

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

Attendance: Darlene & Dick Acchione, George Cartier, Jacque Forsman, Jeffrey Galarneau, Linda Gallagher, Mary Martin, Donald Pellerin, Shawn Sheehan, Ellen Walmer, David Wells, Elaine Wright.

Dave Choquette, Vice President, administered the meeting in Charlie Contant's absence.

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Wright reported that the EFPCA has \$2141.42 in the general fund. The Denise Shay Memorial Scholarship fund has approximately \$770. The scholarship already has 5 or 6 applicants for 2006.

General Business & Committee Reports

Dave Choquette gave a Nathan Bill Update from Bob O'Heron. Bob has 4 or 5 volunteers to help get the park up to speed. Another report will be provided next month.

Mary Martin provided a report on Earth Day plans. Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 29th. Volunteers should meet at Nathan Bill Park at 9:00am. Mary has attended meetings at the Science Museum, and the materials will be staged there. Mary will get the materials from the Science Museum to Nathan Bill. While Nathan Bill is the group's priority, she suggested several alternate sites for cleanup: General Edward's Bridge, Murray Park, and South Branch Road. Alternate sites will be decided in the next meeting. Mary and Dave Choquette will contact other local groups willing to participate, such as the Athletic Association, Cathedral High School, Boy Scouts. Mary plans to run reminders in local publications the Bulletin and the Reminder. However, we will not buy a flyer insert in the Springfield Republican since it didn't help bring participants.

The new police commissioner, Ed Flynn, is being sworn in Tomorrow, March 16th at 1:00 pm at Symphony Hall. At the last meeting it was suggested that we should get Ed Flynn to speak to the group. It has been learned that Mr. Flynn has been contacted by the Forest Park Civic Association and a tentative date of May 10th has been slated for a meeting. Dave Choquette was to check with Charlie Contant to see if we could organize a joint meeting.

Darlene Acchione reported on the Welcome Committee. Cathy Brown was contacted and she will be providing copies of the New Neighbor Handbook to EFPCA. Once the New Neighbor Handbook has been received the packets will be complete.

No update was provided about drafting a letter to the Bay State Gas Company and the RH White company about the damage done to the diamond created by Allen and Sumner Avenue joining and various other tree belts in the area. Dave Choquette will contact Charlie Contant.

New Business and Volunteer Opportunities

Walter Gould from the Outer Belt Civic Association (OBCS) contacted us. The developer that is building homes on Allen Street needs representatives from both the OBCS and EFPCA to approve development plans. Any volunteers should contact Dave Choquette for more information.

The Step-Up Springfield is organizing a Neighborhood Family Fun Night at Dryden Memorial School. The organization is seeking volunteers to help on April 24th. No other information is available.

Springfield City Library is holding the One Book, One Springfield program this year. Brochures were provided that explained the program and EFPCA members were encouraged to participate.

EFPCA members are encouraged to attend the meeting hosted by the Fredrick Harris PTO and presented by the Citizen Advocates for Responsible Education (C.A.R.E.'s). The meeting is next Wednesday, March 22, at 6:30 pm at the Fredrick Harris Elementary School. More information is on EastForestPark.org.

News and Information

Report any graffiti to be removed at the Nathan Bill Park to Mike Cass at the Neighborhood Housing Services. No phone number was provided.

Dave Choquette reported that there is a petition being circulated to remove the Vernal Pool in the southwest corner of Nathan Bill Park. The petition was started by Bernie Balise.

It was rumored last month that the Two Eagles Restaurant has been sold. No additional information was available.

It was rumored that another business is going into the space vacated by the Naturally Yours Fruit Stand on Sumner Avenue at Garland Avenue.

Submitted by David Wells