

East Forest Park Civic Association Minutes for May 10, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Darlene & Dick Acchione, Bernard Balise, Nick, Rick Caputo, Jimmy Ferrera, Marty Galagher, Jeff Galarneau, Diana Gilmore, Jorge Guillen, Sandy Little, Greg Major, Shawn Sheehan, Ellen Walmer, Elizabeth & David Wells

Charlie Contant, President, administered the meeting.

Special Guests

- **Sandi Little** – Beat Management Team
- **Marty Galagher, Greg Major , and Jorge Guillen** – Springfield Paddle Club

Special Guest Presentations

Sandi Little provided a report from the Beat Management Team Meeting for Sector H held at the Mt. Sinai Temple at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, see www.springfieldpolice.net. Denny Hackett is the narcotics officer for sector H and he works 4 to midnight. Contact him for any drug-related activity. Also noted, the Farmers Market held on Tuesdays from 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm has been moved to the Trinity Church parking lot. There will be an Illumination Night along Bronson Terrace the Saturday before Father's Day – it is a fun family activity and free of charge. The East Forest Park Civic Association donated \$200 to the Beat Management Team.

Representatives from the Springfield Paddle Club, **Marty Galagher, Greg Major, and Jorge Guillen**, invited East Forest Park residents to join the private beach club on Bass Pond. On Sunday, June 11th, between 3:00 and 6:00 pm, the Paddle Club will be holding an open picnic to encourage enrollment. For additional information, visit www.springfieldpaddleclub.com or call Diane Normand at 746-4486.

Treasurer's Report

Elaine Wright reported that \$2,151.71 is in the treasury. Final selections are being made for the Denise Shay Memorial Scholarship by an academic board.

General Business & Committee Reports

Elaine Wright reported on the Earth Day Cleanup. The event was a success with great turnout. The volunteers saw a great deal of improvement in the trash collected. When the event was over, less than half of the amount of trash from the prior year was collected. Our thanks go out to Mary Martin for organizing the event!

Jimmy Ferrera reported on a meeting regarding Nathan Bill Park. Bernie Balise and Nick Pietriniro presented their concerns about the vernal pool in Nathan Bill Park. Currently, the pool is listed as a protected wetland. Bernie and Nick will be attending a meeting in Northampton with local conservation and environmental officials to have the area removed from the list of protected wetlands. Should that occur, the water that accumulates could be drained easily. Thanks to Jimmy Ferrera for verifying the status of the pool with Pat Sullivan. We will continue to monitor this.

Jimmy reported on several other issues from the Nathan Bill Park meeting.

- Space has been reserved in the field house for lawn and garden equipment to keep up the park. If you are interested in volunteering to become a caretaker for the park, you can get a key down at the City of Springfield Park Department on Trafton Road.
- The Parks department is considering locking the gates on Allen and Eddywood on a nightly basis in order to deter vandalism in the park. The decision to lock the park has been left up to the local residents and the EFPCA. The EFPCA is unwilling to make a decision until there has been an advertised community meeting regarding the issue.
- There is concern about the noise from the basketball courts on Plumtree Road. Currently, the basketball courts are not in use as the rims are not up. At this time, the courts could easily be removed or restored. There is \$3000 earmarked for this fiscal year to fully remove the courts and replace them with a grassy area. The association did not wish to remove the courts and is exploring ways to accommodate both park visitors who wish to play basketball and the residents living along Plumtree Road.
- The Sheriff's Department was contacted to clean up some of the dead and overgrown brush in the park to improve city security. The sheriff's department has been contacted to get community service teams to work on clearing the brush.
- There has been ongoing weekly trash pickup in the park by a community corrections crew.
- In order to meet the need for a bathroom in the park, a Sani-can was installed by the Royal Flush Company. This will be maintained every two weeks. There was concern about this as a long-term solution and about the inadequacy of the maintenance schedule. The association asked Jimmy to at least improve the maintenance schedule. A full functioning bathroom has been suggested for the field house as a long term solution.
- The association asked Jimmy to follow up on trash collection at the park. The trash barrels have been overflowing during good weather. It was suggested that trash barrels should be emptied on Mondays after heavy park use during the weekends.

Charlie Contant reviewed the issue that was raised last meeting about the AutoZone on Island Pond Road and their overflowing trash barrels. Charlie spoke with employees and they said that the parking lot is swept and cleaned every two days. Charlie concluded they are making a good faith effort to keep the area surrounding the store clean.

The triangle between Allen Street and Sumner Ave is being repaired. Jeff Galarneau contacted Forest Hills Landscaping, the company listed on the "Adopt-a-Park" sign. They are aware of the damage done by the gas company work on Allen Street last fall, and has been dealing with Al Chwalek to repair the damage. At the time of the meeting, new sidewalks had just been poured. Thanks go out to Jeff and to Steve Barion, who drafted a letter to the Gas Company.

New Business and Volunteer Opportunities

The Civic association will continue meeting throughout the summer. More details will be forthcoming about locations and times.

The June meeting will be a civic recognition meeting. The winner of the Denise Shay Memorial Scholarship will be presented as well as awarding Civic Association awards to local businesses. Shawn Sheehan will make certificates for the winners. In order to increase membership, letters are going to be mailed to past members. David and Elizabeth Wells will be mailing the letters on the first week of June.

The next meeting of the EFPCA will be Wednesday, June 14th at 7pm at Holy Cross School.

Submitted by David Wells