

Marketing and Events ñ Marnie Hall (Started out by saying this committee could use more members.)

1)EPX Table @ 10/5/08 St. Nick's Festival ñ Lots of participation by Board members in staffing table. About 25 new EPX signups.

2)11/7/08 EPX Art Auction ñ Last EPX fundraiser of the year. \$20 per ticket. Food to be provided by Paradiso, Le Virtu, Mamma Maria; beer by Reading Beer. Banners will be displayed across East Passyunk Ave.

3)Working w/Margaret Kalalian's committee on EPX Stories event.

4)Fall newsletter almost complete. To be hand-delivered, not mailed, thus decreasing EPX distribution cost.

Membership ñ J. Cardillo

Thanks to EPX member Pat Corteza for working at reception table tonight.

No new signups tonight.

Approximately 25 new signups at St. Nick's Italian Festival.

EPX membership around 300; not all are active (or voting) members, however. Jack Morley, Republican candidate for State of PA First District in attendance; available to talk to interested attendees after meeting.

Public Safety ñ M. Damis

Participation in Town Watch walks has been decent lately.

Will get Town Watch flashlights and hats through Police Dept.

Working on spreading word among neighborhood residents about importance of keeping outdoor lights on, which greatly deters criminal activity. Will get analysis of electricity cost of keeping lights on.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 10/20/08, 8 pm, EPX office.

Zoning ñ M. Kalalian

1)1640 South Broad Street ñ Hometown Hostel Application has been made to use this property as a hostel and get variance, as property is currently zoned R10-A, which is single-family residence. Area civic associations, including EPX, oppose this use. A special ZBA hearing on this property is scheduled for 1/21/09, 5 pm.

2)1728 East Passyunk Avenue (formerly TEN store) Application filed for an optical shop at this address has been withdrawn. However, the property is still being purchased by same party who desired the optical store.

3)1726 South 13th Street (@ Castle) Owner wants permission to make this a two-dwelling property, despite EPX's past zoning meeting w/owner wherein neighbors expressed disapproval of a multi-family dwelling at this address. We suspect that owner is housing more than one family there presently, despite not having requisite variance. EPX will ask owner to appear again before our zoning committee.

4)1712 South 10th Street ñ Bella Rosa II Hearing before ZBA on 9/24/08, and they will vote on it this week. EPX board to meet after tonight's meeting to decide whether EPX will ultimately support this. Prospective buyer, Jonathan Klein, wants variance to allow for dining on second floor of the building.

5)Fox Electric Site ñ Emily and 12th Street Status quo: 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.

6)Barbershop @ 12th and Mifflin Per Joseph F. Marino, the business never got off the ground. Business owner did not get licensing, zoning. Sign has been taken down. Storefront still empty.

Next Zoning Committee meeting: Wednesday, 10/29, EPX office.

Block Captains ñ Bob Reilly is planning block captain meeting soon. Date, time, place to be announced.

Old Business:

1)DCED Grant status ñ Still awaiting grant funds.

2)EPX Office Space ñ 1940 South 13th Street

Grand opening was a success. EPX board members donated lots of time, hard work, money, and items to get office ready.

3)Film Festival - EPX Stories (per M. Kalalian)

Component 1, children's film-making workshop at Free Library at Broad and Morris, was a success. Fifteen area children, ages 7 to 13, participated and had opportunity to try out film-making equipment.

Component 2, senior citizens @ SPOAC storytelling, was a success. Film festival trailer was created from interviews w/senior citizens, many of whom had more they wanted to say.

Component 3, which is most ambitious, the call for entries to independent filmmakers, needs an extra push. We haven't received the response we hoped for and may have to extend the entry deadline to later in the fall or perhaps relaunch the event in spring of '09.

Next meeting TBD.

4)2008-2009 PAF Grant

EPX has been awarded this \$3,000 grant. Will use the funds to purchase office equipment: laptops, copy/scanner/fax machine. Expect to receive the grant by the holidays.

5)Art Auction (already covered by M. Hill)

6)Cavaliere Memorial Concert (already covered by J. Cardillo)

PRESENTATION

1)Jane's Yarn Shoppe (a no-show)

2)SWEAT GYM: EPX welcomed John (trainer) and Nicole (attendant) of our good business neighbor Sweat Gym. Class schedule and free passes to gym were distributed to meeting attendees. We learned that:

The company is 12 years old, has 8 locations throughout Delaware Valley. Membership includes two hours of free personal training, admission to all Sweat locations.

Many health insurance plans will cover membership.

Besides free weights and cardio equipment stations w/TVs, many classes are offered, including just-added spin classes.

New Business:

St. Edmond's "Most Improved Student Award" is providing \$25 savings bond for the winner and pizza party for his/her class each month @ St. Nicholas of Tolentine. Next month we will solicit EPX board member nominations. In order to qualify to nominate, a member has to have attended at least three EPX general membership meetings within last six months.

No new announcements made.

Adjournment:

Moved and seconded by Roger Bruno, Bob Reilly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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