Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Steering Committee

Wednesday, October 10th, 2012

I should like to start this edition of the Emerson-Garfield Minutes by stating that as this is being written, Halloween is approaching and it is very scary in the Neighborhood. That being said, AiiiiiiEEEEEEEE!

The Rocktober Edition of the Emerson-Garfield Rockin’ Steering Committee Meeting got under way shortly after 7PM with the usual introductions of those in attendance, the acquiring of an Quorum and the customary approval of the minutes with no discussion, dissention or appreciation for just how long this sentence is. Let’s just say that the minutes were approved and then we moved along.

The first item on the agenda was an announcement that dump passes would be available at the end of the meeting for those who lasted through to the very end of the meeting. Garbage Czar Carl spoke with many words and said stuff like we loaded 5.63 tons o’garbage back in April at the Neighborhood Clean Up Day. We also passed out 6 tons worth of Dump Passes that day and we are scheduled for another Neighborhood Dump-A-Palooza next April 27th -ish. That’s a Saturday! Write it down, get it in your schedule and throw out some useless crap next April. That schedule at this early date is subject to change. Nonetheless, keep it in your hearts and minds and start stacking your useless crap. You know you have some. I know I do. In fact, I have been approached by the Producers of a Reality Show called, “Useless Crap” and they have…..perhaps this isn’t the forum to discuss this.

Next item was a discussion about the Planning Committee. E.J. Ianelli has stepped down as the Planning Manager and Jay Cousins has stepped up. There is a lack of involvement issue that has frustrated E.J. and for that, we are all guilty. We are also very busy and that is life. So while you are guilty, you are also forgiven. E.J. felt his time might be better spent on other efforts. We are trying not to blame anyone and at the same time, blame everyone. The proposal was made that perhaps our Planning Committee was not a priority and it should be dissolved. In the end, Jay was willing to proceed with the limited participation and Jay was approved as the new Planning Manager.

In the area of Communications, we have none. Well, that’s not accurate. We do have Communications and we are trying to communicate the communications that we have. There are a couple of websites that one can go to (<http://emersongarfield.spokaneneighborhoods.org> ), ([www.emersongarfield.org](http://www.emersongarfield.org)) ([www.emersongarfield.org/wp/](http://www.emersongarfield.org/wp/)) and there is lots of information available about what is happening in our neighborhood. Anyone who wants to get on-line info, be sure the committee has your e-mail address.

In the Parks, new electrical drops will be going in for both Emerson and Corbin Parks. New swing sets are going in at Corbin as well as new horseshoe pits. The new play equipment will be going in to Emerson Park in early November.

Lt. Dean Sprague gave a brief talk to remind everyone to report thefts. Poop occurs! Report the poop!

A brief report from City Council Members Steve Salvatori and Nancy McLaughlin. Steve said that the council approved the contract with the Fire Fighters. The budget was presented and everyone had a good laugh. Then the calculators came out and ciphering began. Details at 11. Nancy said there would be increases coming in storm water, water and garbage rates. They are unavoidable. The city is trying to sell excess properties it owns. The highest profile property is Anthony’s Restaurant, overlooking the river and there is a proposal on the table. By the time you read this, the deal will have been approved.

The parcel at the bottom of the Monroe Street Hill is for sale as well and any sale of that property is contingent on input from the neighborhood, both Emerson-Garfield and North Hill.

**Community Assembly:** Jay reported that there was a meeting in which a quorum was present. The Residential Storage Ordinance has made it through the Lawyers and is moving on to the next step…whatever that may be.

HEY! Wanna get involved? Do YOU want the opportunity to put pen to page and perhaps right theez minits, run the meetings, co-chair the fun??? Election of NEW OFFICERS is coming in March. Now is the time to start thinking about replacing us. Liorah has announced her intentions to step down after two years on the throne. E.J. has not made his intentions public as of this meeting. I, as your secretary, am considering writing a book about my adventures on this committee and the many verbs I have had to conjugate over the three years of my tenure. That means I would happily step aside to someone with the skill to show up. That’s really all it takes, as I have so aptly proven. Sometimes, I don’t even show up. And yet, I’m still here. It’s clear you people have no standards. And so, let’s get someone in here who cares.

A motion was made to add a Treasurer position to the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Committee. This would be an interesting position as we have no funding, which means there is nothing for a Treasurer to treasure. And yet, a vote was taken and the motion was approved with the amendment that the position may not need to be filled…if we have no money, like now.

The Steering Committee portion of the meeting was opened and there was money to be reapportioned. Liorah talked about some of the changes coming our way. Next year, the Community Development position will not be funded. Sara, or whoever, will be an unpaid volunteer.

Sara gave a quick report that essentially rehashed the Park info that was discussed earlier.

Next was a presentation from Kim Ferraro, Executive Director of the West Central Community Center. Our committee had allocated nearly $6,000.00 of Community Development money to the center for a wheel chair ramp. In the end, they determined the ramp was not a priority and they want permission to use the money for an electronic reader board. Massive discussion ensued with questions and answers and comments. In the end, the committee voted to approve the reallocation of the money.

The committee next voted to move $1,000.00 given to Fulcrum Institute to Home ReHab. It was determined that Judith Gilmore, who made the presentation asking for the money had a conflict of interest and the money had to be returned. Liorah wanted it noted for the record that she thought this was an outrageous decision loaded with what one could call **B**ravo **S**ierra. (For those not familiar with Military Nomenclature, please pay attention to the emboldened letters) A loooong discussion followed about the changes coming in the distribution of Community Development funds. In an effort to streamline, the CDNC Board will now make the distribution choices, using the input of the neighborhoods as a guide.

By now, the hour was approaching 9:30 but we had to get some organizational reports in. Corbin Senior Center has ordered an outdoor sign for the corner of Grace and Lincoln. They will use the sign to promote events and meetings. Corbin earned about $1,200.00 during their Walk around Corbin Park event. The Gong Show was successful and earned about $1,500.00. Presently, Corbin is discussing a Summer Barbecue and Yard Sale in the parking lot. More news on that to follow. Corbin is hoping for some help from the committee to replace some windows and add heat tape to the roof.

Liorah realized there was another money issue that needed to be discussed. $7,000 was allocated to Emerson-Garfield for communications and planning. We have been told we can’t use it for that. It has to go into an existing capital budget. With time and patience running thin, the committee voted to move the money into an account to support Corbin Senior Center. We will find out later if that is okay.

Application for Capital Allocations are up for review. Liorah asked for names of people to be on the review committee. That list was compiled , given to E.J., who was badgered into hosting the meeting at his house, and a date for the review committee to meet will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28PM.