

East Kensington Neighbors Association  
Monthly Meeting Agenda  
Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Philadelphia Brewing Company  
Madison Gould, President  
Contact: [president@ekna.org](mailto:president@ekna.org)  
[www.ekna.org](http://www.ekna.org)



## **February Meeting Minutes**

### **6:30 PM-6:35 PM: Call to Order and Approval of January Minutes**

**Call to order 6:35**

**January minutes approved**

### **6:35 PM-7:15 PM: Announcements and Committee Reports**

- **26<sup>th</sup> Police District Report**
  - Property crime continues to be main issue in neighborhood
    - Be sure to lock doors – crimes often done when there are easy opportunities
  - Airbags being stolen – city-wide issue
    - Hondas seem to be main target
  - Emerald St. encampment cleared
    - Offering services to people who were living in encampment
    - Too early to tell if will be affective long term
- **P&L**
  - Budget available – email [info@ekna.org](mailto:info@ekna.org) for copy
  - Budget adopted by voice vote with no objections
  - Fishtown BID
    - PowerPoint available - email [info@ekna.org](mailto:info@ekna.org) for copy
    - Created from Steering Committee that meets monthly since Sept.
      - Put together needs assessment survey completed by 2500 people
      - Now putting together plan and what services would be offered
  - Survey results
    - Cleaning and greening were highest items mentioned as needs
    - EKNA members provided many responses to survey
    - Security also an issue that was included in response
  - Q&A
    - Question about taxes on property
    - Question if area can be started smaller then grow
      - Yes – bid area can evolve over time
    - When is bid?
      - Will be presented around April or May
      - Will be done again a month or two later
      - There would be more public meetings
      - Residents would be notified by mail – and an object by mail
      - Residents can object in person before City Council if they like
    - If residential property located in improvement district would it have to commercially zoned or licensed business in order for rules to apply?
      - Could take photo of utility bill or driver's license to show it is residential property

- As long as no active way to tell it is multi-family – would be considered residential if proving owner resided there
    - If someone lives in apt and rents out first floor then part they live in would be exempt
  - What are boundaries?
    - Not decided yet
    - Right now Frankford ave. from Delaware to Lehigh Front to Norris, and some of Girard
    - Northern Liberties was about 20 blocks and about double the budget
    - Will come down to stakeholders in area to decide if program makes sense to them
  - Just commercial corridor – so although boundary is Norris for example, would only be up to Norris, would not include Norris
  - Will there be master plan or what is proposal that can be vetted by residents
    - Have to put together scope of services of agreement that will be in packet that gets mailed out and what money is to be spent on each line item
    - Would include staff to work with businesses on issues
  - Fishtownbid.org – can sign up for email list
- Department of Revenue – Doug Respass
  - Homestead exemption – offers \$550 off of assessment of real estate tax
    - Program offered to every home owner
    - Must live in property and own property
    - Must have ID verifying ownership
    - Would reduce real estate tax for year
    - All taxes must be paid on real estate by march 28<sup>th</sup>
    - Receive 1% discount if paid by end of February
  - Senior citizen tax rate can be frozen at 2019 rate and will not increase over time
    - Deadline extended to apply for Senior citizen tax freeze
  - Can apply for any of programs
  - If widow or widower at age 50 if partner was 65 or older when they passed away
    - Would need to provide death certificate to qualify
  - Real estate tax installments for anyone who cannot pay by deadline
    - Payments would begin in May and end in December
    - Deadline to pay by March 31<sup>st</sup>
    - If wanting to continue installment payments in 2020 or 2021 would not need to reapply but would start payments in January
  - If delinquent on taxes there is program to assist
    - Must own and occupy property
    - If living in property long enough to qualify as owner but name not on deed
      - Would have three years to get name on deed
    - Income eligible so required to submit documentation
    - Clause for people who cannot pay any tax at all who do not meet any type of income eligibility
    - Can apply for program and help save property from going to sheriff sale
    - Taxes on property will be licensed against property so if sold or passed on after death would still be required to pay tax
  - Water Revenue collects water bills
    - If behind on water bills can apply for tiered assistance program (TAP)
      - Will lower water payments
  - Instituted check list to help apply for any program
    - Cheat sheet for what you would need to apply for each program
    - Packets available from Revenue Department
    - If needing to contact Revenue – can also see contact information in packets available

