

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for April 4, 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; Emily Balogh; Susie Goldstein; Liz Heyman; Lara Norkus-Crampton; and Jim Smith.

Board Members Absent: Andrew Bornhoft, Anja Curiskis, Kate Davenport, and Heather Wulfsberg.

Guests and Residents: 10th Ward Council Member Meg Tuthill; Soren Jensen and Liz O'Day, Midtown Greenway Coalition; and David Peterson, Public Works.

ECCO Board President Sarah Sponheim called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10:

- Proposing an ordinance change for food/alcohol ratio in restaurants from the required 60% food to 40% alcohol to 50/50.
- The flea market ordinance change was passed by the Regulatory, Energy and Environment (REE) committee and will now go to the Zoning & Planning committee.
- REE approved a request from Amore Victoria for the expansion of their rooftop seating from 88 to 108 seats.
- Yard waste pickup begins April 8.
- 5th Precinct Open House is May 14, 5-7 pm at 3101 Nicollet Ave.
- Applications are being accepted for Minneapolis Boards and Commissions. More info at: www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.
- The next Meet with Meg is April 8, noon-1 pm at the 5th Precinct.
- 5th Precinct reports an increase in theft of purses from area restaurants.
- Property at SW corner of Lyndale and 40th will be redeveloped (restaurant and retail).

Soren Jensen, Midtown Greenway Coalition

- Thanked the ECCO Board for the donation to the Greenway Coalition.
- Police are adding extra patrols to the Greenway. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a biker on April 3 (no injuries). There are 1.5 million trips on the Greenway per year and an average of 2-3 assaults per year.
- Trail Watch is a bike-mounted volunteer safety patrol that rides the Greenway each night.
- Call 911 if you see suspicious activity or loitering.
- Greenway Crime Prevention Task Force is meeting with Public Works and Police to request: upgrading lighting in dark areas, repositioning of security cameras and ensuring the blue emergency phones are properly working.
- Metro Transit is studying Lake Street and the Greenway for transit improvements. The Greenway Coalition favors a turf-track streetcar on the Greenway, while allowing space to maintain the bike/pedestrian trail.
- Greenway Glow will be June 22nd.
- Coalition is monitoring the Mosaic Phase II development to make sure it respects the Greenway.

Financial Review

Expenditures for NRP and CPP programs were reviewed.

36th St Bikeway Update

Minneapolis is planning bicycle and pedestrian improvements on 36th Street West between Lake Calhoun and Bryant Ave S. The goal is to have these improvements completed during the 2013 construction season.

There are two alternative alignments being considered:

- **Two-way protected bike path and pedestrian space from Lake Calhoun to Dupont Ave, and standard bike lanes to Bryant Ave** - This version puts a pedestrian space against the southern curb next to Lakewood Cemetery, then a trail-like bike path protected from east-bound 36th St traffic by a painted buffer marked with vertical delineators. It allows buses to drop passengers out of the way of traffic along the south side of the street while not blocking through traffic. Standard bike lanes would connect to Bryant Avenue. No parking would be affected.
- **One-way protected bike path and pedestrian space from Lake Calhoun to Dupont Ave (south side) with buffered bike lane (north side), standard bike lanes Dupont to Bryant** - This version puts a pedestrian space and one-way bike lane against the southern curb next to Lakewood Cemetery with a painted buffer with vertical delineators separating the area from motor vehicles. Westbound bike traffic would travel in a buffered bike lane toward Lake Calhoun, separated from motor vehicles by a painted buffer zone. Buses would have a place to drop passengers out of the way of traffic, but would partially block eastbound through traffic. Standard bike lanes would connect to Bryant Ave. No parking would be affected.

Board concerns were discussed related to intersections and transitions to the protected bike path, bus access, and snow/ice removal.

Public Works needs to carefully plan intersection treatments at both ends to ensure that bikes and pedestrians can safely cross 36th Street at Lake Calhoun and Dupont Ave/Kings Highway. The designs are being refined. The budget is \$111,000. Proposals are being reviewed by the Traffic Operations Engineer.

For plans and depictions about this project:

www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles/projects/36th_St_West

Neighborhood Priority Plan

Neighborhood Priority Plan background information: The ECCO Board budgeted \$8,990.14 of its CPP funds to be reserved for a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP). A committee was formed in June 2012 to explore ideas for NPP. Ideas were solicited from residents via UNN and monthly e-newsletter and at ECCO Board meetings. Ideas were evaluated and three ideas were offered for a neighborhood-wide vote (via postcard

mailed to all residents, online survey, or in person at October Annual Meeting). Result: 36th St Bikeway was voted as the preferred NPP project.

The ECCO Board approved a motion (vote: 8-1) to allocate \$8,990.14 of budgeted NPP funds to the 36th St Bikeway project with a request that Public Works reports back to the ECCO Board on resolution of issues and concerns before the design is finalized.

Neighborhood Watch Signs

The ECCO Board has been discussing the possible removal of Neighborhood Watch sign on the neighborhood boundaries. The Uptown Neighborhood News (April 2013) printed an article written by Glen Christianson with background information about the signs and asking for community input on the possible removal of the signs. Information was also included in the April e-newsletter. Six residents provided feedback (3 votes to remove, 1 vote to remove but at no expense to the neighborhood and 2 votes to keep the signs in place). Chelsea Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist, provided a study that concluded that the signs can “produce unintended consequences such as increased fear of crime and decreased perceptions of neighborhood safety.”

The board approved a motion to remove the signs using NRP funds not to exceed \$540 (vote was 6 yea, 2 oppose and 1 abstain).

President's Report

- Nice Ride station will be installed at Dunn Bros on 34th and Hennepin. Thank you to Dunn Bros owner Sanjeev Azad for agreeing to host the station.
- New owners recently purchased the vacant property at 3401 Irving.
- Earth Day Clean Up is April 20, 9:30 am – Noon. Meet at the Gateway Park on E Calhoun Pkwy at Lake St. Volunteers needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.