

**East Forest Park Civic Association  
Minutes for September 9, 2009 Meeting**

**Attendance (board members in bold): Richard & Darlene Acchione**, Bruce Adams (Rep Candaras Office), Tim & Mary Allen, Steve Berran, Chris Caputo, Rick Caputo, **JoAnne Cardell**, **George Cartier**, Lee Ciszewski, Chris Collins, Clodo Concepcion (President 16 Acres Civic Association), Martha Duquette, Klaus Feuerstein, Jacque Forsman, Maureen Gagnon Craig, Linda Gallagher, Justin & Denise Hurst, Ron Jordan, J.J. Kennedy, David & Deborah Parent, Antonette Pepe, Melissa Richter (PeoplesBank), Mike & Dawn Rodgers, **Frank Ryan**, Orlando Santiago, **Shawn Sheehan**, Barbara Sherry, Linda St. Marie, **Ellen Walmer**, Seamus Warwick (Rep. Puppolo's Office), Jack & Patty Wojcik **Elaine Wright**

**General Session: New Business**

Co-President Shawn Sheehan called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

Shawn introduced Springfield School Board Candidates for Wards 6 & 7: Chris Collins, Antoinette Pepe, Chris Caputo, Orlando Santiago, and Denise Hurst.

Shawn then introduced Candidates for Springfield City Council Ward 7: Ron Jordan. Tim Allen, Michael Rodgers, and Peter Appleby.

Also introduced were: Bruce Adams from Sen. Gail Candaras' office and Seamus Warwick from Rep. Angelo Puppolo's office, and Clodo Conception, Pres. of the 16 Acres Civic Assoc.

To be objective in selecting the order of candidate presentations, Shawn passed out numbered tickets and placed matching stubs in a cup. He then drew for the order of **Speakers for School Board** representation who were given 5 minutes to speak:

Antoinette Pepe: Current Sch. Bd. Member; running At Large; Thanks past supporters; Helped institute school uniforms-made a difference in attitude and behavior; Checks on cleanliness of school buildings; Stressed need for student Self-improvement; Is aggressive on school Attendance and is proud that Drop-out rate is down and Graduation-rate is up; Commends Supt. Ingram and school counselors for their work on Truancy; and Looks for votes of support.

Chris Caputo: Looking forward to represent Ward 6 & 7; Advocate of after school programs; Recent student and college graduate himself that had to pass the MCAS; Bring Financial background to monitoring school Budget; Make himself Available to parents and students.

Chris Collins: Current Sch. Bd. Member; 30 years in school system; Worked on Curriculum and Program & Bldg. and Structures committees; Concerned that decisions have been taken out of Sch. Bd.'s hands.

Orlando Santiago: Liaison to Gerena School; Cites 'lack luster' quality of school system; Concerned about Minority's Truancy, Teen pregnancy and Graduation rate; Third Run to Save our city Schools.

Denise Hurst: running At Large; Thanks attendees for Interest in Spr. Schools; Wants to Serve citizens and children and Believes in them; Must insure Safety and stop Bullying; Proud of Spr. Schools; Acknowledges working with A. Pepe and W. Collins and thanks them for their efforts.

Shawn acknowledged the arrival of Councilor James Ferrera .

Proceeding with the Agenda, he then introduced Sgt. Ian McCollum of the Hamden County Sherriff's Dept. and Coordinator of East Forest Park's Neighborhood Crime Watch. The Crime Watch meetings address the concerns for quality of life issues and invited all residents to the regularly scheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday night meetings at 7 P M to become more involved.

Shawn provided another drawing of order of **Speakers for City Council** representation who were also given 5 minutes to speak:

Jimmy Ferrera: Present Councilor- Running as Councilor at Large; Worked on Environment & Parks, Green Commission, Finance & Safety, Econ. Dev. ; Hopes to continue to represent every one.

Councilor Ferrera then read a Proclamation from Spr. City Council recognizing and thanking Co-Presidents Shawn Sheehan and Linda Gallagher for their 3 years of leadership of the EFP Civic Assoc.

Ronald Michael Jordan: Concerned about the crime issues of Spr.; Wants to improve on the present Sector Plan by placing a Police Presence back in the Sub-station at Nathan Bill Park to shorten response time; and to Expand that Concept throughout the City.

Pete Appleby: Formerly a Teacher; Agreeably youthful; Pledged to Serve city that raised him; Pledged Salary back to needs of Police and Schools; Concerned about city Blight; For Neighborhood Schools and City Residency Requirement for New employees; Police and Firefighters are understaffed.

Tim Allen: Thanked residents for interest in a broader city government; Will bring education and business Experience to City Financial Management; Crime is a Scourge on our city; Pledged Safe Neighborhoods for Families; Looking to Upgrade Technology for improved Quality of Life concerns.

Michael Rodgers: Will utilize finance degree for solutions to city; Must have a Plan for Future fiscal years to Replace present Stimulus money; Work to Exempt Spr. (as Cambridge has been) from Dover Amendment exclusions of Day Care Centers; Focus budget on Police and Schools.

Co-President Sheehan asked Frank Ryan to update the Assoc. on St. Michael's Academy: Enrollment at the Eddywood K-5 Campus is almost 500 students and new parents from across the city are learning the designated drop-off and pick-up procedures. St. M's Academy Middle School - Grades 5-8, at Cathedral High School also nears its enrollment potential and has a Traffic Safety Plan being implemented. Jim Leydon, Director of Constituent Services of Mayor Sarno's Office has made efforts with the Traffic, School and Police Departments, our EFP Civic Assoc. and St. M. Academy's Admin. to ensure that any proposed traffic patterns are in the best interest and safety of the students, parents and neighborhood residents of these enlarged educational sites.

Shawn also stated that 37 citizens have signed a Petition regarding the property at 8 Rockland Street.

Upon calling for Election of EFPCA Board of Directors, the possibility of our merging with 16 Acres arose. Discussion followed to consider also including Outer Belt Civic Assoc. As this would need further collaboration and changes to the Bylaws of those involved, Shawn made " a motion to study the proposal further." It was seconded by Joanne Cardell. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Ryan, EFPCA Secretary

**NEXT MEETING** will be held on **Wed., October 14, at 7 PM.** Please use the Wheeler Ave. entrance.