- Can also get assistance through 311
- Zoning Committee – John Theobald
  -
- Small Business and Arts Fest – Ann Lastuvka
  - Ann for Arts Fest
    - Event coordinator for Arts Fest
    - Registration for teams is open
      - Franklin Institute giving grants for teams to create sculptures
      - Due date March 24<sup>th</sup> and notified by first week of April
      - 40% of vendor spaces filled in first month of registration
      - Volunteers roles being worked on and hope to have sign ups by next month
      - Revenue from Arts Fest already at 78% to goal of \$10k
        - Hope to get more grants and funds in
        - Hoping to keep costs down to help increase additional revenue
      - Can email [derby@nkcdc.org](mailto:derby@nkcdc.org) with questions
- Cleaning and Greening - Jeff Carpinetta
  - Can approach Jeff during committee break out time with questions on green spaces in neighborhood or planting
  - Next meeting is Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at Community Food Coop
  - Green spaces section of website being overhauled
  - Goal for group to plan a couple of field trips this year
  - Cleaning will move to Community Affairs section in future
  - April 6<sup>th</sup> will be Philly Spring Clean up
    - Will partner with NKCDC to sign up projects to clean areas in neighborhood
    - Barbecue afterward at brewery
  - Tool supply shed available for residents to clean up and organize block cleanups
- Preservation –
  - No Updates
- Education – Jacelyn
  - Spring Summer around corner – new playground at Hagert St.
    - Already starting to be used so many more once weather warms
    - Means opportunities where there could be conflict
    - Hoping to combat by starting conversations to set rules for playground now
    - Meeting at Coral St. arts House to allow members of community to be part of process
    - If interested in doing summer programming please contact Julius or Jacelyn
  - Friends of H.A. Brown meets Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 – information on location on next email blast
- Community Affairs – Andy Ortega
  - Working on improvements to Pop's Park
  - Continuing work on Kensington Cans – still one can available
    - Can is free – have to agree to empty and maintain
  - Circular free stickers available to stop menus, circulars, etc. from being left on stoops and mailboxes
  - Hoping to add cross walk to Frankford and Hagert
    - If interested in getting similar thing at other intersection connect with EKNA for information
- Encampments
  - City meeting once a month on encampments
  - Last of encampments cleared out and fallout has been fairly good

- Streets had more people wandering but over past week has abated some and drug corners now decreasing
- Reps from about 12 organizations dealing with law enforcement, services, and neighborhood groups meet to coordinate response
- Hoping to create program to have menu of options for organizations to help improve neighborhoods
- Discussion of getting larger funders such as William Penn Foundation to get grants to fund programs
- Hope to continue effort to reach out to homeless population and have list of names of each member of homeless encampment so they can track progress of individuals to see how well they are doing
- Police assisted diversion program improving to divert people to programs for help rather than jail
- Police will meet with D.A. office to help continue to improve program
- Police have worked with L&I to have them move quicker to seal empty buildings and drug houses
  - Moved 250 abandoned vehicles
- Hoping to create safe corridors program for children going to and from school  
[ektownwatch@gmail.com](mailto:ektownwatch@gmail.com) for more information
- Food Trust – food access agency and nutrition education
  - Focusing on area – March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at Library on Lehigh
  - Interested residents can attend or talk to Genevieve for more info or to sign up
- Motion –
  - EKNA officers shall do due diligence prior to accepting projects
  - EKNA treasurer or other officer shall confirm to general membership that EKNA officers did due diligence to ensure that project met all laws
  - Treasurer stated that all EKNA work done under full laws and approved
  - Person making motion stated that Town Watch signs did not comply with laws in terms of where signs could be posted on certain poles
  - Treasurer responded again that laws were followed and said group in question went through the City Community watch program
  - Voice vote taken
    - 2 in favor, 9 opposed, 2 abstained
- Phil Mural arts in Kensington High School – looking for input and has design ready for project
  - Will come back to talk about paint days and how residents can be involved

### **7:15 PM-7:30 PM: Oct. 2017 Mini-Grants Presentations**

- Emerald St. Community Farm
  - Community farm at corner of Emerald and Dauphin
  - Group of neighbors came together and cleaned out vacant lots and grew food together
  - Share in harvest and donate extra to St. Francis soup kitchen
  - Active on Monday nights as group April through October
  - Do community events and workshops
  - Interested in installing composting toilet
    - Would build out small bathroom
    - Would purchase toilet used in tiny homes
    - Would compost material from toilet
- H.A.Brown –
  - Planning to reward children for good behavior and attendance

- Grant would support students with skating trip
- Hope positive feed back will help with education
- Amber St. Garages
  - Hoping to improve garages on Amber St.
  - Art mural project would be used to beautify area
  - Hope beautification will make are more inviting, safer, and bring people to neighborhood
  - Have woman involved in other mural projects as partner to help get off ground
- Pop's Park Rejuvenation
  - Graphic designers interested in improving Pop's Park storage shed
    - Would like to get ready to host projects and workshops for area classes and students
    - Would use money for furniture and equipment to host workshops
    - Phase 1 of project would be repainting inside of space that is currently unused and decluttering area
      - Would put up materials and boards so students could hang up work
      - Would put in modular type furniture
      - Have people interested in hosting workshops and events
    - Have video clip available on history of park – if interested in viewing please request from [info@ekna.org](mailto:info@ekna.org)
    - Would love to paint outside of building with graffiti resistant coat and eventually partner with muralist to honor history
- Rock to the Future
  - For MusiCore Kensington Program – just moved into new space in Kensington High School
  - School not able to offer this type of programming before Rock to the Future moved in
  - Non-profit org. in neighborhood since 2010 providing music education
  - Provide safe and nurturing environment to kids to help them stay on track
  - While there assisted in getting into colleges or high schools they want to go to
  - Use music as a way to get kids in door
  - Kids able to make original music and perform
- Pops Park, Rock to Future and Emerald st. Community Farm won mini grants

● **7:30 PM-7:35 PM: Board Elections Nominations**

**7:40 PM-8:15 PM: Committee Breakout Time**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM