

East Forest Park Civic Association

Minutes of March 10, 2010 Meeting

Attendance: (**Board Members**) **Darlene and Richard Acchione**, City Councilor-Tim Allen, Tom and Georgia Briggs, **Chris Caputo**, Rick Caputo, **JoAnne Cardell**, **George Cartier**, City Councilor-Clodo Concepcion, Bobby DeMaria, Martha and Ronald Duquette, City Councilor-James Ferrera, Klaus Feuerstein, Barbara Finkel, Jenny Henderson, Kristine Jackson, Nick Kwapasap, **Sally Markey**, Robert McCollum, Sgt. Ian McCollum, Linda Moynahan, **Frank Ryan**, Mickey Savoy, **Shawn Sheehan**, Alex Shelmar, Barbara Sherry, Cheryl Spinks (A. Puppulo's Aide), John and **Ellen Walmer**, Patty Wojcik, and Richard Vear.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Frank Ryan. Following the flag salute, there was a moment of silence. He introduced Cheryl Spinks, Anthony Puppulo's Aide, who was asking members to sign his nomination papers.

EFP Crime Watch : Sgt. Ian McCollum, Coordinator for Sector H, South District, Hampden County's Sheriff Dept. reported in detail about 7 robberies - 4 residential and 3 businesses as well as 4 aggravated assaults. 'Text-a-Tip' has deterred gang trouble at schools. **Tips:** When working out in your yard in warmer weather, lock your house and garage from passerby's thinking these are 'open' to them! Make sure all house windows and your car are always locked. Be wary of persons going door to door seeking yard work but perhaps checking if a house is empty. Use technology to keep you connected - a cell phone 311 or 911 call or 'text-a-tip' to the police or a photo of suspicious activity!

EFP Civic Assoc: Approval of Jan. Minutes. Treasurer's Report: 27 Paid members.

Old Business: Election of Board Members: D. and R. Acchione, C. Caputo, J. Cardell, G. Cartier, S. Markey, F. Ryan, S. Sheehan, and E. Walmer

Nomination of 2010-2011 Officers: President-C.Caputo, Vice-Pres.-S. Sheehan; Treas.-R. Acchione; and Sec.-F. Ryan

New Business: Jack Wojeck proposed Support our Seniors and Veterans an opportunity to assist these elderly with their lawns, smoke detectors, lightbulbs, etc.

City Financial Team Ward 7 City Council Rep., Tim Allen brought the city's Financial Team to address fiscal concerns. He had heard from constituents while running for office and continues to hear their fiscal concerns for the city so he brought us :

Lee Erdmann, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer for Spfld., T. J. Plante, Springfield's Financial Director, and Leeann Pasquini-the city's fiscal team who provided information regarding their backgrounds, job capacities, and roles in the city's budgetary process. Their management stresses fiscal discipline with monthly reports and quarterly projections for the Mayor and City Council to give the policy makers the facts they need to make decisions. Work has been ongoing to balance this year's budget and to propose next year's budget by May 1 for approval in June. Consolidation, reducing our debt, upgrading our bond rating, utilizing the new Grant Director to seek grants monies, and drafting a multiyear financial plan have been the brunt of their work to meet sound goals for next year. The presentation was informative and commanding. They fielded questions regarding short and long term economic plans in a manner that built confidence in our city's future.

Green City Commission City Councilor, Jim Ferrera spoke of this new group's Green Tech Initiative to get Springfield certified as a Green City by reducing the city's energy costs as well as its carbon footprint on our environment, purchasing green vehicles and implementing a Stretch Code on any new or major renovated buildings. They are searching federal and state grant incentives. Burt Freedman spoke of the receipt of a million dollar grant to renovate yet preserve the historic Porter Lake Skate House at Forest Park into a 'green' building with

photovoltaic panels, a hydroelectric capacity, and using geothermal technology to heat and cool the renamed Cliff Phaneuf Environmental Center to honor the ECOS co- founder. The expanded building will have a 'great room' for use as a multipurpose center to be used not only by the ECOS revitalized and enriched curriculum program but by other groups as well

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Ryan, Secretary