

EPX General Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 6, 2012
EPX Headquarters, 1729 South 11th Street,
Philadelphia, PA

Board Members Present:

Darren Fava, Board Co-Chair
Joseph F. Marino, Board Co-Chair
Lindy Backues, Zoning Chair
Roger Bruno, Zoning Chair, Asst. Treasurer,
Josephine Cardillo, Recording Secretary
Scott Collings, Beautification/Environment
Beth Dougherty, Grants/Finance Chair
David Goldfarb, Zoning
Maripat Pileggi, At-Large Board Member
Martha ("Pat") Pitt, At-Large Board Member
Millie Ruffino, Treasurer
Rose Malinowski Weingartner, At-Large

Board Members Absent:

Erik Berger, At-Large Board Member
Melody Damis, Corresponding Secretary
Shawn Doyle, At-Large Board Member

Meeting Called to Order By: Darren Fava, 7:06 p.m.

February '12 GM Agenda Approval

Jo Cardillo moved that the agenda be approved; seconded by Joseph F. Marino; motion carried unanimously.

December '11 GM Meeting Minutes Approval

Joseph F. Marino moved that the December '11 minutes, as amended, be approved; seconded by Roger Bruno; 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) Coordinated Girl Scouts provision of refreshments for this evening.
- 2) Hosted CSPCAA SEPTA visit on 1/24/12
- 3) Chaired January quarterly CSPCAA meeting with newly-expanded membership, including GEAR, Whitman Council, and DNCA, on 1/26/12.
- 4) Met with *South Philadelphia Review* editor Bill Gelman re, among other items, doing a Joseph F. Marino guest editorial.
- 5) Scheduled meeting with Councilman Mark Squilla, LoMo, SBNA, and SPOAC at Tolentine Community Center re Fels Center closing. Date set for Tuesday, 2/21/12, 7 p.m.
- 6) Meetings with Grants/Finance re Fels Grant for executive director position and review of an executive director job description.
- 7) Meeting re revision of EPX bylaws.

Co-Chair Report - Darren Fava In addition to routine operation functions of EPX, such as web page updates, check-signing, and regular meetings with Co-Chair Joseph F. Marino:

- 1) Accepted position on PARC Board. First meeting is in March.
- 2) Inquired about joining EPA BID; needs to apply.
- 3) Attended meeting on making bicycle improvements in South Philadelphia. Will report on further developments.

Recording Secretary - J. Cardillo Nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary - Melody Damis (absent)

In MD's absence, Joseph F. Marino reported that letters have been sent out to those who have donated monetarily to EPX for their tax records.

Treasurer's Report - Millie Ruffino

- Turned over books to Roger Bruno for year-end closing.
- General Account: \$1,159.43 (Board of Directors insurance paid in full.)
- Grants Account: \$15,743.90 (Funds from PARC, DCED and PAF Grants)

Beautification/Environment - Scott Collings - Nothing to report.

Marketing and Events - Pat Pitt - Is planning a meeting to discuss EPX spring fundraiser.

Grants/Finance Committee - Beth Dougherty

- With input from R. Bruno and M. Ruffino, is working on report to PARC to outline EPX's spending of funds provided to us by their grant.
- Completed draft job description for part-time EPX Executive Director.
- Working on revision of EPX bylaws.
- Attended CSPCAA meeting. Discussion of creating a South Philly Snow Corps, a program to connect volunteers with residents in need of snow removal; e.g., senior citizens, residents with disabilities.

