



MINUTES

December 14, 2005

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. There were 11 people in attendance, including President Chris Lawrence, Treasurer Sue Morales, and Secretary Mari Colello.

Approval of Minutes

There was one correction for the spelling of Peirce School. The minutes of the November 9 meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

There was no new balance to report.

New Business

Disturbance of the Peace at Turkish Bakery: The owner of the Turkish Bakery at 5605 N. Clark was present to discuss the disorderly behavior of his customers when they leave his restaurant in the early morning hours. The Turkish Bakery does not have a liquor license and has a "bring your own bottle" policy. On Friday and Saturday nights, the restaurant offers entertainment that attracts customers, many of whom are young men purportedly bringing "cases of liquor," who stay and drink until closing. Because the establishment does not have a liquor license, it can remain open all night. Because the owner states the restaurant's seats under 100 people, he does not require an entertainment license. The restaurant sometimes does not close until 5:00 a.m. When these customers leave, they are drunk, loud and noisy. A few weeks ago, neighborhood residents ended up calling police when a group of young men were "brawling" while going to their cars on Bryn Mawr. Residents expressed their frustration at the police about the double standard. If residents disturb the peace, they are warned they will be arrested, yet the brawlers were not arrested for disturbing the peace when they were clearly drunk and disorderly.

ETNA members asked the owner if he would close his business at a reasonable hour, such as midnight or 1:00 a.m. If he closed earlier, his young customers would not have a place to sit and get drunk. The owner responded that he is getting security guards to keep his customers in check, and that he will keep shorter hours after the holidays. He mentioned closing at 2:00 a.m. on Friday and 3:00 a.m. on Saturday, which residents still found unacceptable. The owner was concerned that he would lose business if he closed earlier. Although members were skeptical that he still serves food during the early morning hours; the owner stated that his kitchen is open and serves food until the restaurant closes. His customers are not just sitting at the tables and drinking.

Attendees noted that most restaurants stop serving food at 11:00 p.m., and neighborhood bars close at 2:00 a.m. These other restaurants are successful while closing at a reasonable hour and the consensus was that there was no reason why his restaurant could not do the same.

Attendees resolved to give it a few more weeks to see if the owner curtails restaurant hours and his security will help keep the patrons orderly. If disturbances still occur, the organization will seek legal redress.

Old Business

Peirce School Parkway Maintenance: Chris reported he met with representatives of the Local School Council and tried to discuss public safety issues. He thought it was unproductive especially since they could not come to any agreement on how to keep gangs out of the school park. In regards to the parkway, another member stated that although she agrees that LSC's focus should be on education, she was disappointed that LSC members don't speak up and convey community concerns to the Board of Education. Come this spring, people should start monitoring the Peirce School Parkway to ensure that it is being maintained. This is an opportunity for the principal to increase her base with the community.

Members acknowledged that the principal and staff did the best they could to maintain the grounds, but a committee of volunteers should get together to help maintain the parkway to avoid the problems that occurred with lack of maintenance last year during the drought. The Board of Education did not perceive a problem and were happy with Monaghan Landscaping because LSC did not bring anything to its attention. Therefore, the community organization must make noise and get the Board's attention. ETNA member Susan Darnell would prefer to work with the Friends of the Park rather than the Board of Education. There seems to be no volunteers from the LSC to walk around in the spring to see what needs to be done. The community organization needs to connect with environmental programs offered at the schools and possibly try to establish standards to maintain parkways.

Broadway Zoning: Four proposals on how to proceed on zoning on Broadway were put to vote at a November meeting in which only 15 people out of a community of 62,000 were present. The Edgewater Development Corp. proposal was selected. On January 4, there will be another opportunity see all four proposals at the ECC meeting. Because the winning proposal will ultimately decide the direction of the community, Chris thought that the entire community should have an opportunity to see them and vote on them at various meetings. Nevertheless, the EDC recommendation is going to the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Nomination of ETNA Officers: Chris Lawrence again asked for volunteers for a slate of new officers for 2006. He will be unable to continue as President next year. Mari Colello also will be unable to continue in her office as Secretary. Sue Morales is staying as Treasurer.

Open Discussion

There were no comments from the floor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Colello
Secretary
