

**East Forest Park Civic Association  
Minutes for July 12, 2006 Meeting**

**Attendance:** Maria Bosworth, George Cartier, Charlie Contant, James J. Ferrera, Elaine & Klaus Feuerstein, Jeffrey Galarneau, Delores Gentile, Chris Leisey, Jeanie Marsh, Rosemarie Mazza Moriarty, Bruce Stebbins, and David Wells (13 attendees).

Charlie Contant, President, administered the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

No report.

**Old Business**

Charlie Contant had invited residents from Eloise and Spencer streets to discuss the parking and traffic situations. Unfortunately, no one from these streets arrived. The discussion was to help mobilize them to find a solution to the warehousing traffic that has been a problem. Charlie and George Cartier suggested a new solution: make additional curb cuts so the traffic from New England Warehousing can choose different avenues to get to Sumner avenue. A meeting for this problem will be held on July 18<sup>th</sup>. No place was set.

The Nathan Bill Park continues to be cleaned up and the temporary bathroom solution seems to be working.

Jeff Galarneau has written a thank you letter to Forest Park Landscaping for fixing the terrace where Allen and Sumner meet.

**Presentations and Discussions**

Jimmy Ferrera participated in the Neighborhood Awareness portion of a tour for the Urban Land Institute. The institute comes to troubled towns and assists in finding appropriate economic development projects. ULI had taken part in the improvements to Lowell, Massachusetts and Bridgeport, Connecticut. It was noted that both of these towns had problems similar to Springfield. ULI will return to Springfield in September to present a finished report. Maryann Mazza Moriarty attended the ULI tour as well, and was impressed by the roadmap for economic development provided at the end of the day. Bruce Stebbins also attended and noted that the recommendations were very realistic and that they tended to provide practical solutions.

ULI identified several strengths and weaknesses of East Forest Park, such as the following:

Strengths:

- + Colleges surround East Forest Park (and we should attract more attention to these institutions)
- + Rents are proportionately low (and should attract more tenants)
- + East Forest Park has access to the city's Amtrak system
- + Springfield is centrally located to Worcester, Boston, and Hartford.
- + Springfield is located near Bradley International Airport.

Weaknesses:

- High percentage of commercial vacancies
- High crime percentages per capita of burglary, automotive theft, and homicide

- Parking is limited for commercial venues and relatively high cost
- No clear application and approval process for city permits

A discussion was held on the upcoming trash fee to be levied on the citizens of Springfield. Some of the comments were:

- The fee is not-unrealistic
- The administration cost of the billing will decrease the city's savings... they should have added it to the property taxes
- Trash collectors will have to enforce who has paid or not
- This fee may result in more litter or other undesirable behavior (e.g. dumping)
- This may cut down on trash that is imported from neighboring communities who already charge.
- The city trash collectors are very efficient. The average community trash route has 300 stops, but Springfield has over 800 stops!

### **New Business and Volunteer Opportunities**

Maryanne Mazza Moriarty suggested that we look into participating in National Night Out. This is an event sponsored by civic groups in Indian Orchard, West Springfield and Springfield. The message is to celebrate police involvement in the community and bring together the neighborhood in a positive way. This is usually held on the first Tuesday in August. Given the timing, EFPCA may consider this event for 2007.

The Civic association will continue meeting throughout the summer.

The next meeting of the EFPCA will be Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Holy Cross School.

Submitted by David Wells