

## Eiler Heights Neighborhood Meeting

4-7-15

### Minutes

#### Board Members:

President-Pam Kocman, Present  
Vice President-Victor Navarro, Absent  
Treasurer-Joe Kocman, Present  
Secretary-Beritt Odom, Present  
Volunteer Coordinator-Karen Fortner, Present

#### Approval of Minutes:

Minutes approved unanimously

#### Treasurer's Report:

##### Vectra Bank

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Previous Balance        | \$499.82 |
| Deposits                |          |
| <u>Debit (by check)</u> |          |
| Balance                 | \$499.82 |

##### Cash

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Previous Balance | \$205.08          |
| Cash Donation    | \$ 40.00-T-Shirts |
| <u>Debit</u>     |                   |
| Balance          | \$245.08          |

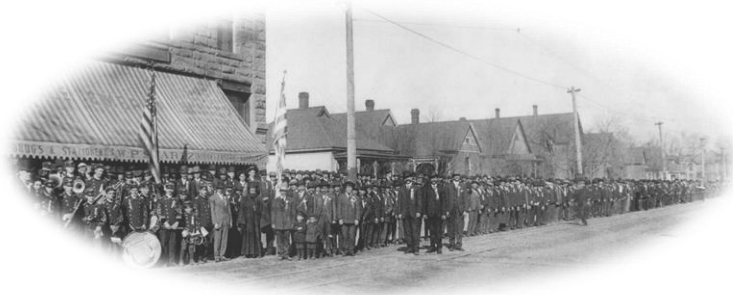
Total Operating Funds: \$744.90

#### Election:

Attendees elected the following individuals to office by anonymous ballot-

#### **Board of Directors:**

Deano Valdez  
Ruth Trusty Von Stein  
Mark Acosta



Pam Kocman  
Joe Kocman  
Jennie Murray-Martinez  
Donna McFarlane-Franz

**Office:**

President- Pam Kocman  
Co-Vice Presidents - Demetri Barton & Karen Fortner  
Secretary-Beritt Odom  
Treasurer - Joe Kocman  
Volunteer Coordinator Ruth Trusty Von Stein

Kurija Vas:

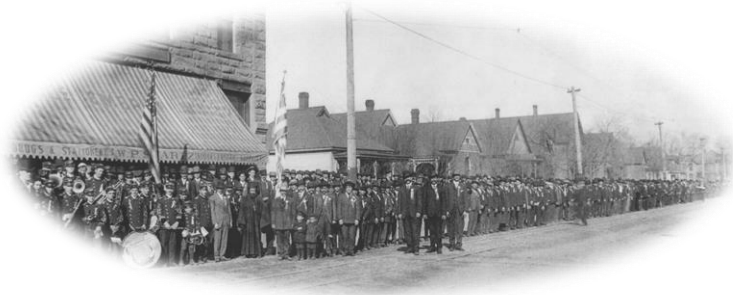
Peggy Pleasant, member of the St. Mary's Altar Society, attended the meeting to discuss the partnership between the Eiler's Neighborhood Association and St. Mary's Church for the Church Frolic and Kurija Vas. Ms. Pleasant stated that the church is happy to partner with the Neighborhood. President Kocman stated that the Frolic and Kurija Vas will feature a raffle of donated items. All proceeds from the raffle will go to a scholarship fund for neighborhood children. All events must conclude at 1:30 p.m. for afternoon mass.

Summer Spruce Up:

President Kocman stated that the association has secured curbside trash pick-up for all participating residents through A Affordable Trash Service. C&C Disposal will be providing one dumpster that will be placed on Roitz Avenue for the community to use. Dimitri Barton is heading up the volunteer efforts for the clean-up event. Karen Willson, City of Pueblo Code Compliance Manager, stated that assistance in clean-up activities may be possible through coordination with the City and community service programs. Ms. Willson stated that she may be able to arrange to have a truck pick up overflow items and possibly get community service volunteers to assist in cleaning individual yards. Ms. Willson suggested that the Neighborhood Association contact Susan Fenzel at the City-County Health Department to possibly secure an extra dumpster for neighborhood use.

