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**Minutes**

**General Membership Meeting**

**January 13, 2020**

7 pm:  Meeting called to order by Bill Epstein, EFCC President

1.  Treasurer's Report:  Presented by Joe Leube, Jr., Treasurer.  Funds held by EFCC total $96,769, most designated for various groups and initiatives such as East Falls Village, Dog Park, etc.  Unrestricted funds available for use by EFCC total $19, 524.  In response to a question as to how to request funds for a specific project, Mr. Leube and Mr. Epstein explained that traditionally 20 percent of unrestricted funds are dedicated to grants, in this case May of 2020 when applications will be solocited and accepted, and amounts disbursed for applicant projects will depend on amount of funds on hand at the time and the number of grants approved.

2.  President's Report:  Presented by Mr. Epstein.  He noted the need for volunteers for various committees, including the committees that oversee events, zoning, traffic and the nominations of officers.

3.  Zoning Committee Report:  Presented by Todd Baylson, Zoning Committee Chair.

     A.  A Zoning Committee meeting will be part of the Feb. 11, 2020 general membership meeting. That meeting will include discussion of:

     B.  HOW Properties is developing part of its property at 4440-4442 Ridge Ave. as an apartment building, by right, to include 136 units, 96 parking spaces and first-floor commercial space.  No zoning variance is required but the size of the proposed development requires a Civic Design Review public meeting, at which community members can offer input on the plans.  HOW is considering the format of the parking lot proposed for the adjoining city-owned property, with metered spots by day, unmetered spots at night.

     C.  The property on Midvale Ave. adjacent to the Falls of Schuylkill Baptist Church is being developed "by right" in a project that will include three residential condos and first-floor commercial space.

     D.  The project at the bottom of Indian Queen Ln. remains unfinished, awaiting a decision by the owner as to whether to appeal the Zoning Board of Adjustment’s denial of his request for a variance to change the property from commercial to residential.

4.  Traffic Committee Report:  Presented by John Gillespie, Traffic Committee Chair.

A.  Efforts are being made by Councilperson Curtis Jones and St. Rep. Pam DiLissio to move up scheduled traffic-calming improvements scheduled for 2022 due to the continued high accident rate on Henry Ave. The EFCC Traffic Committee is urging the state to move up the schedule for the improvements.

     B.  A question was raised regarding speeding SEPTA buses and Mary Jane Fullam, President of EF Town Watch, advised residents to get the number of the bus and report speeding incidents to SEPTA.

     C.  A complaint was raised about motorists speeding on Henry Ave. Mr. Gillespie said that this issue will be addressed by PennDOT's plans for traffic calming.

     D.  Discussion was had regarding idling school buses on Crawford St. and Conrad St., creating noxious diesel fumes and traffic difficulties for residents.  Mr. Epstein has been in touch with the School District of Philadelphia and Councilperson Curtis Jones to try to resolve the situation, and he said that the EFCC will continue to push for a resolution.

5.  Events Committee:  Report presented by Mr. Epstein in absence of Mary Alice Duff, Events Committee Chairperson.  Upcoming events in spring include the Flea Market to

be held in June 2020 with more information to come.  Beth Eskin-Gross offered a reminder that residents can purchase "Love Lights" for the traditional lighting of a tree in by the Friends of McMichael Park for Valentine's Day.

6.  Town Watch:  Report Presented by Ms. Fullam. She noted that East Falls Town Watch has been sponsoring monthly cleanup events since March 2019, generally held on the third Saturday of the month.  The next monthly cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 2020, and an additional cleanup event will be held on Monday, January 20, 2020, in recognition of Martin Luther King Day, with participants to meet at the Sunoco station at Ridge and Midvale Aves. at 10 a.m.  East Falls Town Watch also recently requested help from SEPTA regarding speeding buses in our area and in response monitoring is being supervised and carried out by Bill Thornton, Assistant Director of Transportation for SEPTA. Ms. Fullam said that the monitoring found several instances of buses speeding on Henry Ave., usually empty buses going back to the depot at the end of the driver's shift, and Ms. Fullam that residents report to SEPTA any buses seen to be speeding. Mr. Thornton told EF Town Watch that during his team’s investigation several school buses were observed speeding and he said that closer attention will be paid to this issue with reporting to individual companies as warranted.

7.  Presentation of Plans for McMichael Park Playspace was made by Nancy O'Donnell, of the Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation. Department and Kathryn Ott-Lovell, Commissioner.

    O'Donnell discussed the timeline of planning for the playspace and showed slides of the final design for the first phase of construction to commence in March 2020 as well as

designs and specifications for materials and play structures.  Questions were raised regarding ADA accessibility, storm water runoff management, and maintenance of the

playspace.  In addition, several area residents voiced their continued objection to a playspace being installed in the park.  Ms. Ott-Lovell said that in view of the increased use of the park the playspace is expected to bring, there is a possibility of a seasonal maintenance associate being added to the maintenance schedule. She reminded the gathering that attempts had been made over many years to listen to the community and accommodate and respect the wishes and desires both of those in favor of a playspace and those opposed, resulting in the plans as presented for a natural playspace intended to afford more activities for young children while not obscuring the natural beauty of McMichael Park.  Ms. Ott-Lovell reminded the audience that residents are invited to join the effort to help maintain McMichael Park once the playspace is built.  Opening of the playspace is tentatively scheduled for June or July 2020.

8.  A representative of the U.S. Census Bureau, Mr. Lewis, informed the audience of job openings for census workers to go door-to-door in the East Falls area to supplement

online census information gathering. Those interested were asked to apply to the U.S. Census Bureau office in Philadelphia.

8:20 pm:  Meeting adjourned by Mr. Epstein