

**East Forest Park Civic Association  
Minutes for May 13, 2009 Meeting**

**Attendance (board members in bold):** **Richard & Darlene Acchione**, Steve & B.J. Bervan, JoAnne Cardell, Richard Carpenter, **George Cartier**, Maureen Craig, Ron & Martha Duquette, Councilor James Ferrera (III), Linda Frigo, Fran Gallagher, Sally Markey, Ian McCollum, Bob McCollum, Richard Samay, **Shawn Sheehan**, Barbara Sherry, **Ellen Walmer**, Seamus Warwick (Rep. Puppolo's Office), Councilor Budd Williams, **Elaine Wright**

**General Session: New Business**

Co-President Shawn Sheehan called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Councilor Jimmy Ferrera spoke to our group about Ward Representation, which will be enacted in the next election cycle starting in September 2009. Councilor Ferrera distributed a pamphlet to members titled "The Change to Ward Representation, A Candidate's Guide to the 2009 City Election." Councilor Ferrera outlined some highlights to our new form of government.

The composition of the City Council will change and will consist of thirteen members (from current 9 members) who are elected every two years. There will be five at large candidates and eight candidates representing each ward in the city. The East Forest Park section consists of wards 6 & 7. The school committee body will also be affected. Six members will be up for election every four years; there will only be two at-large candidates and four ward representatives. Each ward representative will be in charge of two wards in the following combinations:

- Wards 1 & 3
- Wards 4 & 5
- Wards 6 & 7
- Wards 2 & 8

All elected officials are required to be a registered voter, must have lived in Springfield for one year, and be at least eighteen years old. For nomination, all candidates for Office of Mayor are required to secure 500 signatures where as all other offices are required to secure 100 signatures.

Councilor Budd Williams informed the group that he is against ward representation because he feels that it will divide the city, instead of having everyone works as a whole. He fears that the ward representatives might fight too hard for the sections of the city they represent, instead of looking at other neighborhoods which may need assistance as well. Councilor Williams believes that the current system has been fair to minorities because when one typically runs for office the first time, they may not be successful. In subsequent elections, different campaign strategies lead to success. Councilor Williams shared with us that he even wasn't successful the first time he ran, but he didn't give up.

Here are some important dates:

Nomination Papers Available.	Tuesday, March 31, 2009
Last day and hour to obtain nomination papers.	Friday, July 24, 2009 @ 5 pm
Last day and hour to submit nomination papers.	Tuesday, July 28, 2009 @ 5 pm
Last day and hour for signatures to be certified.	Tuesday, August 4, 2009 @ 5 pm
Last day and hour to register to vote for the city Primary.	Wednesday, August 6, 2009 @ 8 pm
Last day and hour to register for the City Election.	Wednesday, October 14, 2009 @ 8 pm

Councilor Williams mentioned that crime is out of control in Springfield and something needs to be done in the city. He mentioned that Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott has done a lot to clean up the streets and not let the criminals run the city. Councilor Williams would like to see Commissioner Fichet do the same. A person in the audience asked Councilor Williams about the burned down and boarded up house on 629 Sumner Avenue. Williams and Ferrera said that they would look into the matter. (In a written correspondence dated May 19, 2009 from Councilor Ferrera he states that he has spoken with Phil Dromey of the Planning Department and he was informed that the house is on the list to be slated for demolition; no date is given when work will commence.)

The Awards Committee voted on four residential properties up for nomination to receive the improvement award.

- Verman & Audrey Brown 83 Wexford Street
- Mr. Mark Falardeau 46 Brighton Street
- Mr. Paul Maguire 36 Arvilla Street
- Ms. June Lester 941 Allen Street

Two businesses were also selected:

- PeoplesBank for property improvements at 1240 Sumner Avenue
- Gus & Pauls Bakery and Deli for being in Business for 50 years.

The Scholarship Committee was still reviewing applicants at the time of this meeting and will get the name of the recipient to Shawn by June 1, 2009.

At our next meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 7:00 pm, we will be awarding the Denise Shea memorial scholarship, two business awards, and four residential improvement awards. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.