

EKNA Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2011

Location: Philadelphia Brewing Company

Chairperson: Jeff Carpineta. In attendance: See Attendance Record

INTRODUCTIONS: Neighbors at the EKNA meeting for the first time introduced themselves.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: EKNA President Jeff Carpineta spoke on meeting protocol. Repeats a message given at the last Coral Street Arts House meeting. The agenda needs to stay on track. Back and forth conversation protracted conversation that is not relevant to the entire group may be stopped if necessary and discussed in person outside the group meeting. People with issues and concerns are always welcome to speak with the officers outside the meeting or to attend an officer meeting or to ask for an item to be placed on the agenda. Jeff talks about that even though it is his personal inclination to engage every question deeply and have dialogue until each person is satisfied and completely answered, that is not good meeting management- says he pledges to do better.

501(c)(3) STATUS: For those who did not hear last month- EKNA received its 501c3 notification letter so it is now an official non-profit organization. This will allow EKNA to seek additional funding for initiatives, establish a robust budget, and do more in the neighborhood. EKNA can even consider hiring staff at some point.

ZCC UPDATE: The Philadelphia Zoning Code Commission has a new final draft of the zoning code that is currently being presented at City Council for adoption. Jeff Carpineta and Amy Miller testified at the Council hearings on the role of EKNA in the public outreach process of the ZCC. A video of that testimony is available on the Plan Philly website.

RDA MEETING: Jeff and Amy also met with the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) last week about the green space initiative to protect and create new open space resources in the neighborhood. Reception from RDA was more positive than expected. Notes from the RDA meeting are on file. RDA wants their land off their books, they have a reliable process for doing so, and they (stated/now) consider green spaces, parks, and gardens a justifiable form of development. There is even opportunity for nonprofit organizations to obtain land at low cost from RDA. Please speak with Jeff and Amy for more information about that meeting and what the next steps are.

APPROVED EXPENSE FOR PLANNING: *AUG VOTE* At the last EKNA meeting in August, the membership approved the expenditure of up to \$2,000 as a cash match for a neighborhood planning grant through the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) program of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Copies of the grant application were available for members to read. We don't know when we will be notified if we did or did not receive this funding. Copies of the planning proposal authored by Amy Miller, Jeff Carpineta and David Fecteau from the PCPC were handed out at the meeting and are on file.

CLEAN UP: There will be a community clean-up this coming Saturday on 9/24 with food provided afterwards. The meet-up location will be at Trenton and York.

The Penn Treaty Special Services District (PTSSD) was formed as part of a Community Benefits Agreement with the Sugar House Casino. Organizations within this district can receive funding for approved projects. Part of Frankford Ave is located within the District. Northern Liberties Neighborhood Association (NLNA) is leading a coalition to inquire about the feasibility for a comprehensive street cleaning program for the entire district. This would be akin to the street cleaning in Center City District, and in University City District. There is another proposal for security cameras along Girard Avenue, and there is a meeting this coming Thursday about that. Copy of the letter to PTSSD is on file.

REDISTRICTING: The City Council district boundaries are being redrawn. There are currently two proposals on the table, both of which appear to show no change in the district boundaries for East Kensington.

THANK YOU TO NKCDC. Jeff Carpineta wants to express profound thanks to Nole + Brian from NKCDC have been doing a great job in maintaining many vacant lots in the neighborhood where EKNA does not have the resources to do so. NKCDC can't do every vacant lot, but they do many and it makes a huge difference. The Land Care program that used to fund this effort has been defunded, but they have still found the resources to continue maintaining many vacant lots. EKNA may want to consider doing something to thank them for their work. Henry Pyatt comments that the NKCDC has been doing this for many years- Jeff comments that their effort is particularly noteworthy this year as they have been accomplishing the lot tending without the previous budget for such action.

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**TREE SURVEY-** Amy Miller spoke about the street tree survey, which was introduced at the August meeting. The city has millions of dollars to plant trees, and a goal of planting 300,000 new trees in the next few years. They are targeting tree plantings on public lands and empty tree pits. A sign-up sheet was passed out for interested volunteers. EKNA volunteers will be working with Philly Tree People and the Department of Parks and Recreation to survey the live trees, dead trees and stumps, and empty tree pits in the neighborhood. Using this data to find locations for new trees, there will be a massive tree planting throughout the neighborhood in the Spring.

**ZONING REPORT-** Andy Barrera, the Chair of the Zoning Committee, spoke on the two zoning cases that were discussed at the September zoning meeting. At 2213 Amber Street, there is a proposal to subdivide the lot into two lots and construct two single-family homes. There were concerns expressed about a side setback for egress. At 2125 Abigail Street, there is a proposal to build a single-family house. It is a very small lot, and the residents would prefer a two-story not a three-story house. Egress from the rear was also an issue that was raised. At 2519 Frankford Avenue, there is a proposed restaurant

that is currently being rehabbed. Members of the Zoning Committee will meet with these applicants this week and there will most likely be a community zoning meeting about this proposal soon.

**\*\*VOTE\*\* KENSINGTON SOCCER CLUB Jim Hardy** spoke on his work to establish and run the Kensington Soccer League. They had 115 kids participate this past summer. A number of EKNA members have helped with the project over the past couple years. They are looking to have more teen and adult involvement, and want to enroll interested teens and adults in a coach training course. This would cost about \$450. They also have a need for funding for equipment, shirts, food, and other costs for the league. EKNA treasurer Pat McHugh said that the EKNA budget could reasonably allow for a contribution of about \$1,000. Andy Barrera made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,000, which was seconded by Henry Pyatt. A vote was taken, which was all in favor. As during all voting matters, Jeff comments that those not in favor are welcome to express their viewpoint so that it may be fairly noted.

**EMERALD STREET URBAN FARM- Elissa Ruse** spoke on the upcoming Emerald Street Urban Farm Farmraiser on October 1 between 1pm at 10pm. There will be face painting, kids' activities, food, beverages, and music all day long. They need some volunteers to help before, during, and after the event. Also, the Farm will be showing the movie Goonies on October 13. They are also having a Halloween event on October 31. They are also building an Earthship greenhouse between 10/14 and 10/17, which will be constructed out of reclaimed materials. They have a farmstand every Saturday and have a wide variety of produce available now.

**Claude Schrader spoke on Philly Car Share**, which has been purchased by Enterprise. Now they have more funding and are looking to expand to additional pods. Some EKNA members have contacted Philly Car Share to say that they would like a pod along Frankford Avenue north of Cumberland. If someone has an extra parking space on their property, or has a suggestion for a pod, they can contact Philly Car Share.

**BYO STUDIO Katie Van Vliet** said she has moved her printing studio BYO Studio to the neighborhood on Coral Street, and that other print makers should contact her if they are interested in studio space.

**26<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT** An officer from the 26<sup>th</sup> District was in attendance and is available to talk to residents about their concerns one-on-one after the meeting.