

# **EPIC General Membership Meeting**

## **Minutes 11/8/2007**

The next EPIC meeting is:  
**Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 6:30 PM**  
**Holy Rosary Church**  
**2424 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.**  
Enter door on 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. side under the "OFFICE" sign.

**EPIC Board Members Present:**

Rosie Cruz (RC), Carol Pass (CP), Linda Leonard (LL), Aden Awil (AA), Juliet Thompson (JT), Mary Gonsior (MG), Sherzad Kordian (SK),

**EPIC Members Present:**

Alfonso Cruz (AC), Brad Pass (BP), Jennifer Bjorgo (JB), Shirley Heyer (SH), Bruce Singer (BS), Ron Moey (RM), Margaret Kirkpatrick (MK), Kendra Allen (KA).

**Guests Present:**

Scott Vreeland (SV),

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**CP** Lacking a quorum, MG called the meeting to order as a committee of the whole at 6:05 PM and did introductions.

**Announcements and Reports:**

**BP** Clean Sweep Report. Clean Sweep 2007, held on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, was a great success. Breakfast at Welna Hardware's parking lot and Messiah Lutheran's lot drew over four hundred people who donned the free t-shirts ate a quick breakfast, picked up gloves, garbage picker-uppers and garbage bags and set out to clean Phillips.

The volunteers reassembled shortly after noon at Stewart Park for lunch and music provided by Mad Dads and community donors.

**CP** NRP Policy Board Election, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, Crown Roller Mill, 105 5<sup>th</sup> St. 6:30- 8:30 pm

**RB & JT** Opening of the Greenway Bridge over Hwy 55 The grand opening was tonight. We just came from the festivities. It is a beautiful bridge with impressive lighting.

**BP** East Phillips Community 17<sup>th</sup> Ave Garden Meeting, Saturday at 10:00 AM. in the garden. Come if you are interested in gardening next season.

**JT** Another Public Hearing on the Biomass Plant Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, '07, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 East 31<sup>st</sup> St. 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

**SV** What is EPIC's Position on the Biomass Plant?

**CP** EPIC originally wrote a letter of support and was willing to sign a "Good Neighbor" agreement with Kandiyohi. This agreement would give EPIC some continuing say in the project. The concerns of many about pollution from the facility is causing EPIC to reevaluate it's position.

**NOTE:** At 6:55 PM a quorum was present.

**MOTION:** CP Moved to accept agenda with addition of a report from Bruce Singer on his properties. Motion Passed.

**MOTION:** CP Moved to accept the 10/11/2007 minutes. Motion Passed

**Neighborhood Public Safety:**

Recent Assaults:

**CP** An Hispanic woman was seriously assaulted and mugged at 29<sup>th</sup> and Bloomington. She was taken to Abbot and was treated very badly there with many questions about insurance and etc. They later apologized.

Another neighbor was assaulted at 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Car vandalism and home break-ins are a regular occurrence near 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Smith was assaulted near 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Police are very proud of the lower murder rate this year but they seem powerless to impact these 'so-called' quality of life crimes. Their response to 911 calls is so slow they are becoming irrelevant.

Crime-Cams:

**CP** At our 10/11/07 meeting, EPIC passed the following motion concerning the purchase of a portable camera. This motion requires a thirty day review and completes its ratification tonight if approved. This expenditure may require an NRP Plan Modification.

**MOTION:** *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 Passed (7 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention).*

**MOTION:** *BP Whereas, the MPD has a staffing shortage and has trouble monitoring the cameras it currently has installed, Therefore, be it resolved that EPIC explore the possibility of creating a volunteer civilian group, trained by the MPD, to help monitor the cameras. JB Seconded.*

Discussion: RB pointed out that software can also be used to help monitor the cameras.

BP accepted the following friendly amendment:

*Be it further resolved that EPIC also explore the role software might play in camera monitoring. Motion Passed.*

**MOTION:** *LL Moved: EPIC supports the concept of Neighborhood Policing. JT Seconded. Motion Passed.*

**East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center Plans unveiled:**

**SV** Reviewed the park building process and the funding to date - \$3.5 million from the State, \$3.25 pending budgetary approval from the City of Mpls., \$244,000 from EPIC and Midtown Phillips. He then passed out the plans LHB, the East Phillips Park Community Design Team and the MPRB created with input from three Community Action Committee meetings.

**MG** "This is the most amazing, innovative and exciting" Park building plan I have ever seen."

**MOTION:** *LL Moved that EPIC send a letter to the MPRB, the Design Team and the Architect thanking them for their excellent work on the plans for the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center. RC Seconded. Motion Passed.*

**BS** How many City Parks have Community Centers?

**SV** All but East Phillips and Jordan .

**BP** The City funding is in question. We must all write each council-member and the Mayor and request that they honor the CLIC process and fund East Phillips Park. It is

important that this funding be new capital dollars – not the money that the Park Board normally spends on repair and maintenance for the rest of the Park buildings.

**Youth and Family Outreach:**

**RC** East/Midtown Phillips Youth Sports and Recreation is in desperate need of uniforms including shirts, shorts, shin guards, socks and shoes. They also need funds to help pay gym rent. This motion was passed by the EPIC Board and does not require general membership ratification since it is within the authorized spending limit – the Board requests that it be ratified by membership anyway.

**MOTION:** **CP Moved:** *EPIC will adjust the budget to provide an additional \$1,000 for the purpose of providing uniform items and gym rental for East/Midtown Phillips Youth Sports and Recreation. It is understood that additional money will be raised by the Youth Sports and Rec. organization in an attempt to match this EPIC funding two to one.* **JB** Seconded. Motion Passed.

**Bruce Singer's housing report:**

Bruce Singer attended his first EPIC meeting and gave us a list of the houses he has rehabbed and owns in the neighborhood: 2637 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., 2825 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., 2717 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., 2909 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., 2813 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., 3100 Chicago, 2903 Park.

**Community Organizer Training:**

Family and Children's Service is hosting a Community Organizer training course Friday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. At 4123 E. Lake St. Cost is free for parents and \$60.00 for non parents.

**MOTION:** **LL** *In the interest of promoting Community Organizer Training to EPIC members, EPIC will provide up to four \$60.00 scholarships to EPIC members who attend the training course Friday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. at 4123 E. Lake St. If you are a parent the training is free. Recipients of the scholarship must write and submit an evaluation of the training.* **BP** Seconded. Motion Passed.

**Future NRP Funding of Neighborhoods:**

**CP** With the future of NRP being threatened, we all need to write the Mayor and City Council and encourage the continuation of this program.

**MOTION:** **RC Moved:** *EPIC will write letters to the Mpls. City Council and the Mayor in support of NRP.* **LL** Seconded. Motion Passed

**Updates on Developments:**

**CP** 2601 Bloomington is owned by Bosom Sabri's wife.  
Open Arms at 25<sup>th</sup> & Bloomington had several dump truck loads of debris and tree limbs and stumps. Shirly Heyer tracked down the culprit and it will be cleaned up.  
2931 Bloomington Live-work units are proceeding.  
Greenway Town Homes. Lisa Kugler is helping with the development and has a good track record.  
Franklin Station Condos. \$10,000 grants are available.

**Adjourned** at 8:38 PM

Submitted by Brad Pass on 1/4/2008