

EPX General Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 9, 2012
Neumann-Goretti High School, 1736 South 10th Street,
Philadelphia, PA
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Board Members Present:

Darren Fava, Board Co-Chair
Joseph F. Marino, Board Co-Chair
Erik Berger, At-Large Board Member
Roger Bruno, Zoning Chair, Asst. Treasurer,
Josephine Cardillo, Recording Secretary
Scott Collings, Beautification/Environment
Melody Damis, Corresponding Secretary
Beth Dougherty, Grants/Finance Chair
Shawn Doyle, At-Large Board Member
Martha ("Pat") Pitt, At-Large Board Member
Millie Ruffino, Treasurer
Rose Malinowski Weingartner, At-Large

Board Members Absent:

Lindy Backues, Zoning Chair
Maripat Pileggi, At-Large Board Member

Meeting Called to Order By: Joseph F. Marino, 7:05 p.m.

January '12 GM Agenda Approval

Roger Bruno moved that the agenda be approved; seconded by Marie Brescia; motion carried unanimously.

December GM Meeting Minutes Tabled

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/St. Nicholas coat drive donations.
- 2) Secured BID Charitable Giving donations from Santa Spirits event and QOTA.
- 3) Secured Senator Farnese's visit to EPX.
- 4) Secured \$200 donation from then-Councilman Elect Squilla's campaign to EPX office expenses.
- 5) Secured donations for EPA BID Santa Spirits event for EPX Charitable Giving.
- 6) Secured Girl Scouts providing refreshments for February '12 general meeting membership meeting.

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:

- Had meeting with reps from EPA BID and PARC re Mifflin Triangle landscaping, improvement plans. Newsstand to be relocated to Mifflin Street side since it obscures Joey Giardello statue.
- In application process to be on PARC's Board of Directors.

Recording Secretary - J. Cardillo

Nothing new to report. Welcomed new members this evening: Jennifer Chiu, Roy DeLaMar, Joseph Reinard, Juliana Reyes, Rob Topper.

Corresponding Secretary - Melody Damis Plans to send out letters to EPX donors for '11 contributions.

Treasurer's Report – Millie Ruffino

- General Account: \$1,650.79
- Grants Account: \$16,000.00 (including \$10K from DCED, \$500 from PAF Grant)

Beautification/Environment – Scott Collings

See item number 2 under Old Business re TreeCycling.

Marketing and Events/Membership – Pat Pitt

Need to convene committee meeting to plan for fundraising. Anyone interested in participating should talk to Pat Pitt after tonight's meeting

Grants/Finance Committee - Beth Dougherty

- Beth reviewed DCED Grant terms of contract.
- Finalized lease agreement draft between Newmann-Goretti and EPX.

Public Safety/Town Watch/Sanitation – Lindy Backues (LB)

In LB's absence, Darren Fava reported:

- No meetings during this past holiday season.
- LB spoke with Police Lt. Hewitt, who directed LB to contact Officer Gary Harkins to establish relationship with EPX.
- Planning on regrouping Town Watch walkers in the near future.

Zoning and Planning – Roger Bruno

- No new zoning issues have been raised this past month.
- City is modernizing zoning applications process.
- Still monitoring 2100 block of South 13th where there is a proposed youth center being considered by St. George Coptic Orthodox Church of Philadelphia (based in Norristown).

At-Large Board Member Reports - None

Old Business

- 1) Holiday Charitable Giving – Pat Pitt and Millie Ruffino coordinated December charity for five needy families, four within EPX neighborhood. Gift cards worth \$300 from Target and ShopRite were given to each family. Thanks to all donors, including \$300 netted from EPA Suds and Spirits Crawl.
- 2) Xmas TreeCycling Event – Passyunk Square, LoMo, Newbold partnered with EPX to collect discarded Xmas trees to be chopped up as mulch. Collected \$5 per discarded tree. Each participating civic to receive \$250 from proceeds. Chips/mulch from this event are available for free to community. Go to Columbus Park.
- 3) Greater Philadelphia Coat Drive – Last year 68 coats were collected; this year, we've collected 200-300 coats, most of which were gathered for us by Girl Scouts.

Order of the Day: Senator Larry Farnese

- Discussed Harrisburg budget cuts across the Commonwealth on education.
- Discussed Marcellus Shale legislation on table. A bill has been drafted so that by Year 5, about \$225 million to go to Commonwealth; in contrast to \$1 billion received by State of Alaska and State of Texas for drilling.
- Discussed liquor store privatization, which he does not support.

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- Discussed return of Philadelphia mounted police patrol unit.
- Passed out brochure, plus guide to senior citizen programs in PA.
- Took questions from audience.

New Business: SEPTA Presentation for CSPCAA, Tuesday, 1/24/12, 7 p.m., N-G Cafeteria. SEPTA traffic reps will be present to discuss South Philly bus routes. Looking for public opinion input.

Announcements:

1) SEPTA Substation (13th and Mifflin) Beautification

- Donna Backues showed her drawings for four panels for proposed mural/scrim of windows. This is a transportation theme. Depictions show scenes from 1600s, 1700s, 1800, 1900s.
- More money needs to be raised for this project. We just learned that EPX did not receive Knight Foundation Arts Grant award.

2) Girl Scouts will be here next month to sell cookies.

Adjournment: J. Cardillo moved that tonight's meeting be adjourned at 8: p.m.; seconded by Jane Brescia; motion carried unanimously.

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