

Eastport Civic Association (ECA)
General Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Zoom Teleconference with Members

Attendees: Approximately 47 Eastport Civic Association (ECA) members were on the call.

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Opening Remarks: Debbie Dillon (President, ECA) opened the meeting by welcoming members to the virtual Annual Meeting of the ECA. She also welcomed State Senator Sarah Elfreth who joined the call.

September 17, 2020 General Meeting Minutes – the members present voted to approve the minutes.

Approve Amendment to the Bylaws - The following minor amendment to the Bylaws received initial approval from the membership: **insert language** Notice of the proposed change will be sent to the membership in advance of the January membership meeting. Final vote of approval will take place in January.

Guest Speaker: Stephen Rice, Economic Development Manager, City of Annapolis. Stephen spoke about the City's recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the Small Business Recovery Task Force. Mr Rice encouraged residents to go downtown and shop to support local businesses. Members expressed concerns about the numbers of people not wearing masks downtown.

Membership Report - we have **550** members as of 11/2/2020

Nominating Committee Report and Elections of Board Members, Patrick Shaughnessey, Chair. Before presenting the Nominating Committee's report to the membership, he asked if there were any nominations for Board members from the floor. Hearing none, he proceeded. The Committee proposed the following Board members whose terms will last for two years until December 2022:

- Andre Atkins
- John Benton
- Peter Bittner
- Jackie Wells

The Committee proposed the following Board members whose term will last for one year until December 2021:

- Debbie Dillon

The Committee proposed the following slate of officers whose officer terms will last for one year until December 2021:

- President - Charles Hernick
- Vice President -Peter Bittner
- Secretary - Mary Ann Riley
- Treasurer - John Benton

All Board members and officers were elected unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Charles Hernick, Treasurer, reported that the ECA has a cash balance of approximately \$17,000. Budget goals for membership and community contributions were met. Due to Covid-19 ECA made the decision to cancel the annual picnic in August which reduced both revenue and expenses. Charles presented the proposed FY21 Annual Budget and it was approved unanimously. The Board made a change to adjust the organization's fiscal year to reflect the calendar year. *Note: ECA financials are available upon request.*

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Financial Review Committee – Debbie thanked three members of the committee for their time and effort. The members were Sue Myer, Carol Tessier and Jane Lawrence. Jane gave the report on behalf of the committee. She thanked ECA Treasurer Charles Hernick for his stewardship of ECA funds and for the excellent job he had done to transition the accounting software from Quicken to Quickbooks. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) Have members pay the Paypal fees associated with renewing their membership online so that ECA receives the full membership fee.
- 2) Change the association's fiscal year to December 31 to align with Board member and Officer's terms
- 3) Update the "ECA Financial Accounting Procedures" document.

Committee Reports:

Architecture and Zoning – Jackie Wells, Chair, reported that this Committee had meetings in October and November.

In October, the Committee reviewed revised plans for 518 6th St.

In November, the Committee reviewed 3 submissions:

420 5th St. (Eastport Elementary School) replacement of an existing 6' chain link fence with a black aluminum fence, and addition of a 4' fence around the outdoor classroom.

416 Chesapeake Avenue, a proposed renovation of an existing house, and

501 Burnside, a proposed renovation of an existing house.

Comment letters for all properties noted above are available through the eTrakit system.

Communications – Rita Ormasa, Chair. No report.

Beautification/NeatStreets –Bumper Moyer, Chair (absent). Debbie Dillon reported that Annapolis Green and the City of Annapolis are asking citizens to participate in an organized effort this weekend to pick up discarded cigarette butts in the streets by their homes and drop them at the Annapolis Green offices. More information is available on the ECA and Annapolis Green website.

EcoAction Committee – Diane Butler and Barbara Beelar, Co-Chairs. No report.

Grants Committee– Nancy King, Chair. No report. Reminder that there will be one grant cycle in 2021, not two. Grant submission deadline is March 15, 2021.

Planning and Major Development (PMD) – Bill Reichhardt, Chair. No report.

Safety Committee – Debbie Dillon thanked Andre Atkins, newly elected Board member, for agreeing to Co-Chair the committee with Babe Feldman.

Alderman Report– Alderman Gay, Ward 6 reported that the police substation, renamed the resource center, at 1155 Madison Avenue that will be opened the week before Christmas 2020. There will be two officers at the resource center 24 hours-a-day. The purpose of having the officers there is to resolve issues and build relationships in the community. The center will also host newly hired City staff to assist people with finding employment and health and other resources. Alderman Gay hopes that the staff will develop relationships with service providers to assist with employment opportunities, health care and other services.

Alderman Gay asked for community support when new policing ideas are proposed. Letters should be sent to the full Council.

Alderman Gay reported on the Housing Affordability Task Force. The Task Force recently finished a 90-page needs assessment report. The Task Force will present the report to the City Council in December. The reports from the

task force will be available to the public before the holiday break. The economic disparities in Wards 6 and 8 are evident in the committee's report. The Task Force is requesting an extension of the task force until February.

Alderman Gay requested that the City be more creative with the CARES funding and requested that more money be allocated to provide support to our most vulnerable citizens.

He reported that the City is developing programs to deescalate crime.

The City has an energy assistance program that is kicking off in January to assist residents who have been affected by Covid-19 with lapsed energy bills.

Alderman Arnett, Ward 8. Alderman Arnett reminded members of the recent meeting that ECA leadership had with the Ald. Arnett, Alderman Gay, Debbie Dillon, Charles Hernick and Jess Pachler to discuss recent shootings in Eastport. He has elevated this issue with the City Council.

Maritime Task Force - first meeting(virtual) tomorrow at 1:30 pm. It will be live streamed. There will be a central committee with three sub-groups 1) Zoning issues 2) maritime business health 3) access to and safety on the Annapolis waters. The task force will alternate reporting to the Planning Commission one month and the Rules and City Government Committee the next month.

The appeal on the mitigation plan for the Lofts at Eastport Landing was held last night. The community owes a debt of gratitude to resident Heidi Halleck for her pro-bono work representing the appellants in this case.

The City has budget challenges due to Covid-19 but also due to overspending. The City budget projects a \$6.5 million dollar deficit for this year and an even greater one for 2022. The Council is going to have to find ways to reduce spending. Alderman Arnett said that currently, a tax increase is not being discussed.

New Business

Jess Pachler thanked the community for their support of the Eastport Elementary School and encouraged the community to use the playground. The Eastport Elementary School PTA is working on programs to support families during the holidays and asked that members like the Eastport Elementary Facebook page.

Debbie thanked outgoing Board members Patrick Shaughnessey and Rita Ormasa for their service on the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

The next **ECA General Meeting** is scheduled for **11/21/2021**.