

East Forest Park Civic Association
www.eastforestpark.org
Minutes for December 13, 2006 Meeting

Attendance (board members in bold): Darlene Acchione, Dick Acchione, Maria Bosworth, Dave Choquette, Charlie Contant, James Ferrera, Jacque Forsman, Jeff Galarneau, Linda Gallagher, Mary Martin, John Miciak, Kathleen Murphy, Karen Powell (Better Life Whole Foods), Michele Billosquillo (Better Life Whole Foods), Frank Ryan, Robert Ryan, Shawn Sheehan, Ellen Walmer, David Wells.

David Wells, President, administered the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M.

Old Business

The minutes from the November 8th meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Elaine Wright was absent. Shawn wants to get a list of members who have paid dues so that a reminder can go out to those who haven't to raise revenue.

Committee Reports:

- Zoning & Code Enforcement: Jeff obtained a hard copy of the city's zoning ordinances. They are also available online and a link will be provided on our web site.

Report on 30 Westbanks Ct: Rents to college kids, property is in disarray, there is trash all over the yard, and a discarded refrigerator. Cars are parked all over the street. There is an ordinance that you cannot have more than 3 people in a house that are not genetically related. A recommendation was made to contact the college because they are receptive towards community complaints.

Zoning Change at 1240 Sumner Avenue: Passed the city council on November 27th so People's Bank should begin breaking ground in or around March. E.F.P.C.A. supports this zoning change.

Nathan Bill Park – a number of trees have come down with recent wind storms. The park looks like it is in relatively good shape as litter is at a minimum and there is some environmental work being done.

Report on 340 Roosevelt Avenue: John Miciak said that things have calmed down a bit and that police response to his complaints is much better. The police were there twice last month. The kids tend to sit outside at night and listen to loud music. Even though the house is located on Roosevelt Avenue a lot of the activity occurs on Brighton Street.

Report on 66 Brighton Street: Property has been abandoned.

- Membership/Hospitality:
 - Linda put together welcome packets.
 - A suggestion was made to have a phone chain going to bring topics to future meetings instead of just having committee reports.
 - A suggestion was made to have Quarterly Big Topic Meetings. For instance a recommendation was made to invite Commissioner Flynn to talk about the increase in crime in East Forest Park.

Citizens for a Clean Springfield: Charlie passed out packets titled "Keep Springfield Beautiful Initiative Neighborhood Project Structure and Needs Assessment". On Saturday, April 28, 2007, each of the 17 neighborhoods in Springfield will be able to:

- ✓ Clean up 2 lots where illegal dumping has occurred.
- ✓ Clean a minimum of 10 streets.
- ✓ Participate in the landscaping of welcoming areas and identifying entry ways into East Forest Park.

- ✓ Work with other citizens from East Forest Park, businesses, non-profit organizations, and city departments to improve and beautify the city.

The association was asked to identify six sites to clean in April and to estimate the number of volunteers and materials to clean these sites. We were also asked to identify ten streets to clean and the number of volunteers needed. We also need to identify three possible entry ways into the neighborhood to be landscaped (see packet).

Charlie would like for us to get this information back to him in January.

New Business

A Special Thank You to Whole Foods for donating gift bags filled with bananas, pears, apples, and water bottles. Thanks for the dose of healthy food which is usually in short supply during the holidays.

Dave Wells reported on the reorganization and redeployment of the city police. Residents have noticed an increase in police presence in the neighborhood.

Kathleen Murphy reported on a day care facility which opened up on 634 Roosevelt Avenue. Area neighbors are upset because the facility holds 40 kids because of the unusually large area of land the house sits on. The tranquility of the neighborhood is disturbed by the forty kids the facility cares for. There is also a basketball hoop in the street and numerous busses which adds to traffic congestion. Kathleen is upset that the civic association hasn't blocked this but because of state laws there was no petition required for a zone change.

The Forest Park Civic Association obtained a grant to plant trees along Sumner Avenue. The E.F.P.C.A should follow the same process to replace trees the have been removed or have been damaged.

Dominic's Pizzeria and Plumtree Market were recently broken into. The owners of Plumtree Market report \$17,000 stolen out of their safe. A couple was also held up at gun point on Hartford Terrace during the day. It was suggested to schedule Commissioner Flynn to a future association meeting to discuss the rise in crime.

The next meeting of the EFPCA will be Wed. January 10, 2007 at 7pm at Holy Cross Church in the Rectory Basement **not** in the Holy Cross School Cafeteria. Signs will be posted.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Submitted by Shawn E. Sheehan, Secretary 12/28/06