

EPIC General Membership Meeting
Draft Minutes 10/11/2007

The next EPIC meeting is:
Thursday, November 8th, 2007 @ 6:30 PM
Holy Rosary Church
2424 18th Ave. S.
Enter door on 18th Ave. side under the "OFFICE" sign.

EPIC Board Members Present:

Rosie Cruz (RC), Carol Pass (CP), Linda Leonard (LL), Paul Wichman (PW), Aden Awil (AA), Juliet Thompson (JT).

EPIC Members Present:

Alfonso Cruz (AC), Brad Pass (BP), Hannah Lieder (HL), Erin Wolaner (EW).

Guests Present:

Gary Schiff (GS).

CP Lacking a quorum, CP called the meeting to order as a committee of the whole at 6:45 PM and did introductions.

MOTION: *CP Moved to juggle the agenda to accommodate Gary Schiff and the quorum.*
Passed by acclamation.

Announcements and Reports:

LL Waite House Donation. After the bridge collapse, EPIC voted to authorize \$999.00 for staff medical expenses and overtime expenses necessary because so many staffers were unable to work due to their injuries. Since then we have determined that there is adequate money for the Waite House and there is no way for us to direct our donation because the Minneapolis Foundation is holding all donations and will distribute them as they see fit.

MOTION: *LL Whereas: there is adequate money available for the Bridge Collapse victims and Whereas: there is no way for EPIC to direct its donation, Therefore be it resolved that EPIC rescind its authorization to donate \$999.00 to the Waite House.*

NOTE: Motion was postponed until a quorum is present.

LL Garden harvest Party: Oct. 6th was our East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Garden Fall harvest party. The party was very well attended with many children. The best estimate was that 150 people came. We went through 120 hot dogs, 5 gallons of Apple juice, several large bags of marshmallows and 40 miniature pumpkins. There were games for kids in the blocked street, pony rides in the alley, a petting zoo with many small animals in the garden and a campfire for roasting (incinerating) marshmallows. A couple of gardeners allowed kids to pick their carrots and etc. to feed the animals. This led to somewhat wholesale carrot picking and some gardeners were upset. The animals were very happy and the kids were ecstatic.

JT Street Lights: JT reported that East Phillips streets seem unnecessarily dark at night. She asked how many lights per block and what intensity are provided by the city. This was determined to be a Gary Schiff question. She also reported that the barricades on 25th St. just moved the problem South to 27th St.

CP Weed & Seed Money: CP reported that Weed & Seed had money for an additional Portable camera but this money was inexplicably removed from the Police/Weed & Seed Budget by 3rd Precinct Inspector Lucy Gerald.

EW Holy Rosary parking lot vandalism: Holy Rosary is having a serious problem with vandalism and vehicle break-ins in their parking lot. It happens in broad daylight and night time. Volunteers, staff and parishioners are becoming afraid to leave their vehicles in the area. Many Hispanics are afraid to report crimes perpetrated against them for fear of ICE retaliation. Resident remarks were that this could cripple the church.

(NOTE: After this EPIC meeting three vehicles parked on 18th Ave. S. just outside the church were vandalized with broken windows and stolen contents and car sound systems.)

NOTE: At 7:00 PM a Quorum was acquired.

Waite House Motion:

MOTION: LL *Whereas: there is adequate money available for the Bridge Collapse victims and Whereas: there is no way for EPIC to direct its donation, Therefore be it resolved that EPIC rescind its authorization to donate \$999.00 to the Waite House.*
Motion passed by Acclimation.

New Board Member Ratification:

CP The EPIC Board has nominated Juliet Thompson to replace retiring Board Member Cynthia Aguirri. The term will be from ratification to the next EPIC Annual Meeting.

MOTION: LL *EPIC moves to accept Juliet Thompson as a new member of the EPIC Board of Directors. The term shall start immediately after ratification and continue until the next EPIC Annual Meeting is adjourned.* Seconded by RC. Motion passed unanimously.

NRP Electors:

MOTION: BP: *EPIC moves that the NRP elector for EPIC be Mary Gonsior and the Alternate NRP elector be Rosie Cruz.* Motion Passed by consensus.

Soccer Stipend:

CP Reports that there is \$999.00 of CDBG money available which could be used for youth and family outreach.

MOTION: BP: *EPIC moves that \$999.00 of its CDBG money be used youth and family outreach.* RC seconded.

Discussion: Midtown Phillips provided gym space free in a partnership with East Phillips. EPIC hopes to share costs for some gym rental space with Midtown on additional days.

PW At a rental fee of \$100 per week for the second gym (The first gym is free), will this money last for more than 10 weeks?