Public Safety/Town Watch/Sanitation - Lindy Backues

1. Attended two meetings:
 - Police 3rd District Community Meeting @ 11th and Wharton Streets
 - Philadelphia PSA 3 (Police Service Area) @ South Philly Supersite, 10th and Bigler Streets. This meeting was attended mostly by residents who live in lower South Philly. Lt. John Hewitt gave a report. Within each district, the Department has created smaller geographical subdivisions called PSAs. Depending on the size of the police district in which you live, there may be between two and four PSAs. Each PSA is led by a police lieutenant who, along with a team of sergeants and officers, is now responsible for coordinating police services within the smaller defined area of their police district. EPX falls within PSA 3, which runs from Morris to Pattison, Broad to the Delaware River. (For more information, go to: or [http://phillypolice.com/news/police-service-areas-in-your-districts/.](http://phillypolice.com/news/police-service-areas-in-your-districts/))
2. Online crime alerts are accessible via: www.readynotifypa.org.
3. Has not reconstituted Town Watch walks.

Zoning and Planning - Roger Bruno

1. 1915 South 12th Street - Currently a single-family home. Owner seeking variance to convert to two-story dwelling, although it's already been such for the past 40 years.
2. 1203 Snyder Avenue - Proposed tattoo parlor. Attorney Vern Anastasio will appear at EPX's next zoning meeting on behalf of this business.
3. 1802 East Passyunk Avenue, Stogie Joe's - Seeking variance to convert upper floors to three apartments. Owner will appear at next EPX zoning meeting.
4. Dave Goldfarb, newly appointed at-large EPX board member will replace vacancy created by Alice Gonglewski and will work on Zoning issues.
5. Next Zoning meeting: Tuesday, 2/22/12, 7 p.m., EPX Headquarters. Dave Goldfarb will create and post flyers.

At-Large Board Member Reports - None

Old Business

- 1) SEPTA/DCED Mural - Nothing new to report. Table to next month.
- 2) Greater Philadelphia Cares Winter Coat Drive - Former EPX board member Alice Gonglewski is coordinating

this project. Thanks to EPX member Kathy Migliarese, South Philly Girl Scouts Troop leader, approximately 250 brand-new and gently used coats have been collected. Coats will be dropped off at the Holy Spirit Church, Hartranft on Saturday, 2/28/12, 11 a.m.

3) Girl Scout Cookie Sale - Tonight, after meeting.

Order of the Day: Officer Gary Harkins, South Philadelphia Community Relations Officer, Third District. Officer Harkins has been with PPD over twenty years and reports to Captain Mike Ryan in trying to resolve problems. As a community relations officer, it is Officer Harkins' job to foster a relationship between the Department and the diverse occupants of South Philadelphia so that they recognize law enforcement as a positive and active force in their lives. Officer Harkins addresses citizens' concerns, attends civic meetings, and teaches members of the community about police work and public safety. "In this position, you have to have the patience to talk to someone, to really listen to their problem," Harkins says, "People want to know that someone cares about them."

- Discussed PSAs (see Public Safety above). There are three PSAs within the Third District. Each PSA has a squad lieutenant and meets once a month.
- Mentioned Philadelphia's Dispute Resolution Program, which focuses on providing mediation, conciliation, counseling, and referral services to neighbors and others who have ongoing conflict. For more information, see: http://www.phila.gov/humanrelations/Dispute_Resolution_P.html
- Mentioned license plate readers have been installed in some police cars that can instantly identify tags of cars it passes and help track criminals.
- Mentioned new computer system in police cars that can generate paper records.
- More bike officers are patrolling the streets.
- Officer Harkins fielded questions from meeting attendees.

New Business:

1. SEPTA Route C Bus Changes - SEPTA is launching its new schedules and a name change for its Route C bus. Currently the C bus operates its primary service along Broad between Geary and Fern Rock. That will now be extended south to Broad and Pattison at the sports complex in South Philadelphia and effective Monday, it will become known as the Route 4. The modified Route C bus that traditionally operates along Broad between Cheltenham Avenue, the Ogontz bus loop and City Hall will become known as the Route 16.
2. Possible EPX Fundraiser - EPX, Passyunk Square, LoMo, and South Broad Street Neighbors considering partnering to assemble group to see *Clybourne Park*, a play at the Arden Theater about a neighborhood civic association and neighborhood gentrification .

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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