

**East Forest Park Civic Association
Minutes for January 13, 2010 Meeting**

Attendance: (Board Members in bold): **Darlene Acchione**, Bruce Adams (Gail Cadaras's Aide), Councilor Tim Allen, Tom and Georgia Briggs, Christopher and Rick Caputo, Maureen Gagnon Craig, **JoAnne Cardell**, Clodo Concepcion, Pat Darvey, Klaus Feuerstrin, Bob McCollum, Sgt. Ian McCollum, **Frank Ryan**, Mickey Savoy, Barbara Sherry, Cherie Spinks (A. Puppulo's Aide), Linda Ulrick, John and **Ellen Walmer**, Joseph and Judith Willis, and Richard and Beverly Vear.

General Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Frank Ryan. Following the flag salute, there as a moment of silence for the people in Haiti and Past Co-President Linda Gallagher.

He introduced Sgt. Ian McCollum, Coordinator, South District, Hampden County's Sheriff Dept. who had these**Handouts**: House Breaks, A Reminder to Stay Alert, and Quick Safety Tips, and Beat Management and EFP Civic Assoc. Meeting Dates for 2010.

EFP Crime Watch : House break-ins were decreasing- Sept: 54, Oct: 43, Nov: 34; but in Dec. there were 60. A group of juveniles either enter by a window or kick in a door. Police noted a woman had been driving them around. Response time on Overlook Drive was 2 minutes! Orange St; shooting at Frank's Package store; Special Victim's Unit is investigating a White St. armed home-invasion and sexual assault by black-hooded, masked 25-30 year old males of average height. Dorsett /Sumner Ave. Barber Shop in compliance but Police will check from time to time.

Tips: Lock all house and car windows. Note any suspicious persons or events and report them to police via non-emergency line : When walking, be alert to anything unusual in the surrounding neighborhood. Awareness keeps everyone safe!

EFP Civic Assoc : Motion to approve Dec. Minutes by Ann Savoy, 2nd by Ian McCollum. Treasure's Report: 21 New members. Old Business: NONE.

New Business: **Handouts**: City Council Meeting Dates, City Council Members and Subcommittees, and Sprfld. Office of Housing ,,s Eligible Home Owners Emergency Home Repair Assistance.

Tim Allen, Ward 7 City Council Rep Re: Monday, Jan.11th City Council Meeting - Extension to Jan. 30st of Tax Bills, Auth. T.J. O'Connor Animal Control Center to accept a \$20,000 Grant for neutering, Auth. Mayor to seek Leg. re: city's \$6M in outstanding Excise Taxes and Towing (Rooke), Amending Valet Parking Reg. Ordin. (Rooke), and a Resolution of Commitment for Responsible Financial Stewardship of Sprfld.(Fenton, Rooke, Allen)

Public Health Council: MA DEP is overseer of the proposed Page Blvd. Biomass Plant that is now an Air Quality issue seeking a Health & Environment Impact Study, Pub. Safety Meetings at Rebecca Johnson Sch., and a Central H.S., Jan. 21 Public Forum about Violence at 6/7 PM.

Discussion: The Control Board's 5% Budget increase, Property Assessments, and then the Tax Rate increases voted Dec.31.(Ferrera, Rooke, Williams opposed) Suggestion: Invite City Financial Team to a spring meeting! Request an „entrepreneurial approach“ courting business and seeking revenue-generating-activities -other than taxation from residents and business.

Reduce cost by co-ordinating, in one mailing, bills from the city (tax, trash, sewer & water, excise ,etc.) There could be different due dates spread out over the fiscal year.

F. Ryan presented the opportunity to participate in the City's future with the **Handout**: Office of Community Dev. Planning Process Meetings Jan. 12 at Rebecca Johnson and Jan. 19 at Chestnut Accelerated ~ both at

6PM. Another opportunity is the South End Revitalization Meeting Jan. 19, 3rd floor, Berkshire Bank, 1259 Columbus Ave. at 6-8 PM - there have been Block Grants (State, Main, north End, 16 Acres) before.

Tim Allen is seeking feedback regarding possible Office Hours 6-8 PM to EFP and Outer Belt residents. There will be a roadway upgrade this spring limiting the many cut-throughs in the Outer Belt section of Allen St.

Clodo Concepcion addressed the disappointment of hiring a \$150,000 Business Mang. outside of the City while the Mayor only makes \$90,000. He advocates watching spending first and living within a budget before seeking tax increases. "Senior citizens are hit the hardest when this happens and they've paid/paved the way here." He graciously invited us to the 16 Acres Meetings:

Feb - Superintendent, Dr. Alan Ingrahm,
March - Finance Person,
April - Chicopee's Police Chief Anthony Scott
May - Nick Fvntrilakis from Mass Mutual.

Meeting Adjourned 7:57 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Frank Ryan, Secretary