

**EPX General Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 5, 2010**  
**Neumann-Goretti High School, 1736 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street,**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
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(DISCLAIMER: These proceedings were recorded via cassette tape recorder, then transcribed by Recording Secretary J. Cardillo. Portions of record are incomplete where proceedings on audio tape were inaudible or indiscernible.)

**Board Members Present:**

Joseph F. Marino, Board Co-Chair  
Darren Fava, Board Co-Chair  
Scott Collings, Clean-and-Green Chair  
Melody Damis, Corresponding Sec'y  
Beth Dougherty, Grants & Finance Chair  
Shawn Doyle, Board Member-At-Large  
Alice Gonglewski, Board Member-At-Large  
Edwin Landy, Public Safety/Town Watch  
Maripat Pileggi, Board Member-At-Large  
Martha ("Pat") Pitt, Board Member at Large  
Millie Ruffino, Treasurer  
Barbara Triolo, Board Member-at-Large

**Board Members Absent:**

Roger Bruno, Asst. Treasurer, Board Member-at-Large  
Josephine Cardillo, Recording Secretary

DF called meeting to order.

**April GM Agenda/January and February '10 Minutes Approval-**

M. Ruffino moved that the agenda and minutes be approved; seconded by Peg; motion carried unanimously.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Co-Chair Report - Joseph F. Marino**

In addition to routine operation functions of EPX, such as web page updates, check-signing, and regular meetings with Co-Chair, Darren Fava, JFM had the following to report:

- 1) Met w/Senator Farnese aide Bob Thiel re liquor licenses for:
  - Proposed business, Bottle Shop, 1941 E. Passyunk Ave (EPA).
  - Columbo's, sandwich shop in 1900 block of EPA.
- 2) Secured D.A. Seth Williams to be presenter at this evening's meeting.
- 3) Signed a number of letters to local politicians (DiCicco, Kenney, Farnese, Keller, Brady) soliciting financial support for 5/8/10 EPXtravaganza.
- 4) Did walking tour of EPA w/EPX Events Chair and Clean-and-Green Chair to determine merchants to be potential donors of raffle basket items/services for EPXtravaganza.
- 5) Extensive meetings w/BID Exec. Dir. R Gillinger re new EPA businesses, murals, what BID can do for EPXtravaganza; and also re 3/31/10 closing of Hot Video (adult video store) which was in violation of BID's zoning overlay
- 6) Met w/Neumann-Goretti (N-G) principal re final phase of student entries of EPX Stories.
- 7) Worked w/EPX Treasurer and Grants Committee re wrap-up of \$20K DCED Grant (used for N-G greening) and to plan for 2010-2011 Phila. Activities Fund Grant and work on EPXtravaganza insurance issues.
- 8) Two meetings w/Co-Chair re Penn students who are doing planning study on EPX neighborhood.
- 9) Met w/subgroup of Mural Arts, a dance company, that's doing a multi-media history installation on EPA

sometime this fall.

- 10) Attended Philadelphia Horticultural Society workshop.
- 11) Along w/Co-Chair and Clean-and-Green Chair, met w/LoMo president and vice president re Snyder Avenue cleanup and other projects.

### **Co-Chair Report - Darren Fava (See Zoning)**

**Recording Secretary - J. Cardillo (JC)** - No report; JC absent this evening.

### **Corresponding Secretary - M. Damis (MD)**

- Updated new board member info.
- Worked on letters acknowledging EPX donations for donor IRS reporting.
- Grants work.
- Zoning work.

### **Treasurer's Report – M. Ruffino (MR)**

- As of 3/31/10: \$2700, including \$750 in donations towards EPXtravaganza; \$500 earmarked for EPX Stories prize and \$200 for awning permit, leaving **working balance of \$2,000**.
- About \$300 remains in PAF Grant Fund dollars. We purchased chairs, tents, sound system
- \$500 from Hardy Grant.

### **Clean-and-Green (C&G) – S. Collings (SC)**

April and May is busy time for Beautification Committee. Important dates:

- Citywide cleanup: Saturday, 4/10/10, 9 to 1. Volunteers to meet @ EPX office. See signup sheets at reception table.
- Wednesday, 4/14/10 is deadline for resident street-tree application for fall planting. Submit form to SC or office.
- Saturday, 4/24/10, 9 a.m., South Philly High. 41-50 trees to be planted through South Philly Green.
- Saturday, 5/8/10 EPXtravaganza will include plant sale. Urban Jungle to work with us.
- Saturday, 5/22/10, 9 a.m., South Philly High, SNAP Event (**S**Nyder **A**venue **P**roject) joint cleanup w/LoMo Civic Association to clean Snyder Avenue from Broad to Eighth Street.

