

# *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**

**May 2, 2011**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School, May 2, 2011, in the teachers' lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Robert Bernstein, Marc Ackerman, Karen Kelly, Jonathan Faust, John Sganga, John Blakley, Sr., Geoff Loftus, Robert Klerer, Jonathan Kelly, Andrea Weiss, Jon Coleman and Robert Klerer.

Officers and Directors not in attendance Greg Adams, Todd Garvelink, Schuyler Kraus and Larry Rusoff.

Civic Associations represented: Longview (), Fort Hill (), Cotswold (), Greenridge (), Old Edgemont (), Northern Greenville (), Southern Greenville (), Central Park Avenue ().

Guests: Arnold Laubich, Michelle McNally, Nick DiCicco (came late).

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

**Minutes** – The minutes of April were approved, as amended.

**Treasurer's Report** – We have 37 new members, and \$3,933.57 in the bank and postal permits.

**Frankie and Fannucci's** – There will be another fundraiser tomorrow at Frankie and Fannucci's

**The School Budget** vote will be Tuesday May 17. The budget provides for a tax increase of 2.65%, which is less than Scarsdale's.

**The Southern Greenville Civic Association** (area south of Ardsely, on Greenville side) is looking to revive – (area south of Ardsely, on Greenville side).

### **Town Matters**

*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*

**Missing Tickets** – The town has reported that over 100,000 tickets were neglected and not processed. In addition, 250 cases which were supposed to be sealed were not.

**Master Plan** – Consideration is being given to having nodes, or faux villages, on Central Ave. It would be destination/entertainment shopping. Fairweather and Farendino (outside consultants) are working on this, and have the support of committee. Customers would come from apartments above, and want to capture “leakage” of residents shopping elsewhere. The proposal would require infrastructure (schools, roadways), which as of yet there is no real plan or process. Thomas Madden, Town Planning Commissioner, said they hope to have small meetings, and then later public hearings to discuss with residents and other stakeholders. The Town has had meetings, mostly attended by real estate professionals. Marc Ackerman questioned how we can have any influence. The Planning Board can make recommendations, but ultimately the Town Board will decide. Marc pointed out that Villages do control zoning. Michelle McNally pointed out that the County has in the past wanted more density on Central Avenue, including the use of Bus Rapid Transit (when the money is available). The plan is available on our website.

Feiner invitation to new ECC officers – Feiner invited new officers to meet with him one on one. Jon and Geoff both thought it might be worthwhile to meet, with maybe two or three for a communications meeting. Aubrey was concerned that meeting with him individually might not be productive. Jon Faust moved that the ECC authorize small groups (not individually) to meet with Feiner. Anyone who received a letter should contact Geoff Loftus if they wish to participate. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Fire District Update** – Jon Faust reported that former members of the Fire District Consolidation Committee are continuing to meet to consider options, which is opposed by the GFD. There is no response from the Attorney General’s office regarding the complaint that the Town should not be able to request a grant. Jon thinks there is continued manufactured confusion regarding payroll, including statements that our fire fighters are paid more. That is true, but our overall payroll is lower.

Litigation update – **Valhalla School District** – Bob and Herb demanding money be returned. Town did not request money back. Town contesting VSD suit on technical grounds.

The Stop and Shop – on 119 – has been asked to pay to Town Recreation Fund for its zoning, in addition \$250,000 to a civic association. These demands for contributions raises issues that zoning changes get approved based on contributions. Arnold indicated it is terrible practice, but believes it happen across the country. Bob added it has resulted in expensive litigation.

The Ethics Board denied a request for stay in one case and tabled requests in others; the Town received an opinion from state comptroller expressing doubt that towns may legally provide counsel for officials accused of ethics violations.

*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*

Scarsdale taxes are now substantially below Edgemont taxes on comparably priced homes; \$7,000 difference on E'mont home with average assessed value of \$30,000; in 2005, taxes were the same; Edgemont home sales plummet through April 22 of this year compared with Scarsdale; change due to huge increases in town taxes. Andrea indicated that the taxes are an issue, and we are losing buyers to Scarsdale.

*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*