

East Kensington Neighbors Association  
Monthly Meeting Agenda  
Monday, July 17th, 2023  
Via Zoom Webinar and in person at PBC  
Andy Ortega, President  
Contact: [president@ekna.org](mailto:president@ekna.org)  
[www.ekna.org](http://www.ekna.org)



## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Andy Ortega

Budget report - Catherine

- Savings - \$5.00
- Checking - \$18,402.17
- Money Market - \$13,565.01
- Paypal - \$6,427.94
- Expenses
  - Zoom - \$17.27
  - squarespace - \$14.84
  - insurance - \$237.25
  - Arts Festival cups - \$1,579.64
  - Derby supplies - \$72.97
  - bank fee - \$1.50
- Income
  - \$5,385 - PTSSD Grant
  - \$78.91 - HA Brown Pass through fee
  - \$6.91 interest

Zoning report -

- 2468 Frankford Ave
  - Multi family household in existing structure
    - Wanted to add extra unit
    - No community attendance
    - Contractor and Zoning lawyer attended and discussed with committee and seemed straight-forward
- Meetings will be in person moving forward at Circle of Hope

Joe Hohenstein – State Representative

- Introduced himself to community and spoke for a few minutes
- Talked about changes happening in the neighborhood
  - Frankford Ave repaving
  - NKCDC taking over Greensgrow
    - Looking to build out programs

- o Budget work in Harrisburg

#### Rails to Trails Program

- Extension of Delaware River Trail
- Currently terminates at Penn Treaty Park
- Conceptual plan to extend trail presented
- Gave overview of previous segments of trail opened between Casino and Penn Treaty Park and along Columbus/Delaware Aves
- Some of the work to be done will connect various segments of project
- Wherever possible, master plan is to put trail along river
- Medium term goal, hoping to make connections back to neighborhood
- Hoping to connect to Cumberland, Berks, Susquehanna, and Columbus Ave improvements
- Looking at ways to retro-fit I-95 infrastructure to compliment trails
- Have website where residents can weigh in on available or potential amenities
- Planning and engagement will wrap up in August
- Next steps are property acquisition and design
- In process for grants through HUD funding
- Pursuing funding for redesign on Cumberland St.

#### Weirdo Festival

- Played highlight video from last year
- Looking for help planning or day of help for festival this year
- Looking for anyone who can contribute expertise on grants, sponsorships, etc.
- Hoping to bring more interesting stuff to neighborhood
- This year doing it Nov 4<sup>th</sup>
  - o Will include costume contest
- Looking for bands and performers
- Sign-up sheet available at meeting and can also contact [info@ekna.org](mailto:info@ekna.org) for information

#### Board Secretary position

- Nominees
  - o Louis Bartholomew
    - Has championed slow zones for neighborhood
    - Would like to improve newsletter and share information on Zoning cases
      - Would work on connecting Zoning committee so everyone could stay updated
    - Hopes to encourage more festivals in neighborhood
    - Would encourage short meetings so we can connect as community
    -
  - o Richard Zurlnick
    - "Reformist candidate"
    - Feels that current Board is secretive
    - Would provide more detail on vote tallies and meeting minutes
    - Feels new by-laws are good
      - Would stand up for by-laws
    - Would protect EKNA from poor expenditure choices

- Would encourage transparency
- Vote Count
  - 25 votes for Louis
  - 6 votes for Richard

#### New Business

- Resident to experienced a confrontation in the neighborhood around July 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Shared story of how people who were setting off fireworks inappropriately throughout night
  - When asked to quiet down – the group setting off the fireworks used racial stereotypes and racist language toward a person of color
  - When called, the police did not take the situation seriously
  - Question of how to bridge gap between groups of people in the neighborhood
  - Concern about how to keep our neighbors safe
  - Day after incident – car had been vandalized
  - Hoping to connect with community and overwhelm hatred with kindness in community
- Emerald St. Community Farm
  - Community run farm
  - Open to anyone in community
  - Open on Wednesdays from 5 to sundown
  - Received mini-grant to do landscaping and buy chairs for events at garden
  - ECFFarm on Instagram
  - Hosting movie nights
  - Leading up to Halloween event leading into Weirido

#### June Minutes

- June minutes approved

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM