

East Kensington Neighbors Association
Monthly Meeting Agenda
Monday, Sep 21, 2026
In person at Phila. Brewing Co. & via Zoom
John Theobald, President
Contact: president@ekna.org
www.ekna.org



September 2026 Meeting Minutes

Welcome & President's Report

- Notice about recording and photographing

Local Business Spotlight

- OG Pizza

Guest Speakers

- Kristin Hart (Allegre Play)
 - Not in attendance
- Christian Crespo (Department of Revenue)
 - Up until October 5th for appeals
 - You appeal to a board, allowed to have council
 - \$1400 discounts for every year of your bill
 - Extension on penalties and interest
 - Programs for low income and seniors
 - LOOP - longtime owner program for discounts
 - property.phila.gov
 - Q: Can your bill ever go up if you appeal? A: Three possible outcomes: stay the same, lowered, or go up
 - Q: This is an adversarial process. They find comps, and do not tell you ahead of time A: He does not participate in the meetings, entities can help you out and give you council.
 - Q: Purchased house a block away 16 years ago. My taxes have increased more than 6x. City services have not. Where is his money going? A: 7.1 billion dollar city budget. That's where they say it is going.
 - He's just the tax man, not the budget man
- Marnie Aument-Loughrey (Mayor's Office)
- Kristina Dugan - voter registration
 - 31st ward committee member.
 - Looking to get everyone registered and checked to make sure they can vote
 - Key election dates:
 - November 3rd
 - Last day to register is October 19th
 - Check status with the QR code
 - vote.phila.gov is the best website, specific to philadelphia
 - Also state
 - Committee of 70

- Q: Someone is going around collecting voter rolls. Is there a way to stop him from doing that? A: Reach out to the city commissioner of elections.

Mini Grants

- Previous Mini-Grant Reports
 - CORA - chair of parent committee. Preschool across from Pops. Painted a bunch of rooms, still fundraising to further cover. Muralist painter collaboration as well. More than halfway there.
 - Fire Museum - Steven director of Fire Museum Presents
 - They put on a wonderful sprint festival - dogo togo was amazing!
 - Local band opened as well
 - For a lot of organizations 500 or 1000 is really getting something off the ground
- New Mini-Grant Applicants
 - House Poet
 - One of the coproducers - has an event in the neighborhood already.
 - Aaron - House Poet in 2022 simple idea of dance, music, and poetry.
 - Create spaces where Poetry becomes a dance party
 - Night of the Living Poets
 - Other poetry collectives
 - National black poetry day
 - Vendors as well
 - DJs
 - Artists and other programming
 - 4pm-12am October 17th
 - Feel like a festival - discover a new collective, workshop, dance, etc
 - Walk into a different poetry experience
 - Expecting 200 people
 - Accessible - suggested donation, but no one turned away
 - Projected budget is \$1,700
 - Directly support DJ and event budget
 - Decor/promotional materials/schedules and flyers
- Socks for the Streets
 - Small non profit, all volunteer
 - \$ back into the community - prevention point
 - Meals twice a month, women's night, want to give out handwarmers
- Avenues of Change
 - 150 families this year
 - Science themed!
 - Lab experiments, face painting
 - local sponsors
 - Fun for the community
 - Churches used to do these events
- Emerald Street Farm
 - Anubis will judge you! Come down to our halloween event

- 1200 people showed up last year!
- \$1200 budget
- Recycled materials, etc
- Very scrappy
- St. Michaels
 - The food pantry
 - Also recovery groups that meet there
 - Great circles has their events there too
 - Have a commercial kitchen in there
 - Food pantry is run by volunteers
 - Government assistance has been disappearing
 - Over 100 people
 - The money would support and sustain refrigerators/maintenance/etc
 - 1905 - partnered with the deaconess community. Kensington dispensary. Kenpress is an organization still partnered with
 - Q: How many are served by weekly basis? A: Fluctuate anywhere from 100 to 125/150. Prepandemic were before 70
- Friends of HA Brown
 - Mallory and Anna
 - K-8 school on Sargeant st
 - Small but growing friends of group
 - Grants are the way to go
 - Applied for a number of grants - fund library, garden, etc
 - Looking for a bike rack
 - Capital improvements - bikes fall under that
 - Get started - buy and install one maybe two racks
 - Q: Sergeant or Jasper? A: Will have to be strategic where it is put, and safe
- PHL Animators
 - Jay
 - Started in 2017
 - After UArts closing - became a space where people can find community
 - Tattoos! Partnering with Heart of Gold Tattoo shop
 - Animators animating art on the wall
 - Show on halloween game show, TShirts, etc
 - \$300?
- Q: What is the vetting process for applicants? CORA is a multi million dollar organization?

