

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 EDMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

April 12, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School March 1, 2010, in the Faculty Lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Michelle McNally, Jonathan Faust, Robert Klerer, Marc Ackerman, Andrea Weiss, Madelon O'Shea, Schuyler Kraus.

Officers and Directors not in attendance: Robert Bernstein, Karen Kelly, John Sganga, Larry Rusoff, Geoff Loftus, Todd Garvelink and John Coleman, John Blakley, Sr.

Civic Associations represented: Longview (), Fort Hill (Robin Schaffer), Cotswold (Charles McNally, Aubrey Daniels), Greenridge (), Old Edgemont (Lauren Ricci Warren), Northern Greenville (), Southern Greenville (), Central Park Avenue ().

Guests: Arnold Laubich

Michelle McNally presided over the meeting and took minutes. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

Minutes – The minutes of March 1, 2010 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was accepted. The ECC has \$ 4,810.92 in the bank, petty cash and the postage permit accounts. Funds were expended for an ad for the high school musical, for renewal of ECC's post office box and the mailing of the annual newsletter.

Annual Meeting – County Executive Rob Astorino will be the speaker at this year's Annual Meeting on April 28.

SBNC: The SBNC endorsed David Chao, Tom McCormack, David Stern and Gerry Stoughton for the four open seats on the Board of Education. Caroline Tzelios, who was not endorsed by the committee, will run as an independent candidate. A discussion was held about the difficulty of contested elections and campaigning. Michelle said she would write a community piece explaining the School Board Nominating Committee and process for the community. A suggestion was made that the committee send a letter to the Scarsdale Inquirer signed by its members stating who is endorsed and asking the community to support the endorsed candidates. The Candidate's Forum will be held on April 21 at Greenville Elementary School at 8PM.

Member Associations

*The Central Park Avenue Association
Greenridge Association*

*The Cotswold Association
Longview Civic Association*

*Edgemont Association
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*Fort Hill Association
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ECC Fundraising Proposal – Jon Faust suggested a fund-raising proposal which would promote a local business and generate proceeds for ECC. Edgemont residents who dined at a particular restaurant on a specific day (it would be a weekday) would have 20% of their bill donated to ECC. This could possibly also include take-out. Flyers advertising the event would be printed up and emailed, and people would hand in the flyer when they paid their bill. The proposal was staunchly opposed by one director who maintained that ECC should restrict its source of funds to membership dues. Directors agreed to further discuss this proposal.

Town Affairs

Board of Assessment Review: The Town Board agenda for April 14 includes a decision on a local law to waive the residency requirement for members of the Board of Assessment Review. This had been deferred from an earlier agenda, and Paul Feiner had sent out an email soliciting resumes for membership on the Board. Michelle contacted Feiner to inquire if the Town Board was now going to proceed forward with waiving the residency requirement. Feiner said he had received resumes and was not in a rush to vote on it. It was pointed out that the non-resident the Town Board wanted to appoint has been hired to work in the Assessor’s office despite a hiring freeze.

HPPD: Feiner lost his lawsuit against the HPPD. The Town Board will now ask the state legislature to eliminate the property ownership requirement for Town residents to serve on the HPPD Board. Michelle explained that the HPPD includes only a segment of the unincorporated area and that eliminating the property ownership requirement without addressing the matter of who is financially responsible should be opposed. Any change to the statute should be comprehensive. In addition to Feiner’s appointee not being able to comply with the property ownership requirement, Michelle said that Mr. Feiner’s choice for the HPPD Board was also a non-resident of the district. The Board did not support changing the legislation and felt that any objection should be specific.

Hotel/Motel Tax: In December, the Town Board adopted a resolution requesting the NYS legislature to permit the town to charge a hotel/motel occupancy tax. In January, Andrea Stewart-Cousins introduced a bill to allow the Town and its incorporated Villages to adopt local laws imposing a hotel/motel tax. The town will now seek to impose a hotel/motel tax in the unincorporated area only under a Home Rule Request and will leave the Villages to impose their own local laws.

Unexplained \$50,000 Legal Retainer: The Town Board agenda for April 14 contains a resolution authorizing a \$50,000 retainer to the law firm Wilson, Elser with no indication of what these services are for. Michelle contacted Feiner to ask what these legal services are for, and despite several requests by her, Feiner refused to tell her.

Tax Certiorari: A tax certiorari claim filed by Dilmaghani has been settled. The property assesment will decline from \$300,000 to \$145,400, a reduction of \$154,600. The school district will refund \$525,841, and the fire district will refund \$89,186. In addition, a record number of residential property owners have filed certioraris. The number is 79 this year, up from 14 last year and 12 the prior year. The increase is in part a function of how the Office of Real

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Property Services sets the Residential Assessment Ratio. Michelle said that while not all may be granted, continued increases in residential claims, coupled with continuing commercial claims, will over time result in a de facto revaluation.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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