

FVNCA Minutes

April 10, 2008

34 Ferry Village members and friends were present for this meeting

Introductions were made.

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Approval of January & March (Special meeting) Minutes

- Approved minutes as written

3. Financial Report – Accepted as written

Current Balance:

\$ 1,066.90 Memorial Fund

\$ 1,100.65 Savings Account (includes \$25 Historical Society donation)

\$ 1,178.02 Checking Account (includes a withdrawal in the amount of \$300 for Historical Society)

Membership funds collected, to date: \$185.00

1 check was written in the amount of \$50

4. Vote on Donation of the So. Portland Historical Society

- Mike Eastman, Board member of the Historical Society, shared information related to the Society's quest to acquire the Captain Nichols House located in Ferry Village as well as upcoming events as fundraisers for the Society. Questions, please call Linda Eastman meastma2@maine.rr.com 799-3937. Members voted to use \$275.00 from FVNCA funds to donate toward the purchase of the Captain Nichols House. Additional donations were solicited totaling \$275.00.

5. Earth Day 2008

- Richard Rottkov, President of the So. Portland Land Trust, invited members of the Village to participate in Earth Day which is scheduled for Saturday, April 19th. Ways to participate include: posting a poster to announce the day, distribute Earth Day flyers and joining by pitching in and picking up either formally as an Association or as individuals. Sign-in that day will be at 8:30 a.m. at Millcreek Park where bags and plastic gloves will be available (coffee, donuts and water, too!). It was decided that folks would work on an individual basis.

6. Guest Presenter ~ Jim Gailey, City Manager for South Portland.

- Mr. Gailey complimented the FVNCA on our strong membership, our discussion of current issues and sense of community. Jim grew up on Meeting House Hill and has worked for the City of South Portland for his entire working career from Counselor for the summer camp to City Manager. He also was instrumental in developing the City's CDBG program. Jim's philosophy in this position is to try each day to make South Portland a great place to live in, work in, and have fun. His vision is to have South Portland be the premier municipality for all of New England. He is very proud of what we are and what we have as a City. His vision also includes reinvigorating the sense of community and would like for more sustaining community groups such as FVNCA. He offered the support of the city through his staff and through community projects while providing equity of attention to all neighborhoods in the City. He shared the need for our City to look at prioritizing and "tightening our belts" through the downturn of the economy. Due to a very difficult winter with many snowstorms and house fires, Mr. Gailey has

needed to put a hiring and expenditure freeze on all departments in the City. The proposed tax increase for both municipal and school budgets, to date, is about \$.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property. He encouraged opening dialogue with either him or the City Council.

Questions from those in attendance:

- Proposed Bus Schedule changes - discussions have occurred with Saco/Biddeford & ZOOM regarding the possibility of a merger resulting in better service and stable rates. There is also some discussion in a route loss, but that is all discussion at this point.
- Bus Transportation through the school system and the need for a crossing guard at Broadway/Spring Street intersection if students in the Village will need to walk. Mr. Gailey encouraged communication with the Supt's Office. Mr. Gailey will also look into the status of assigning additional crossing guards for additional walkers. He also shared the difficulty in securing paid crossing guards
- Sawyer Street Sidewalk – Places where the sidewalk is collapsing and separating the sidewalk from the street as a result of last year's sidewalk repair. Also concern was expressed that cellars were continuously with water since the work was done on this sidewalk. Mr. Gailey will check with Public Works to determine any guarantees on the sidewalk work. Additional concern was expressed regarding the quality of the sidewalk work, the condition that lawns and driveways were left. Additional concerns expressed regarding other sidewalks that were recently installed (Green Belt to Mosher Street).
- Recent Sidewalk Agenda from City Council - A bid was approved to replace the sidewalks on High Street. On Monday, this project was amended so as not to be so specific to High Street but certainly specific to sidewalks in Ferry Village. Work should begin sometime in May once a scope of work is defined.
- Bug Light Park Progress & Estimated Time to Rehab the Park and surrounding area. The City is very disappointed in the lack of progress made from FEMA toward settling on necessary funds to repair the park. Senator Collins office became involved to negotiate between FEMA and So. Ptd. and have since settled with FEMA on an appropriate amount. The bid for the work should go out within this next week and have work hopefully completed by July 4th
- Idling Cars and City Buses in Bug Park – there is a policy within the city that prohibits non-emergency vehicles from idling. A suggestion was made to have signs placed at the park to discourage/prohibit idling.
- The Housing Rehab Program. There are CBG funds available for residential home rehabilitation. There will also be a new energy program beginning in So. Ptd. where a free energy audit will be conducted in homes.
- Plans for additional speed tables and the suggestion for one near the Lyric Theater. The Lyric Theater is in opposition to this idea.
- A possible light at Sawyer and Broadway crossing. It is up for consideration by the City. The difficulty is that this intersection does not meet the requirements by the Dept. of Transportation yet in order to have a traffic light there. Other areas of traffic concern include: a left turning signal from Broadway onto Mussey Street, the trip signal on Mussey Street sign, and reducing the curb cut closest to the intersection of Getty Mart.
- School Street playground and the continued need to improve the playground. CDBG grants can be reapplied for to continue to improve the park. Applications for CDBG grants will open again in December 2008.
- School Budget – City Council will review school budget on May 5th. Special Election for the school budget will be held on May 12th. All voting will occur at the Community Center.

7. Other Items

- Larry Bliss, State Representative for our district, shared information regarding the Clean Election Candidates. All candidates running for both the House and the Senate are running as Clean Election Candidates. \$5.00 donations to the candidate of your choice may be made out to “The Ethics Committee” You can visit the website www.maine.gov/ethics and click to qualifying contributions to make the candidates.
- Big Sale on FVNCA T-shirts ½ price \$5.00 per shirt with proceeds going to the Memorial Fund!
- Ferry Village Memorial Fund – 1st award was given to a family in the Village who used the funds for 2 children within one family; one child is 4 to “Build a Bear” and the other child who is 12 years old for a Magic Class at So. Portland Rec.
- Business Sponsorship Subcommittee Report – Derek Walker and Peter Tousignant visited area businesses to ask for their sponsorship and membership to the Association. They promoted the opportunity for good PR for the businesses while supporting the FVNCA.
- PROP playground – in addition to the minutes from the March 18th meeting, it should be noted that this is the only toddler playground in the City. Questions were raised regarding the fate of the PROP building. No definitive decisions have been made, to date, regarding either the building or the property. A vote was approved to advocate to the City to accept the PROP playground equipment, that the equipment remain at the Pierce Street location, and that FVNCA offers to maintain the playground with support from the City. It was recommended that this arrangement be made for 10 years and reviewed at that time by both parties. Further the FVNCA will research financial opportunities such as CDBG and/or CIP dollars to be used for long-term maintenance of the playground. David will send a letter to the City detailing FVNCA’s recommendations.

- High/Sawyer Street Playground - Refer to previous notes regarding history of the FVNCA vision and CDBG funds for the renovation of this park. There is a new Asst. City Manager who is overseeing the CDBG grants and Mr. Gailey recommended that we contact him and request a meeting with the CDBG advisory committee. Contact David if you are interested in more details regarding the vision for this area.

Members voted to extend the meeting by 15 minutes and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

8. Wrap-up/Next meeting

- June 14th ~ Guest Presenter – Fire Chief Kevin Guimond & Chief of Police Ed Googins; Also, nominations from the floor for 2009 officers.
- **September 13th, Annual Meeting and 2009 Officers Election**