

East Forest Park Civic Association
www.eastforestpark.org
Minutes for November 8, 2006 Meeting

Attendance (board members in bold): Darlene Acchione, Dick Acchione, Dave Choquette, Stephen Cole, Charlie Contant, Klaus & Elaine Feuerstein, Barbara Footit, Jacque Forsman, Jeff Galarneau, Linda Gallagher, Mary Martin, John Miciak, Frank Ryan, Shawn Sheehan, Ellen Walmer, David Wells.

David Wells, President, administered the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Old Business

The minutes from the October 11th meeting were accepted with the following corrections, Shey spelling changed to Shay and deleting George Cartier from 10/11 attendance. The corrected version was posted to the web site.

Treasurer's Report: Was tabled until next meeting as Elaine Wright was absent. Current balance is \$2,010.00.

Committee Reports:

- Zoning & Code Enforcement: Dick Acchione reported that the property at 90 Rockland Street will be taken over by city. It appears that the owner has abandoned the property as it is in disarray with ten feet of water in the basement.

Woodam Avenue has a property in disarray, overgrown lawn, litter on property.

447 Plumtree Road has a variety of vehicles in yard for sale.

Diamond Match Property: Two letters were received from Ed Cross on the deteriorating conditions at the complex. The letters indicate that landscaping equipment and fuel storage containers are present on the property. There are make-shift buildings on the site made out of truck bodies.

1240 Sumner Avenue Zone Change parcel from Residential to Business will come before the City Council on November 27th at 6 P.M. at City Hall. This zoning change will allow for a People's Bank to occupy the former Friendly's. The Zoning Change was already previously approved by the Planning Board and the project has the full support of the E.F.P.C.A.

- Membership/Hospitality: the committee met before the meeting on ideas of boosting association membership. A one month membership drive could include a Saturday where members knock on doors, having tables at weekend masses including churches other than Holy Cross, quarterly agenda item to drive membership (speaker from school committee, Park Department, Police Commissioner, etc), a phone drive, mailing of post cards, and recruiting businesses. Also it was recommended to raise dues to raise revenue.
- Neighborhood Concern Committee: has been scraped as other committee (Zoning & Code Enforcement) takes over principle goals.

- Scholarship & Awards: need to find a common time to meet, find ways to keep scholarship going with funding.

Citizens for a Clean Springfield: Two hundred volunteers participated in a fall clean-up on Saturday, November 4, 2006. This was the second annual clean-up, which resulted in 3 tons of trash being removed from six different neighborhoods. Students at AIC, Springfield College, WNEC, Central, and Cathedral participated along with other church organizations.

New Business

Mary Dryden PTO: Barbara Footit announced that the PTO is raising money for a new playground at Mary Dryden Memorial Elementary School. The goal is to raise \$50,000 to have a similar playground, which is at Harris Elementary; currently this organization has raised \$700. The cost will include preparation of the land, playscape and installation.

On Saturday, November 11th a Bottle & Can Drive will be organized from 9 A.M. until 12 P.M. An announcement will also be placed on eastforestpark.org soliciting tax deductible donations by check, payable to Springfield School Volunteers to help raise additional funds.

News from the Mayor's Office: Steve Cole, Mayoral Aide for East Forest Park, updated the association on the traffic snarls being caused by parked cars on both sides of the street near Dryden Memorial School. Police have been contacted and funds will be secured to paint lines in the street to help with traffic flow.

There has been a reduction in cost of disposing a bulk item from \$12 to \$8. Residents will be required to purchase a sticker. There are no refunds for stickers bought for \$12. The cost reduction is a result of the \$90 annual trash fee which is being mailed out to residents in November.

Street Sweeping was contracted out. If residents are not happy with the street sweeping they are encouraged to contact the DPW and the mayor's office. The current company is required to sweep in the summer and before the first snow fall in the winter. Residents have been complaining that no water is being used to clean the street so excessive dust is infiltrating homes.

304 Roosevelt Avenue: John Miciak reported that the house is a pig sty. There are twelve to fifteen people occupying the home when the house really should only have eight people. There is tons of filth and garbage strewed around the property. Minors living or visiting the property often consume alcohol at night and disturb the peace by congregating in groups, playing loud music and swearing. On a typical weeknight at 1 A.M. there can be 15-20 minors drinking participating in Kung Fu Fighting. The kids have also allegedly paint balled houses, damaged vehicles, and have urinated on neighboring properties. Miciak has contacted the Mayor's Office and the police. He mentioned that the police have a two and a half hour response time.

Cole mentioned that this property came up in a discussion at a recent staff meeting, where Commissioner Flynn was in presence. Code enforcement has been contacted about the trash.

The next meeting of the EFPCA will be Wed. December 13th at 7pm at Holy Cross School.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Submitted by Shawn E. Sheehan, Secretary 11/15/06.