

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2013 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith and approved by the ECCO Board by electronic vote prior to publication.

Board Members Present: Sarah Sponheim, President; Harry Savage, Co-VP; Linda Todd, Co-VP; Glen Christianson, Treasurer; Andrew Bornhoft; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Susie Goldstein; Liz Heyman; Lara Norkus-Crampton; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Members Absent: Emily Balogh and Jim Smith.

Guests and Residents: Pat Rounds and 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Member Meg Tuthill.

ECCO Board President Sarah Sponheim called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Announcements**

- Thanks to East Calhoun resident Grant Dietrich for his work on securing a Nice Ride station at Dunn Bros (34<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin) to be installed this spring.

### **Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10:**

- Information will be available within the next month regarding the groundwater being pumped from an apartment building into the lagoon between Lake of the Isles and Lake Calhoun.
- Violence Against Women passed in the US Congress. Minneapolis is increasing follow up efforts for domestic abuse cases.
- Crime alert: Smart phone theft has increased. Don't use your phone while walking; pay attention to your surroundings.
- \$25 trees are available to Ward 10 residents beginning on March 18, info at: [www.treerust.org](http://www.treerust.org).
- The Park Board is condemning infested ash trees on private property in and around Prospect Park and E River Road.
- The City continues to work on plans for a 36<sup>th</sup> St bike lane.
- 31<sup>st</sup> St will be repaved in May, striping for bike lanes will be added (east of Hennepin).
- The next Meet with Meg is March 11, noon-1 pm at the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct.
- The Zoning and Planning Committee voted to postpone a decision on expanding the Hennepin County incinerator (HERC) until after the Environmental Assessment Worksheet is completed.

### **President's Report**

- Neighborhood Watch sign removal: Glen Christianson volunteered to do more research about the history of the signs and to write an article for the Uptown Neighborhood News and our e-newsletter asking for community feedback about removing the signs. The Livability Committee will also discuss the issue at its March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board will consider a motion at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The Board approved a proposed letter from the neighborhood to the Uptown Association.
- One of the Co-VPs will chair the April 4<sup>th</sup> ECCO Board meeting in Sarah Sponheim's absence.

### **Monica Smith, Staff Report**

- Home Improvement Loan Program: The loan program has been stagnant. To encourage activity, the Board unanimously approved a motion to raise the maximum loan amount from \$7,500 to \$15,000; extend the term of the loan from seven to ten years; and use some of the marketing budget for a mailing to promote the program. Marketing material should include information that the principal/interest from repaid loans comes back to the neighborhood for use in other neighborhood priorities.
- Monica Smith and Sarah Sponheim are working on the Community Participation Program (CPP) 2012 Annual Report. It will be presented for Board approval at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion to authorize up to \$50 for a plaque to accompany the photograph given to Amore Victoria for their community support for the condo fire victims.
- The NUSA conference will be held in Minneapolis, May 22-25. Registration fee is \$200. At its April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board will approve a budget for interested board/committee/community members to attend the conference. For more information: [www.nusa.org](http://www.nusa.org). Contact Monica Smith (nrp@eastcalhoun.org) if you are interested in attending the conference.

### **Website Redesign**

- Andrew Bornhoft presented his work on a redesigned East Calhoun website. Board members are asked to review the site and provide feedback. Committee chairs are asked to provide committee information for inclusion on the site. The monthly cost for the new site is comparable to our current site (paid through November 2013).

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN)**

- Pat Rounds, one of East Calhoun's representatives to the UNN Managing Board, presented an idea for fundraisers to support the UNN (outdoor community movie nights with corporate sponsors). The Board requested a written proposal outlining the details.

#### **Livability Committee**

- A developer contacted the Livability Committee about a possible redevelopment of the properties on the SW corner of Lake and James. He was invited to the February meeting of the Livability Committee but did not attend.
- Pedestrian safety was discussed at the February 26<sup>th</sup> Livability Committee meeting. Potentially dangerous intersections in the neighborhood were identified. The information was sent to Council Member Tuthill's office.
- The next meeting of the Livability Committee is March 26, 7 pm at St Mary's. Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams will be attending to discuss night-time nuisance noise.

#### **Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis CAC**

- Harry Savage is ECCO's representative to the CAC. Their first meeting was February 19. Four transportation modes are being studied (dedicated busway, streetcar, light rail transit and bus rapid transit). Study area is Lake St and the

Midtown Greenway (between Hiawatha station and future W Lake St station of Southwest LRT). Next CAC meeting is April 23.

**Green Team**

- Zero Waste Uptown was awarded a \$12K grant from Hennepin County to work on increasing recycling rates in multi-family buildings.
- The deadline to participate in the Raingarden project is March 15. There have been 26 respondents to date (15 finalists will be selected by lottery).
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ward City Council Candidates Forum on Environmental Issues: March 28, 7 pm at Bryant Square Park.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.