

East Forest Park Civic Association

Minutes of April 14, 2010

Attendance: (Board Members) D. & R Acchione, Bruce Adams (Sen. Gail Candaras's Aide), **City Councilor Tim Allen**, T. and G. Briggs, **C. Caputo**, R. Caputo, **J. Cardell**, D. Carney, T. Cullinane, R. Duquette, City Councilor-James Ferrera, B. Finkel, Paul Foster, F. Gallagher, G. Garrity, J. Goodhines, G. Hinkley, J. Juliano, S. Little, Brian Markey, L. Moynihan, R. McCollum, **Sgt. Ian McCollum**, P. McMaster, B. Moricav, Daryl Moss, A. Noonan, M. Palmer, **Frank Ryan**, B. Sherry, **Shawn Sheehan**, Cherie Spinks (Rep. A. Puppulo's Aide), P. Signater, J. & **E. Walmer**, Ed Whitley, P. & J. Wojcik, K. Wright, S. Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 PM by Frank Ryan. Following the flag salute, there was a moment of silence.

EFP Crime Watch :

Sgt. Ian McCollum, handed out an Invitation to give to neighbors to attend future meetings. He reported that aggravated assaults were on the rise; to be careful on Sumner Ave. - last month there were 17 accidents; and that 184 Hartford Ter. and 452 Allen St. continue to be monitored. He reminded us of necessary Observation Details for Individuals: gender, race, age, height, weight, hair style, clothing, speech,... and for Vehicles: make, model, color, year, license plate # and/or state, condition, markings, stickers, direction of travel, speed, # of people,...; and Location: exact address, or crossroads, landmarks, etc. He then introduced Georia Briggs who announced May is Law Enforcement Month. She noted a "Bear with Me" program where officers use teddy bears to work with children in crisis. Join other city residents in honoring Local Police, Sheriff Dept. and State Police officers by sending a Thank You, cookies, letter to the editor, use a lawn sign, or participate in the Blue Ribbon Campaign outside your home to express an 'Attitude of Gratitude' to them. Next Meeting: come ready to discuss "What do you see yourself doing to be a watchful neighbor?"

EFP Civic Association:

Tim Allen was introduced and acknowledged Sen. G. Candaras's Aide, Bruce Adams and Rep.A. Puppulo's Aide, C. Spinks as well as Peter Sygnater, City Col. Office and Ed Whitley, Neighborhood Liason.

Speakers: Paul Foster who covered City Stat/Neighborhood Stats. This department collects info from city services such as housing, public safety, public works, traffic, library, youth, etc. then follows our tax dollars, reviews, which assists in informed governmental decisions. Donna Carney from the 311 Call Center explained the two year old program that was set up by the City to answer or direct citizen's calls to the correct department. Ten responders try to make the motto "1 call does it all!" more efficient with an increasing goal of 75-85-95% reponse time of 45 seconds. This new program handles questions, service requests, sends out forms, redirects calls, etc. and continues to amaze city residents!

City Council Update: Tim Allen shared that next April, for safety reasons, there will be a traffic reconfiguration on Allen Street from Bradley Rd. to Bicentennial Hwy. There is a request for Whittum Ave. to be a one-way for Frederick Harris School safety. Tim is seeking feedback on the Police Oversight issue: Police Commission versus Hearing Board.

Upcoming Issues: The budget process in full gear through June 30 and City Zoning Ordinances continue to be reviewed.

Announcements: 1st Wed.'s Chamber of Commerce Breakfast: Perception of the Quality of Life in Sprfld. at WNEC and Apr. 22, Public Hearing on Econ. Dev.

New Business:

1. Keep Springfield Clean, Sat., May 1. Fran Gallagher updated us on 17 locations, the 7,200 volunteers and material distribution for our annual participation. As part of the Great American Clean Up, EFPCA will meet at the Plumtree parking lot of Nathan Bill Park from 8:30 until 12 noon and, utilizing volunteers, clean the park, surrounding sidewalks as well as streets in our neighborhood.
2. Pioneer Valley Bike Commute Week, May 15-23. Brian Markey, from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission informed us of Springfield's participation in Bay State's Bike Week : Starting Monday, 7:30 AM-12:30 PM Bike Racks on PVRTA buses 1277 Main St./Court Square;
Mon. & Fri. 7:30 AM-2:30 PM Dillweedz Cafe' 12244 Main St. Coffee with Helmet;
Mon. - Fri. 5:30AM -9:30PM Shower with a Helmet and corp. ID / YMCA 275 Chestnt St.

Old Business:

1. Election 2010-2011 Officers: President-C.Caputo, Vice-Pres.-S. Sheehan; Treas.-R. Acchione; and Sec.-F. Ryan
2. Motion to give a \$200 donation to Holy Cross Church for last year's use of the Meeting Room-Passed.
3. Motion to have the Bd. of Directors review the future funding of the EFP Civic Assoc.'s Denise Shea memorial Scholarship.
4. Suggestions to Increase Membership:

Call past members, seek business membership from banks and businesses in our neighborhood, provide a Supporting Membership Decal, hold a Fall Membership Drive Pot Luck Dinner (Introduce Directors, Achievements, Goals, and invite the September Primary Candidates)
Meeting Adjourned 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Ryan, Secretary