October Events

- Weirdo Fest (Saturday, October 17th)
- EKNA Halloween Event and Derby Updates (Saturday, October 31st)

Logo & Branding Updates

- ekna.org/rebrand

October Elections Announcement and Nominations

- Elections next month
- Nominations open
- 3 at large
- Secretary
- Vice President
- Treasurer (half term)
- Eligibility requirements - 3 of the last 6 EKNA meetings. Live or work within East Kensington.
- Q: Why didn't the board allow nominations for treasurer last election? A: We did, we desperately tried to find someone to take the position.

Committee Reports

- Arts Committee
- Streets and Infrastructure
- History Committee
- Zoning Report
- Sustainability
 - Trash can survey
 - Volunteering to deal with trashcans is tough - a lot of poop
 - Lots of neighbor labor
 - QR code - google form
 - Share results next meeting
 - OG Pizza - Fantastic
- Q: Nomination's - make sure you let you nominee know

New Business/Announcements

- Vote for Duke! Mr. November

Previous Meetings Minutes approval

- **Motion from Bernie (below): Does not pass**
 - "Motion to amend July draft minutes. John Theobald's falsely accused Bernie of making an accusation, when in fact Bernie simply expressed his suspicion about something--which is expressing an opinion.

Board Secretary Josh Graff refused to include in the final June Minutes the membership's vote to adopt a motion that Bernie made at the May meeting, despite the bylaws requirement that the board Secretary shall record all votes in the meeting minutes. Bernie asked Josh to do his job. Then after Bernie asked Josh if he's refusing to record the membership vote in the May meeting minutes, he threatened to have Bill Barton throw Bernie out of the meeting space."

- **Motion to approve both June/July - Passes**

The winners of the mini grants announced:

- **Winners**
 - **Socks for the Streets**
 - **Emerald Street Garden**
 - **St. Michaels**
 - **Avenues of Change**
- **3 did not win**

- **Motion to use \$500 of the earmarked funds for infrastructure to fund the proposal for Friends of HA Brown**
 - **Motion overwhelmingly passes**
- **Motion to split \$600 between the last two applicants, \$300 each, Poets and PHL Animators**
 - **Motion overwhelmingly passes**

Adjourn

Treasurer's Report - Period Ending August 31, 2026

- Q: About updating links A: Will investigate
-

Bank Balances - \$82,574.41 Total

- Savings: \$77,771.40
- Checking: \$4,433.01
- Cash: \$370.00

Notable Reserves (rounded figures):

- EKAC: \$25,000
- EKNA Strategic Reserve: \$10,000
- 2026 EKNA Fundraising Reserve: \$7,500
- Green Space: \$7,000
- Playground Donations: \$2,500
- Remaining 2026 Community Action (mini-grants): \$2,000

Community Call to Action: Identify uses for unrestricted funds

UNRESTRICTED: \$28,500 (rounded)

Bonus: Support the execution of fund use

Requirement: Proposed use must benefit East Kensington community

July/August Income - \$846.93 Total

- 2025 Mini Grant Reimbursement: \$489.56
- Interest Income: \$337.92 (2.76%)
- Tote Sales: \$19.45

July/August Expenses - (\$776.94) Total

- Insurance - D&O - Quarterly Premium: (\$354.00)
- Telephone & Telecommunications: (\$71.26)
 - Zoom: (\$36.70)
 - Squarespace: (\$34.56)
- Bank Fee: (35.00)

- Bennett Compost: (\$20.00)
- Misc Committee Reimbursement: (\$296.68)

Please direct any treasury questions to Jon Karley at Treasurer@EKNA.org