

**East Forest Park Civic Association
Minutes for May 15, 2008 Meeting**

Attendance (board members in bold): Richard & Darlene Acchione, George Cartier, JoAnne Cardell, Gary Danforth, **Linda Gallagher**, Jodi-Lyn Manning, Sally Markey, Kathleen & Thomas Murphy, **Frank Ryan, Shawn Sheehan**, Cyndi Visi, **Ellen Walmer**, Tom Walsh (Mayor Sarno's Office), Seamus Warwick (Rep. Puppolo's Office), **Elaine Wright**

Board of Directors Organizational Meeting

No Board of Directors Meeting was held because there wasn't a quorum. There were enough members present at 7 pm.

General Session: New Business

Shawn Sheehan, Co-President, administered the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. There were 18 people present. Not everyone signed the attendance sheet.

Shawn Sheehan announced the following guest speaker, Fire Marshall John Cossaboom, Rank District Chief.

Marshall Cossaboom told the membership that smoke detectors are required at each level of the home except the attic (unless the attic is finished). The placement of the detector should be 4 inches down from the ceiling, and four inches from base of stairs, but not in the stairwell. If the home was built prior to 1996, battery operated smoke detectors are ok, if the house was built after 1996 then the detectors must be hard wired. You must have a photoelectric smoke detector 20 feet off of kitchen and bathroom. If your smoke detector goes off when burning food, chances are that there is an ionizing smoke detector which isn't as reliable. Photoelectric detectors are more reliable because they can detect smoldering material. It is a good idea to replace smoke detectors every ten years because they wear out despite appearing to be operational when the test button is pressed.

If there is a fire in your home, exit the dwelling, call the fire department, and do not open the windows or the doors so that there is less oxygen to fuel the fire.

Carbon monoxide detectors are required on each habitable level of your home. Battery operated detectors are allowed in older homes, while newer dwellings require the hard-wired units. Plug in type detectors must have a battery backup. Current law requires that the unit be 10 feet from the bedroom exterior door. Combination units of smoke and CO detectors should be voice activated.

If a CO alarm goes off, it is not recommended to open up the windows or the doors, but to call the fire department and to exit the home. Keeping the gas trapped will better aid the fire department in finding the source of the CO leak and get an approximate reading. If the CO reading is 30 parts per million (ppm) then you are warned if it is 50 ppm the fire department then evacuation is required. The Carbon Monoxide regulations are online under 521 CMR.

If a home is for sale, the seller is required to have the fire department inspect the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The cost is \$50 for single family and \$100 for a two family house.

Other recommendations for fire safety, a multipurpose fire extinguisher near a kitchen. Fire extinguishers are good for a year. To dispose of a fire extinguisher, release the contents outside in your backyard before discarding in the trash. If still charged, these devices can be dangerous if incinerated. Families should also have an escape plan and should practice a home fire drill. If there is no easy drop from the 2nd floor, a fire ladder should be installed by a professional and inspected yearly.

For education classes, call Lt. Michael Richard at 787-6410. The fire department headquarters is located on 605 Worthington Street in Springfield.

Old Business:

Kathleen Murphy reported on her presentation to the State Child Welfare Committee. Kathleen also informed the committee that she is not happy with the noise.

Shawn updated the association on improvements being made to the Day Care Facility on Roosevelt Avenue.

- Installation of horse shoe driveway
- Installation of fence discouraging traffic along common driveway between Roosevelt and Overlook
- Transfer of 20 children to new facility on State Street
- Enrollment would be restricted to pre-school children
- Reduction in outdoor playtime hours to one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon to help reduce noise.

All of these issues were brought to our attention by residents on Overlook on August 2007. Shawn is working with Lisa Cignoli, the spokesperson for the Day Care in coming up with a resolution to neighborhood concerns. There is positive dialogue and neighbors who have issues should contact Shawn.

Scholarship:

The association voted to underwrite \$100. One five hundred dollar scholarship will be awarded at our Awards Meeting on Wednesday, June 11th.

The Awards Sub Committee will meet at Sally Markey's home on Wednesday, May 21st to discuss and select business and residence awards. JoAnne, Cyndi, Sally, and Shawn make up this committee.

Other Announcements:

Zoning Ordinance Meeting Public Speak-out will occur on Monday, June 2nd at Trinity Baptist Church on Sumner Avenue (next to Forest Park) at 6:30 pm. Members are encouraged to attend because the last time the zoning ordinance was updated was 37 years ago and these regulations impact quality of life issues. We will meet with the Forest Park, Outer Belt, Sixteen Acres and LaBroad Civic Associations will be there along with representatives from Zoning and the Planning and Economic Development.

Our Awards & Recognition will take place on Wednesday, June 11th at 7:00 pm at Holy Cross School Cafeteria. Please use the Wheeler Street entrance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. The minutes were submitted by Frank Ryan, Secretary on May 14, 2008.