

Fells Prospect, Inc. Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2007

An agenda was distributed before the meeting.

I. Welcome

Chris McCollum, President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

II. Officer reports

President: no report

Vice President: position vacant

Treasurer: Have \$7,000 in account. Have applied for retail tax exempt status. Dues now tax deductible.

Secretary: Some dates for Land Use Committee on newsletter calendar are incorrect. Working to correct them. If anyone has info for the newsletter, please call me.

III. Committee Reports

Land Use: No report. Little activity in Fells Prospect lately.

Crime Prevention: no report

Beautification: Planting at Gen. Wolfe school was successful.

Social Committee: no report

Marketing/Web: no reports

Traffic and parking: no report

IV. Old Business

Need volunteers to fill vacant positions: Vice President, Crime Committee Chair, Education Liaison, Board Members

V. New Business

1. Presentation by Councilman Jim Kraft. Addressed the following issues:

- Alley gating bill—signed by Mayor Dixon. Now need 80% agreement of residents to gate an alley. For alley greening, turning an alley into a gated park, need 100% agreement of residents. City won't fund greening, but residents can remove pavement.
- Flier bill—is working; most deliveries of fliers have stopped. Can't put fliers on doors, railings, etc. but can put in mail slots. Question: Are community fliers okay? Answer: Yes. When requested, delivery of the *Examiner* must stop.
- Development and the Icon project—this project will be rejected next week. It is the only project that couldn't reach a compromise. Latest approved project: Four Seasons Hotel next to Marriott at Inner Harbor East.
- Smoking bill—smoking ban will be in effect Feb. 2008. The state bill is very strict.
- Dirtbikes and minibikes—are illegal, but mopeds and motorscooters are legal. City trying to encourage use of scooters and bicycles and make Baltimore more pedestrian friendly. Crosswalks to Patterson Park have been marked. Blinking lights will be installed for Park entrances.
- City budget—budget is \$2.6 billion. Mayor recommends continuing O'Malley's tax cut. Kraft is against tax cuts. Amounts to only \$10 per resident, but results in elimination of many programs.

Question and answer period with Councilman Kraft:

- Complaint about debris landing in harbor from Four Seasons construction site.
- Eastern Avenue to Greektown is part of Streetscape Program. Will take 2 years and is part of beautification of entrances to the City.
- Red Line? On hold for now. West side of City has more objections than east side. Still looking at light rail,

dedicated bus lanes, electric rail, and water taxi possibilities. Heavy rail is cost prohibitive; should have built subway 30 years ago.

—Pratt Street plan for Inner Harbor would slow traffic. Want to make it more pedestrian friendly.

—Fayette Street needs streetscape project; is currently trashed. Mayor is working on it.

—Orange cones at crosswalks along Fleet and Eastern mark badly patched asphalt. Contact Dept. of Public Works to find out who owns what territory: City or BG&E.

—This is the time to ask for specific improvements because budget is now getting set and it is an election year. Send suggestions to Kraft. He supports Dixon for Mayor.

—Alley greening: once it happens, can't take it back. New residents must accept greening.

—Commuting by bike: storm drains are dangerous. They will be corrected when dedicated bike lanes are created.

—How to create affordable housing. Hearings will be held about inclusionary housing. Is a difficult area: no federal money any more; CHAP can make renovations more difficult or expensive. City must work with developers to get low-cost housing built on City land in exchange for approval of high-density projects. Location of available land is problem.

—Lights in Patterson Park: operational this summer.

—Chapel St. project: on hold.

—Boarded-up Perkins Homes: valuable property with legal issues. Can't tear down without providing new location for residents. City now just doing fix-ups.

—Sept. 11 primaries: Kraft wants our support

2. New owners of Tyson's Tavern introduced themselves. Will keep same name and theme. They have lived in Fells Prospect for 17 years. Want to attract neighborhood clientele. Will start with bar service and will add food service soon.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.