

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

September 13, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School, September 13, 2010, in the Faculty Lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Robert Bernstein, Karen Kelly, Robert Klerer, Schuyler Kraus, Geoff Loftus, Todd Garvelink, Greg Adams, Marc Ackerman, Jon Faust, Jon Kelly, and John Blakley, Sr

Officers and Directors not in attendance: John Sganga, Larry Rusoff, Andrea Weiss, and John Coleman.

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

Guests: Madelon O'Shea, Michelle McNally, Arnold Laubich, Bill Rosenblum, Marty Payson, David Schwerd, Dom Caratozzolo, Matthew Jaffe, Fire Commissioners Helene Orce, Walter Groden, Michael Rappe and Bob Bruckenthal, and Debbie Anders (Scarsdale Inquirer)

Bob Bernstein presided over the meeting and Karen Kelly took minutes. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

Minutes – The minutes of June 7 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was accepted. The ECC has \$ 5,685.60 in the bank, petty cash and the postage permit accounts.

Fundraising Proposal: Jon Faust will be looking into dates for a membership drive/fundraiser.

School Board Nominating Committee – The SBNC anticipates that Northern Greenville, Southern Greenville, and Central Park Avenue Civic Associations may not convene annual meetings to nominate representatives to the SBNC. As authorized by the By-laws, the ECC will publicize any openings available. The ECC voted unanimously to direct Marc Ackerman to spend up to \$400 for mailings, advertisements, etc to obtain volunteers.

Fire District Update – The Fire District Consolidation Committee ("FDCC") is expected to vote on September 23 whether to recommend fire district consolidation. If they so recommend, notwithstanding that it would either result in significant tax increases for Edgemont or significant service cuts, the next step would be for petitions to be gathered and put on the ballot.

Member Associations

*The Central Park Avenue Association
Greenridge Association*

*The Cotswold Association
Longview Civic Association*

*Edgemont Association
Northern Greenville Association*

*Fort Hill Association
Southern Greenville Association*

At the August 19 meeting of the FDCC, Bob Bernstein resigned as an adviser after being barred from receiving FDCC drafts and emails. In resigning, Bernstein presented evidence that FDCC chair Alan Hochberg was a former state assemblyman who had been convicted of violating the public trust, sentenced to a year in jail, and disbarred as an attorney. Bernstein was then physically assaulted by FDCC member Luis Polit and threatened by FDCC member Milt Hoffman. The incident was captured on videotape. The Board voted unanimously as follows:

Resolved, that the Town Board should remove Luis Polit and Milton Hoffman from the Fire District Consolidation Committee (the "FDCC"), for their actions at the FDCC meeting of August 19, 2010, and the Town Board should remove Mr. Alan Hochberg from his position as the Chair of the FDCC for his failure to request the resignations of Messrs Polit and Hoffman.

Ms. O'Shea expressed indignation that Mr. Hochberg, who is on the Town Veterans Affairs Committee, represents himself as a veteran when he is not. Ms. O'Shea described this as Theft of Valor.

Town Matters:

1. Mr. Bernstein reported that the Town is demanding that certain private citizens produce documents in the lawsuit by former comptroller Michael Kolesar. Mr. Bernstein expressed concern about such tactics because he couldn't imagine how such documents could be relevant to any claims or defenses in the case.
2. The Town has rejected FOIL requests for the overtime for highest paid police officers within the 5 years prior to their retirement. They have said anyone requesting such information would have to pay to have it compiled. Requiring residents to pay beyond 25 cents a page appears to violate the Town's FOIL requirements.
3. The Fortress Bible Suit has been decided, the town is considering what to do next. Fortress Bible will shortly be presenting a bill to the Town, expected to be between \$6 and 7 million.
4. Valhalla Lawsuit -- discovery continues. The town produces documents, while the VSD says they have none (which suggests they were not a party to any original negotiations, rather just received a gift from the Town).
5. Additional development is planned near the Stew Leonard site. One or two large stores are planned, such as a Target, which will result in more traffic.
6. The County is considering a proposal to bar the use of eminent domain for economic projects. Eminent domain has been used successfully in Yonkers and White Plains.

New Business:

1. Another burglary was reported in Edgemont
2. Michelle McNally announced that after 15 years, she will not be seeking reappointment to the Town Antenna Review Board and would suggest that anyone who is interested in the position let her know. The Board reviews cellular antenna applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

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