Protest Letter to the Pueblo County Assessor:

Attendees of the meeting discussed sending a property tax protest letter to the Pueblo County Assessor explaining the detrimental effects that the Superfund designation has had on property values in the Eiler's Neighborhood. Kevin Roark, property appraiser, stated that current property taxes are based on assessments from 2013. The Pueblo County Assessor will not readjust property taxes for two more



years. Because of this the Assessor will most likely reject the protest at this point; however, the letter will highlight property owner's hardship relating to plunging property values, which is a direct result of recent Superfund status. The letter can be signed by property owners within the neighborhood that wish to have their taxes lowered based on the declining property values stemming from Superfund status. Attendees voted to draft and send the letter despite the likelihood of the protest being denied.

#### Neighborhood Watch:

Ruth Trustee-VonStien is working with the City of Pueblo Police Department to hold a Neighborhood Watch meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Several City police officers attended the neighborhood association meeting and stated that it is important for all residents to keep record of suspicious activity in the neighborhood. The officers stated that with documentation, it is easier for them to follow up on leads.

#### Website:

David Webb is doing a great job with the website. Meeting agendas, minutes and current events are posted on the website. Please send website updates to Ms. Kocman at [eilerheights@hotmail.com](mailto:eilerheights@hotmail.com) and she will forward the information to Mr. Webb to be posted on the internet.

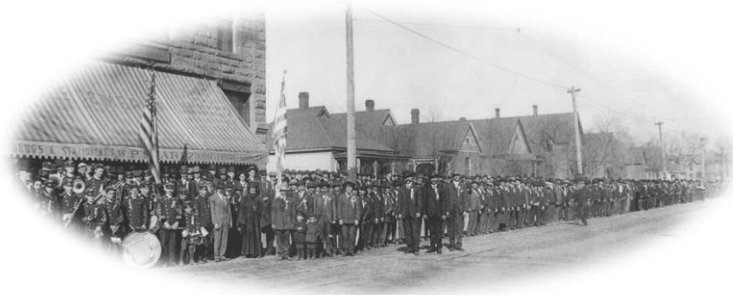
#### Historic Survey:

The Neighborhood Association is still taking orders for the print copy and the DVD of "Potica, Pints and Prayers in Old Bojon Town." The book and DVD is \$40.00 and makes a great gift. The premier of the event can be viewed on the Pueblo City County Library's website.

#### EPA:

The EPA will be testing between 350 and 400 homes in the neighborhood beginning in May 2015. Once initial testing is complete the EPA will begin a plan for clean-up activities. It is likely that clean-up levels will not be officially determined until 2018.

Local realtor and neighborhood resident, David Webb, stated that lending agencies are not providing loans within the Superfund area. Mr. Webb stated that he had worked with approximately 20 local and national lending agencies and all had stated that they would not secure conventional loans within the area included on the EPA's NPL, i.e. Superfund Area. Mr. Webb stated that the Superfund designation extends into the Grove and Blocks Neighborhoods. Discussion on the negative repercussions of individuals not being able to secure loans to buy and sell their homes followed. Mr. Webb stated that proliferation of rental units and short-sale properties is likely. Concern was also expressed about individuals not wanting to take care of their properties because their values have dropped and of the inability to sell. Neighborhood residents questioned whether or not City Council could assist in resolving



the issue of not being able to secure loans to purchase properties within the neighborhood? Councilman Cordova indicated that he will work with other elected officials to address the issue.

Vice-President Kocman stated that the EPA will not determine the clean-up level for lead and arsenic in the soil, until the initial testing has concluded and a clean-up plan has been drafted.

Vice-President Kocman is heading the community revitalization committee associated with the EPA Superfund Citizens Advisory Group. Mr. Kocman stated that they will meet Thursday April 29, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Eiler's Bar.

#### Events:

- A neighborhood "walk and talk" will be held prior to the Meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Those who wish to walk the neighborhood and discuss neighborhood conditions and actions to improve the neighborhood are welcome to attend.
- Summer Spruce-Up will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- Kurjia Vas-August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

#### Updates:

- 1-25-Public Meeting, Ilex Interchange, Wed. April 15<sup>th</sup> 5-7, Pueblo Convention Center.
- EPA-City Council Presentation, 5:30, Mon., April 27<sup>th</sup>, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1 City Hall Place.

#### Schedule Next Meeting:

Tuesday May 5th, 2015-6:00 p.m. St. Mary's School Building-Enter from the front and it is the first classroom on the left.