

East Forest Park Civic Association
Minutes for Feb. 15, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Charlie Contant, Dick & Darlene Acchione, Ellen Walmer, Linda Gallagher, Jacque Forsman, Jimmy Ferrera, Stuart Wright (for Elaine), Edward Cross, Mary Martin, Diane Gilmore, Shawn Sheehan, Thomas Daly, Matthew Ferri, Mary Ellen Lemieth, Elizabeth & David Wells.

Stuart Wright gave the Treasurer's report for Elaine Wright. The EFPCA has \$2071.18 as of 2/15/06, plus \$520 in a separate account for the scholarship fund allowing the EFPCA to give another scholarship this year.

Charlie Contant expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr. Paul Plante for clearing the snow off the sidewalks around Nathan Bill Park after the last snow storm.

The Membership & Hospitality Committee reported their progress on creating hospitality packets for new neighbors. Cathy Brown, the liaison with city hall for hospitality packets, was very helpful in providing lots of materials for the EFPCA hospitality packets. Additional materials the committee would like to see included in the packets are the Good Neighbor Handbook, a Change of Address form from the U.S. Post Office, coupons for local EFP businesses, an EFPCA membership application and a schedule of EPFCA meetings.

The next goal for the Membership & Hospitality Committee is to find a better way to identify new neighbors moving into the neighborhood and to find volunteers to deliver the hospitality packets. Charlie Contant recommended the committee contacting a local realtor or reviewing the list of transferred deeds published in the newspaper. There are two places where real estate transfers may be listed – the Registry of Deeds and Land Court. Elizabeth Wells suggested that Mary Rosenthal of 33 Rencelau Street (736-7777) may be willing to distribute welcome packets to new neighbors as she frequently walks around the neighborhood and is willing to help the EFPCA in any way other than coming to night meetings.

The Communication Committee raised the question as to whether the EFPCA has a separate Membership Committee other than the combined Membership & Hospitality Committee.

During Neighborhood Concerns, it was reported that Earth Day and a clean-up of Nathan Bill Park will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2006. Members of the EFPCA are encouraged to invite members of the neighborhood to participate, especially young people with growing families and who frequent Nathan Bill Park. Since it is only a 2-3 hour commitment on a Saturday morning, it is a perfect opportunity for people who cannot attend monthly meetings to participate in the EFPCA.

As for the EFPCA Scholarship, it was reported that more money has come in and the EFPCA will do a scholarship this year.

Jim Ferrera reported on his progress in forming a committee to keep up the maintenance of Nathan Bill Park. The sidewalks were successfully cleaned up after the last snow storm thanks to Paul Plante. Jim tried to contact Dave Choquette, who expressed interest in helping Jim on the new Nathan Bill Committee at the January EFPCA meeting, however Mr. Choquette never returned Jim's phone call. Charlie Contant suggested that Jim contact Bob Piteo at the Park Department to get the names of local athletic directors whose programs use Nathan Bill Park and may have suggestions for what improvements need to be done to the park, especially how to improve the park's baseball diamonds. It was reported by an EFPCA member that the dumping of trash is occurring within the park and Jim and his committee members should perform a walk-through of the park after the snow melts to assess what improvements needs to

be made. In addition to Dave Choquette, Jim should contact Bobby O'Hara to be members of the Nathan Bill Park committee.

The EFPCA has a new secretary – the position will be shared by Elizabeth and David Wells.

There is an event that should be listed by webmaster Shawn Sheehan on the EFPCA website (www.eastforestpark.org). There is a free concert taking place at Commerce High School on March 6, at 7:30pm. Call Joan Riley at the mayor's office for free tickets.

New Business that was introduced included damage done to the grass and sprinkler system at the triangle of Sumner & Allen Streets by Baystate Gas Company and their private contractor, R. H. White, when they left pipes and heavy equipment on the triangle. Plus windows were reportedly broken on Bernie Street when they blasted. Baystate Gas and R. H. White, not the city, should be held accountable and pay to repair the damages. Charlie Contant volunteered to write a letter and send it to the city, Pat Sullivan, and Baystate Gas.

Charlie announced that the City Council will be voting on a new parking situation for Eloise Street on Feb. 27 at 7:30pm. Howe and Vail Streets will also be impacted so anyone living on Eloise, Howe or Vail should attend the meeting.

The Island Pond Road Restaurant is changing hands. Not much is known about it.

The next meeting of the EFPCA will take place on the third Wednesday of the month, instead of the second Wednesday of the month because the Holy Cross cafeteria will be unavailable. The next EFPCA meeting will be on March 15, 2006 at 7pm at Holy Cross.

It was suggested that in order to draw a bigger audience to the EFPCA monthly meetings, the EFPCA might invite local public figures to speak at the meetings, such as the new Springfield police chief. Charlie volunteered to write a letter to invite Mr. Flynn and/or Mr. Pucha to speak at the May meeting of the EFPCA.

A member expressed concern about knowing what was going on with local crime in our area. It was confirmed that the EFPCA does have a member overseeing this and in contact with our local community police officers, however Sandy has not been coming to the monthly EFPCA meetings. Sandy should be encouraged to come to the monthly EFPCA meetings and give her report early in the meeting so she is free to leave rather than not coming to meetings at all.

Submitted by Elizabeth Wells