

East Forest Park Civic Association
www.eastforestpark.org
Minutes for October 11, 2006 Meeting

Attendance (board members in bold): Darlene Acchione, Dick Acchione, Dave Choquette, Charlie Contant, Jacque Forsman, Donald Frappier, Mary-Virginia Frappier, Jeff Galarneau, Linda Gallagher, Judy Kennedy, Andrew Lucia, Mary Martin, Ken Ralph, Marien Ralph, Frank Ryan, Shawn Sheehan, Councilor Bruce Stebbins, Ellen Walmer, David Wells, Elizabeth Wells, Elaine Wright

David Wells, President, administered the meeting.

Old Business

The minutes from the September 13 meeting were unanimously accepted.

The minutes will be posted on the web site. Active members who do not have Internet access will have the minutes mailed to them upon request.

By-laws from 1996 were posted on the web site and paper copies were distributed at the meeting. Because David Wells has not been a member of the association for a full year, a special vote was taken to amend the by-laws for one year so that Dave can retain President's position. A motion was made to amend the by-laws and passed unanimously.

A recommendation was made by Dave Choquette that a formal review of the by-laws is made at a future meeting.

Committee Reports

The By-Laws contains information on Committees (Sect. 7.03, page 7).

Zoning & Code Enforcement Committee - was re-formed with Jeff Galarneau, Dick Acchione and Dave Choquette. Members of this committee will conduct research on zoning issues and inform nearby residents of issues discussed at association meetings so that all that are involved and affected are heard.

Hospitality Committee – members of this group include Linda Gallagher, Jacque Forsman, and Frank Ryan. Linda Gallagher has put together welcoming packets, which contain The Good Neighbor Handbook, Membership Form, information on the Paddle Club, List of City Departments and phone numbers, recycling information, and a Library Pamphlet. Dave Wells mentioned that a welcoming letter from the Civic Association should also be included. Members will help distribute the packets. On future attendance sheets there will be a check box where members can volunteer. The goals of this committee are to:

- Deliver a welcoming letter and packet to new residents and business owners
- Host meetings with refreshments and greeters.

Membership Committee – members of this group include Frank Ryan, Ellen Walmer, Linda Gallagher, and Mary Martin. This committee will plan on boosting membership through a membership drive by possibly setting up a table at Holy Cross after each mass. The goals of this committee are to:

- Set annual dues
- Maintain an up to date Membership Roster
- Conduct Fall Membership Drive at local churches and school open houses
- Offer Membership regularly at the doorway of meetings.

Neighborhood Concern Committee (formally known as the Personnel & Grievance Committee) Mary Martin and Charlie Contant head this committee, which works with Citizens for a Clean Springfield in association with the Keep America Beautiful campaign. There will be a clean up event scheduled on Saturday, November 4 at Springfield Central High School 1840 Roosevelt Avenue.

Frank Ryan credited Charlie Contant for organizing Citizens for a Clean Springfield and working with the Springfield Public Schools in cleaning neglected properties.

The goals of this committee are to:

- View neighborhood environment: streets, sidewalks, houses, park areas
- Participate in Spring Earth Day anti-litter Campaign

Scholarship & Awards Committee – members of this committee include Dave Choquette, George Cartier, and Elaine Wright. Elaine Wright informed the association that Ken Shay covered the costs of the Denise Shay Memorial Scholarship. Because all funds have been exhausted it is not clear whether the association will continue awarding this scholarship.

Dave Wells wants everyone to start considering nominations for the Beautification and Neighborhood Enhancement Awards.

The goals of this committee are to:

- Set annual scholarship number and amount(s).
- Conduct scholarship awarding process.
- Select scholarship recipient(s), publish, and award.
- Select recipient(s) for the Beautification and Neighborhood Enhancement Awards, publish, and award.

Communication Committee – was informed that notice of the Association meetings have to get to Holy Cross church two weeks prior to the publishing of the bulletin.

New Business and Volunteer Opportunities

Urban Land Institute (ULI) - Councilor Bruce Stebbins gave us a report on the ULI which is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers from all facets of industry all over the U.S. The panel visited the week of September 24th: the first day of the visit the panel met with politicians, on the second day involved a 7-hour bus tour of the city, third day were interviews with several civic associations, police chief and other department heads, while the fifth day the panel presented a PowerPoint presentation and will give a full formal report in November.

The panel members volunteer their time and cannot get consulting or other contracts from the city for two years to avoid conflict of interest.

Some highlights of the PowerPoint presentation were:

- Impressed with the architecture of city buildings.
- Stabilizing Union Station building and currently scrapping remodeling plans until there is more private investment.
- Bringing market rate housing to downtown and appealing to 75% of the population that has no kids under the age of 18.
- Future projects should have the following investment ratio, for every \$1 in tax funded investments there should be \$3 from the private sector.

1240 Sumner Avenue (The Old Friendly's)

Donald & Mary Frappier, who are abutters to 1240 Sumner Avenue, informed the association that Colvest did not inform them in advance to our September 13th meeting of the re-zoning for People's Bank.

At issue was the location of the Drive-Thru, which was originally positioned at the back of the building. The abutters and Mr. Frank Colaccino of Colvest came to a verbal agreement to move the drive-thru so that it faces Sellica Insurance. A verbal agreement was also made to add an additional 9.5 feet to the current 10 foot buffer that exists between the properties. The Frappiers are requesting written agreements of these changes before the October 18th Planning Board Meeting.

City Council Representation Changes

Councilor Bruce Stebbins informed the association of the following possible changes to the City Council. There is a plan to have 8 Ward Councilors and 5 at large councilors along with 4 ward and 2 at-large members of the School Committee. These changes would not take place until November 2009. These plans could change, pending the outcome of the law suit currently against the city.

East Forest Park Branch Library

The **East Forest Park Advisory Council needs your help!** If you have one evening a month to spend to meet with a group of concerned citizens to improve our branch, call branch manager Reggie Wilson at 413-263-6828 ext. 402 (voice mail) or e-mail rwilson@springfieldlibrary.org.

Burnt Out Street Lights

Dick Acchione informed the association to report any burnt out street lights, because a brighter city helps with safety and crime prevention. Call WMECO at 781-4300 or go to www.eastforestpark.org click on forums and go to neighborhood news to fill out an online form.

The next meeting of the EFPCA will be Wed. November 8th at 7pm at Holy Cross School.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Shawn E. Sheehan, Secretary 10/15/06.

Name	Address	Phone Number
David Wells, President	27 Rencelau Street	746-2526
Dave Choquette, Vice President	474 Plumtree Road	783-1969
Elaine Wright, Treasurer	156 Ashbrook Street	782-5609
Shawn Sheehan, Secretary	77 Dayton Street	783-2205
Richard & Darlene Acchione	66 Bangor Street	785-5071
Jacque Forsman	384 Abbott Street	782-3800
Donald & Mary Frappier	23 Clement Street	783-6021
Jeff Galarneau	44 Westbanks CT	783-6706
Linda Gallagher	394 Abbott Street	782-2929
Judy Kennedy & Andrew Lucia	27 Regal Street	783-3153
Mary Martin	32 Wendover Rd	734-3818
Ken & Marien Ralph	122 W Allen Ridge Rd	783-1971
Frank Ryan	720 Allen Street	782-5730
Councilor Bruce Stebbins	19 Mattoon Street	734-6216
Ellen Walmer	15 Buick Street	782-3261
Elizabeth Wells	27 Rencelau Street	746-2526