

General Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 10, 2012

EPX Center 1729 S. 11th Street

Board Members Present:

Joseph F. Marino, Board Co-Chair
Darren Fava, Board Co-Chair
Erik Berger, At-Large Board Member
Shawn Doyle, At-Large Board Member
David Goldfarb, Zoning
Linda Harris, At-Large Board Member
Roger Bruno, Treasurer
Beth Dougherty, Grants/Finance Chair
Scott Collings, Beautification/Environment Chair
Anne Reed, Outreach & Events Chair

Board Members Absent:

Melody Damis, Corresponding Secretary
Martha ("Pat") Pitt, At-Large Board Member
Millie Ruffino, Treasurer
Lindy Backues, Public Safety Chair
Recording Secretary - VACANT

Meeting Called to Order By:

Joseph F. Marino, 7:06 p.m.

September 2012 GM Agenda Approval

L. Harris moved that the agenda be approved; seconded by J. Brescia; motion carried unanimously.

May/June GM Meeting Minutes Approval

E. Berger moved that the minutes be approved; seconded by S. Doyle; motion carried unanimously.

Officer Reports:

Co-Chair Report - Joseph F. Marino

In addition to routine operation functions of EPX, such as summer event updates, check-signing, and regular meetings with Co-Chair Darren Fava, JFM reported on the following topics:

- Funding for the art project 13th & Mifflin.
- The summer meet & greets and the Sunday 9/9/2012 pot luck supper were well attended.
- EPX Spirit night at Rita's Water Ice Thursday 9/20 was announced and coupons were available.
- Gift cards to La Cantina were procured for the volunteers on the Events committee.
- The Memorial fund committee was discussed.
- The summer 2012 Arts & Smarts program was a success and reached 26 children with funding.
- JFM has reviewed and approved the new EPX by-laws.
- New outdoor signage had been approved by Gorretti for the use of EPX.
- A mural has been proposed for La Cantina.
- JFM Has a scheduled meeting with Senator Farnesi and City Councilman Joe Scquilla.
- JFM will be attending the Civic Summit at the Holiday Inn (13th &Packer) to address crime issues.
- Flyers have been hung for EPX zoning meetings.

Co-Chair Report - Darren Fava

In addition to routine operation functions of EPX, DEF reported on the following:

- The ongoing gardening at the EPX center 10th st location. Mr. Fava was looking for volunteers to help.
- Historical research was performed for the approved EPX signage. Some concepts were available.
- The t-shirt design has been completed, there were several paper samples.
- Design for the proposed mural is underway.
- There is an active revitalization subcommittee project and upcoming meetings. The goal of the project is to improve facades in the EPX civic.

Recording Secretary - VACANT

Corresponding Secretary - Melody Damis

Absent.

Treasurer's Report – Roger Bruno

In addition to routine operation functions of EPX, Roger reported on the following:

- \$353.83 Was used for the Friends of the Free Library 'Arts & Smarts' program
- The EPX Operating Account balance is currently \$5235.98.
- The EPX Grant Account balance is currently \$13,380.88.

Committee Reports

Beautification/Environment – Scott Collings

Scott thanked the group for all the civic beautification help he received recently. He reported that the recent committee meeting on litter focused on making businesses aware of the city Ordinances. At least 100 will be visited by Philadelphia's "Sweep Officers", to stress educating responsible trash policy. So far, most businesses have been receptive to the communication about litter. On October 27th, there will be a Spooky Saturday cleanup, Scott requested cooperating on this event. He also reported that there will be a Fall 2012 Tree Planting in November.

Grants/Finance Committee - Beth Dougherty

Beth discussed the new EPX Education Committee that she will serve as the chair of. The committee's first meeting will be held on 9/12/2012 at the EPX center. The committee's focus will be on the Southwark Elementary School and an effort to replicate LOMO's efforts at multiple schools through outreach. Beth has completed a wholesale revision of the EPX by-laws, which will be reviewed at the EPX Board meeting on 9/18/2012. Beth also reviewed the La Cantina Mural agreement. A project for translation services within EPX has been undertaken by Beth's committee and has received a \$3000 Grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund.

Outreach & Events – Anna Reed

Anna discussed moving on to Outreach events now that the summer is over. She also reported on the success of the three summer meet & greets and the 9/9 potluck supper. She announced the EPX 9/20 Spirit Night at Rita's Water Ice and encouraged members to attend with coupons distributed at the sign in table. Anna announced the 11/10/2012 EPX Tour Of Homes, and requested volunteers to show their homes.

Public Safety – Lindy Backues

Lindy didn't have a proper report, as he had scheduled Officer Gary Harkins of the Philadelphia Police's 3rd District to speak at the meeting.

Zoning and Planning – Dave Goldfarb

Dave announced that EPX is now a registered & recognized civic with the ZBA. Dave reported on the following properties, and announced a 9/19/2012 Zoning Committee meeting.

- 2000 S. 10th Grocery - Some issues with property owner
- 1843-5 E Passayunk Avenue (King of Jeans Building): Variance for multi-family apartment units (12 one bedrooms) with first floor commercial and additional floor of office commercial space.
- 2022 S 13th Street: PERMIT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE FOR A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION TO INCLUDE MEETING ROOMS, AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, TUTORING , SOCIAL SERVICES AND BIBLE STUDY.

At-Large Board Member Reports

None.

Old Business

The following items will be discussed next month:

- The new EPX T-shirt design
- Septa
- Details on the restructuring of the EPX By-Laws
 - Mr. Marino announced EPX Community Service Awards. Plaques and \$25 gift cards were distributed to:
- Heather Cook
- Ian Toner - Received by Becky Toner
- Gina Morsoka
- Ellen Kita

Order of the Day: Officer Gary Harkins of the Philadelphia Police's 3rd District

Officer Gary Harkins stopped by to discuss current incidents in the neighborhood. Officer Harkins talked about the upcoming civic/police summit at the Holiday Inn. A New Town Watch leader has been hired and will start training meetings. There were a lot of burglaries in August. Database searching led to an arrest and suspect admitted to 10 of them. Suspects often used open windows and mail slots to gain entry in to attended and unattended homes. Officer Harkins stressed the importance of good locks on doors & porch lights. He introduced and reviewed crime update sheets. He reported on the rise of drug related gang retaliation in surrounding areas. To address the concerns of several in attendance, the home invasion at 13th & McKean was reviewed. It was reported that the suspect entered through an open window and was chased from the premises. Officer Harkins reiterated with Joe Marino that EPX still contains some of the safest neighborhoods in the city.

New Business:

- Over 40 people attended the EPX pot luck on 9/9/2012.
- EPX gets 20% of proceeds from the Spirit Night at Rita's Water Ice
- The 11/10/2012 Tour of Homes needs volunteers, and information will be posted on the website.
- The 19th Annual Alfonso Cavaliere Memorial Fund Concert will be held on Sunday 10/28/2012 at 4:00 pm in the auditorium of SS. John Neumann-Maria Goretti High School. Millie is coordinating ticket sales, there is a Senior discount, and there is a link to PayPal on the website.

Announcements:

EPX Spirit Nite @ Rita's Water Ice - THURSDAY, September 20th from 6-9 p.m.
Zoning/Planning Committee Meeting - WEDNESDAY, September 19h 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

P. Pitt moved that tonight's meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m.; seconded by D. Goldfarb;
Motion carried unanimously.