BP No, but EPIC will be sharing this burden with Midtown Phillips. As an outreach program of EPIC and Midtown, we will need to raise more money and that seems possible.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Garry Schiff Report:

Vacant and Boarded:

2908 16th Ave. S. has been boarded for over a year and it therefore has lost its variances and as such it is now recognized as a duplex instead of a six-plex. The owner, Phil Owens, has apparently sold the building and it is now occupied illegally. It is also unclear as to whether or not the new owner is aware of the zoning change. In any case GS will call the police and have the building vacated.

2909 16th Ave. S. has sold.

1537 26th St. has been vacant and boarded for more than a year and has therefore lost its variance which no longer allows it, (a four-plex) to be the second building on a single lot.

2923 16th Ave. S. is owned by a collective of California of Mortgage Companies. Ownership is changed every few months to avoid any ownership penalties. RC sees people entering the property from the garage and probably the house.

GS will board the garage.

Gustavous Adolphous – 1626 E. Lake St. will be torn down if owner cannot apply for rehab permits by Nov. 8, 2007.

Stately St. Three murders on this street this year. 1836 Stately St. is on the demo list.

2422 16th Ave. S. was demoed today.

19 boarded homes in East Phillips- 12 were a result of foreclosures. 11 were rentals purchased with \$0 down. No maintenance – no water bills were paid and no mortgage payments were made.

Barriers on 25th St. will be removed within two weeks. GS will hold meetings on other traffic calming strategies in the area.

Cameras: CP NRP and perhaps Weed & Seed money is available for another portable camera.

GS Except for Stately St. which is the worst block in the City, Hannah's block is now the worst in East Phillips (27th St. between 16th and 18th Avenues S.). we need a creative strategy for providing staff and funding to monitor existing and new cameras.

MOTION:

RC Moved *EPIC authorizes up to \$15,000 of its NRP money to buy another portable camera for the MPD to be used in the East Phillips Neighborhood.* Motion was seconded and passed.

It was noted that this would require another vote at our next EPIC GM Meeting.

HL What is current police staffing?

GS It is the highest in 5 years. When Bush eliminated Clinton's Dollars for Cops program we lost a lot of cops. The City is incrementally increasing police budgets to compensate.

GS All variances will be denied for 2603 Bloomington Ave. S. There are many issues including parking. Another this to consider is that every Event Center" in the 3rd Precinct has at one time or another been cited as an illegal night club – EXCEPT Plaza Verde.

GS left the meeting.

Clean Sweep Report:

BP Clean Sweep 2007 is this Saturday. Come to the Welna Parking lot or the Messiah Community Center Parking lot at 9:00 AM, have breakfast and pick up your T-shirt,

gloves, trash picker-upper and instructions and go out with your neighbors and sweep clean Phillips. Meet at Stewart Park at noon for lunch and music provided by Mad Dads. A flyer is attached.

MOTION: BP Moved to accept the agenda and the 9/13/2007 minutes. Motion was seconded and passed.

Revisiting the Biomass Plant:

JT reported that a meeting on the Biomass Plant was held at the Franklin Library. Many opponents were there but no representatives from East Phillips attended.

CP EPIC had not been informed or invited. Lets decide that we research the pros and cons.

TO DO: JT Concurred and suggested we get both sides of the issue and make an informed decision.

Allina Jobs Program:

CP In Jan. 2006, EPIC voted to give Allina \$5,000.00 NRP Phase 1 money in exchange for jobs, training and housing. This incentive for Allina was to be a forgivable loan program dependent on Allina's performance and the longevity of the jobs. At that time West Phillips contributed \$100,000.00 to the program. Over the year the other neighborhoods all pulled out. We don't know what is still in the original contract. If we put \$5,000 into this what will we get? If we don't, what will we loose?

TO DO: BP suggested we research this issue as well. All agreed.

Future Funding of Minneapolis Neighborhoods through NRP:

CP reported she on a trip to Des Moines, Iowa, taken by NRP Staff and members of the NRP Policy Board and many other neighborhood workers. The mission was to learn from other cities about how to better serve our neighborhoods and explain how NRP works. People in Iowa were very impressed at how innovative and successful the program has been and they were astonished that Mayor Rybak is intent on terminating it. CP stated that when the Des Moines city staff hosting the conference were asked if they would consider just giving the funding to the neighborhoods for them to decide on their own projects (as Mpls. does under NRP), they remarked, "Oh, we would never do that!"

TO DO: CP explained that NRP ends in 2009 if it is not renewed for another 20 years. This coupled with the Mayor's determination to end the program makes it imperative that EPIC very quickly spend its NRP allocation. Unspent funds may end up going back to the City.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn. Motion Passed