See EPX website for more details.

### **Grants/Finance - B. Dougherty (BD)** - Inaudible

### **Marketing and Events/Membership – A. Gonglewski (AG)**

- Reviewed Extravaganza Details: Saturday, 5/8/10, 9 to 4, 1600 block of EPA, municipal parking lot. Rain date is Saturday, 5/15/10. Solicited volunteers to add their names to signup sheets. Answered questions from meeting attendees.
- Noted that tonight's refreshments were donated by Birch Tree Catering.

### **New members this evening introduced by Pat Pitt:** (Inaudible.)

### **Public Safety/Town Watch (TW)- E. Landy (ELL)**

1. Has instituted TW/Public Safety cleanups. Volunteers to meet Saturdays, 9 a.m., at EPX office. First site worked on so far: Eighth and Snyder.
2. Opened up a **hotline 215.839.9753 to report quality-of-life issues**. For more info, see [epcrossing.org](http://epcrossing.org). Will give report at next general meeting. EL meets w/police once a month on reported EPX quality-of-life crimes.
3. Has noticed more graffiti in neighborhood than usual; distributed info on reporting it to city.
4. Still looking for volunteers to participate in TW patrols in afternoon hours.

**Zoning and Planning – per D. Fava** (who chaired monthly meeting in absence of Zoning Chair)

- One matter discussed this month: 1117 McKean Street. Property was converted many years ago to triplex (tailor shop and 2 apartments) without securing proper variance. Paperwork is in order, variance will be granted.
- Zoning meetings will be held fourth Wednesday of every month, in N-G library.

**Old Business: EPXtravaganza**

- Setup time is 8 a.m. and cleanup is 4:30 p.m.
- Next month, will have signups @ general meeting for volunteers, e.g. bake sale, kids games.
- Will have ongoing trash patrol during event.

**Order of the Day: RecycleBank**

- Mayor Nutter and the City of Philadelphia want you to start earning rewards when you recycle right. Introducing Philadelphia Recycling Rewards, the new city-wide program powered by RecycleBank. All you need to get started is the [Philadelphia Recycling Rewards sticker](#) on your recycling container so you can be rewarded for recycling. This exciting program launches in February 2010, but you can [start earning 100 Bonus RecycleBank points in advance by signing up now](#).
- Noted that recycling in the city is mandatory and that those who do not recycle will be fined \$50.

**New Business** - EPX summer meet-and-greets, tabled to next month.

**Announcement No. 1: Appearance of The Honorable Seth Williams, Philadelphia District Attorney**

- Applauded and thanked EPX organization for civic work.
- Discussed his educational and career background and noted he was sworn in as new DA on 1/4/10; was Assistant DA for ten years.
- Number-one common denominator among Philly arrestees: being a high school dropout.
- Would like to fix Philly's currently broken justice - corruption, fraud, waste.
- Six out of ten felony cases in Philly thrown out due to DA's Office not being prepared, which is twice the national average. Would like to work to reverse this trend and focus on victims' rights.
- Philly leads nation in rate of homicides caused by handguns. Would like to go after people who illegally sell guns.
- Noted that frequently crime victims in Philly get revitalized when going through our criminal justice system.
- Number-one spot in Philly area of car theft occurrences: Franklin Mills Mall parking lot.
- “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ car break-ins: Center City, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Districts.
- “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ shootings and homicides: North and SW Philly, 25<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Districts.
- “ “ day of year of domestic violence crimes: Super Bowl Sunday. Also when it snows and/or city sports teams lose.
- Majority of crimes in EPX neighborhood: property crimes - vandalism, car theft, burglary.
- DA's Office has Charging Unit; number of DA's assigned to this unit will be doubled.
- Possession of marijuana in Philly is not being decriminalized; however, punishment will be less severe. Cases will no longer be heard in court; offender will pay fine and/or do community service. Wants to see swift justice and free up resources for more serious crimes.
- Answered questions from meeting attendees.
- For more info about DA Williams, go to: <http://friendsofsethwilliams.com/>

**Announcement No. 2:** Thanks again to Birch Tree Catering for donation of tonight's refreshments.

**Announcement No. 3:** Flavors of the Avenue, Saturday, 4/24/10, 9 to 4, 1600 block of EPA, municipal parking lot, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

**Announcement No. 4:** Filitalia Festival on Sunday, 6/6/10, noon to 8 p.m., celebrating Italian National Day.

**Adjournment:** Time and motions to adjourn were not noted on audio tape.

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