

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

Founded in 1947 to determine community opinion on civic matters and coordinate community action thereon and to plan and promote the general welfare of the community embraced within Union Free School District #6.

Post Office Box 1161

Scarsdale, New York 10583

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EDGEMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

December 5, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont Junior-Senior High School, December 5, 2011, in the faculty lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Geoff Loftus, Robin Schaffer, Aubrey Graf-Daniels, Monica Sganga, Marc Ackerman, Matt Jaffe, Jon Guttenberg, Jon Blakely, Alec Clarke, Todd Garvelink, Joan Pachner, Greg Adams.

Officers and Directors not in attendance Schuyler Kraus, John Coleman Larry Rusoff, Jonathan Faust, Robert Bernstein. Gary Stern, Andrea Weiss and Robin Klerer.

The following Civic Associations were represented – Fort Hill(x), Edgemont Association(x), Longview(), Southern Greenville(), Cotswold (), Greenridge (), Northern Greenville(), and Central Park Ave().

Guests/members – Arnold Laubich, Bill Rerember, Dick Koran, Walter Groden, David Srovall, Ed Kraus, Richard Krane, Dom Caratozzolo, Debbie Anders (Scarsdale Inquiror).

Minutes – The November minutes will be distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Mr. Adams, indicated 141 paid members and assets of \$3,271.590 as of 12/5/2011.

SBNC - Mr. Ackerman reported that the SBNC met and is actively recruiting – a letter went out along with other publications, looking for members. January 25th is the deadline for nominations to the SBNC. SBNC meetings have discussed the dire situation the school budget is in (with the 2% tax cap). The committee is looking to find out community's views and administration, including increasing class size, eliminating trips and electives. The next meeting will look at extra curriculars – such as sports. The School Board wants to make certain that whatever is presented is acceptable to the community, so as to avoid it being voted down. The SBNC will ask candidates how they would deal with these issues. Geoff indicated that the committee is thorough, and questions are exhaustive.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS
The Central Park Avenue Association
The Cotswold Association
Edgemont Association
Fort Hill Association
Greenridge Association
Longview Civic Association
Northern Greenville Association
Southern Greenville Association

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Town Affairs –

A. Budget

There was a town meeting on November 30 to review budget, including comments from the the Greenburgh Budget Oversight Committee (GBOC). The meeting was delayed, there was no public discussion till after 10, and went till after midnight. The CSEA was there, protesting. They are the only union in the process of renegotiation. The budget still continues two recreation departments. The after-school program is still in the budget (redundant – schools have their own). The budget has revenues without corresponding expenses. The Police Department still has its SWAT in the budget (redundant – county has one). The budget has revenue which appears to be inflated. Rents and fees assumed to increase without justification.

GBOC was not given opportunity sufficient opportunity to review. Minor layoffs are proposed, but will not occur if concessions by union. GBOC was more inclined to ask for both. Howard Hirsch (from Edgemont) is on GBOC, not representing Edgemont but rather as a member of the police advisory committee. He thought committee was a waste of time, as committee was not conversant with costs, and gave an example regarding EMT service.

Comptroller quoted saying that if things continue as they are, Greenburgh will be in default by 2015. Robin would like to invite comptroller to talk, which may be scheduled for early 2012 and/or Howard Hirsch could lead a discussion on budget issues.

Tomorrow night is regular Town Council meeting.

B. Litigation –

Greenburgh was victorious in Valhalla lawsuit, driven by Edgemont's Bob Bernstein and Dobbs Ferry's Herb Rosenberg. Valhalla likely to appeal.

The Town is still waiting on its appeal in the Fortress Bible case. There are no budget contingencies to handle damages that the church is likely to receive if upheld on appeal.

C. Village –

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Karen Kelly gave a brief discussion indicating that the overall assessed value of Edgemont far exceeds that of any of the villages.

Robin Schaffer and Monica Sganga felt that the ECC should not sponsor a village committee (the way it sponsors the SBNC). A village committee should be formed outside of the ECC. Geoff Loftus pointed out that that was always the intention. The ECC just wanted to take a look at the EVEC report and see if it was worth re-engaging the entire Edgemont community in another discussion about becoming a village.

Marc Ackerman – Village update. Committee anticipated some of Robin and Monica's concerns. Committee thinking about process. His impression from a meeting at the Edgemont Association and with people he meets around Edgemont is that there's some excitement about this topic, both pro and con. Marc and the committee were scheduled to meet with the Cotswold Association and might schedule more meetings with other neighborhood associations.

A motion was made, seconded and approved that Marc and the committee would continue their “listening tour” and return in early 2012 with a recommendation as to whether or not a village should be pursued, and if it should, how it should be pursued.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

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