

ECCO Annual Meeting Minutes
October 3, 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.

Attendance

Approximately 50 residents attended the Annual Meeting including Board members: Sarah Sponheim, President; Harry Savage, Co-VP; Linda Todd, Co-VP; Glen Christianson, Treasurer; Emily Balogh; Andrew Bornhoft; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Liz Heyman; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Jim Smith; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Susie Goldstein

The event began with pizza and a social hour.

ECCO Board President Sarah Sponheim called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Remarks from Elected Officials:

Senator Scott Dibble, District 61 and Representative Paul Thissen, District 61B

- Accomplishments in the last session: dealing with the deficit, property tax relief, restoring LGA, funding early childhood education, and marriage equality.
- Work to be continued: transportation bill, anti-bullying, minimum wage, and capital bonding. Gun control legislation will depend on political momentum (mobilized constituents are opposed to gun control).

Commissioner Anita Tabb, District 4, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- The Park Board received a solar energy grant. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 5- 7 p.m. at Park Board headquarters to gain community input on locations for solar projects.
- The Park Board continues work on increasing recycling rates in the parks. A staff proposal is expected soon for implementation in 2014.
- Mississippi Riverfront redevelopment charette is October 7 and 8 at Nicollet Island Pavilion.
- The Park Board is hiring a consultant to study the effects on hydrology and the watershed from the proposed shallow tunnels (for Southwest LRT) between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake.

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

- Focusing on fire safety (three Ward 10 young adults have recently died in fires).
- Election judges are needed for the November 5th election. Contact Meg's office at 612-673-2210 for more information.
- 2014 Budget Public Hearings: November 19 and December 11, both meetings begin at 6:05 pm in Room 317, City Hall.
- The City's consultant is reviewing the developer's proposed plan to solve the dewatering issue at 1800 Lake.

Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman, 3rd District

- Decisions will be made soon on \$1.5 billion Southwest LRT project. More than 30 options were considered. The staff is recommending co-location of freight with LRT in shallow tunnels through the Kenilworth Corridor. The bike trail will be preserved in the corridor (but it will be disrupted during construction). The Metropolitan Council is expected to vote by mid-October.
- Construction continues on the new Walker Library (Spring 2014 opening).

MSP Fair Skies presentation, Kevin Terrell

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) wants to install Performance-Based Navigation technology, also known as RNAV, at Minneapolis-St Paul airport. RNAV will redirect and significantly increase the number of flights over Southwest Minneapolis and Edina – from less than 5% of daily flights to 40% starting in 2014. Currently, departing airplanes fan out from the airport; RNAV will focus flight departures onto tighter flight paths (7 super highways in the sky). With RNAV, 100 departures a day would fly over ECCO (a 5x increase over the current 20 departures/day) and the noise would consistently exceed 70 decibels. RNAV technology will unfairly burden us with more noise and more emissions. MSP FairSkies is a grassroots organization seeking greater transparency and accountability of the FAA and Metropolitan Airports Commission about RNAV. MSP FairSkies is working with Sen. Scott Dibble and Rep. Frank Hornstein locally and Representatives Keith Ellison and Erik Paulsen on the national level to push for more transparency and environmental impact studies.

To learn more, go to www.mspfairskies.org and watch the video, sign a petition and follow them on Facebook.

2013 ECCO Annual Report, Sarah Sponheim

- Redesigned website: www.eastcalhoun.org. Thanks to Andrew Bornhoft and Monica Smith
- Livability Committee, co chaired by Jim Smith and Kate Davenport. The committee worked on a proposed residential zoning change, new restaurant “Lake & Irving,” comments to the DNR regarding the dewatering at 1800 Lake, pedestrian safety in Uptown, and late-night noise.
- Hosted events: Bike Festival in May (thanks to organizers Sheila Eldred, Erika Zabler and Anja Curiskis), Super Sale (thanks to organizer Sylvia Kafkas), puppet show/potluck dinner, and Labor Day celebration (thanks to Brad Albertson for securing all the donations of bingo prizes and food).
- Provided funding for 36th St Bikeway (to be constructed in 2014).
- Welcomed a new Nice Ride station at Dunn Bros. on Hennepin - thanks to ECCO resident Grant Dietrich for proposing the idea and Sanjeev Azad from Dunn Bros to giving up two parking spaces to accommodate the station. The station has been a success with over 1,000 departing trips so far this year.
- Co-hosted, with other Ward 10 neighborhoods, an environmental issues candidate forum for city council candidates prior to the DFL convention.
- Co-hosted with other neighborhoods, a Household Hazardous Waste event in September.
- Completed a “Neighborhood of Rain Gardens” project: 14 rain gardens planted on private properties this summer as a collaboration between homeowners, the East Calhoun board and Metro Blooms, with funding from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. Huge thanks to resident Nathan Campeau for his work and expertise throughout

the project. Tour the gardens on Saturday, October 5, 1 p.m. starting at Dunn Bros.

Treasurer Glen Christianson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Neighborhood Programs

Monica Smith gave an overview of programs for residents. Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) was a 20-year City of Minneapolis program that provided funding to neighborhoods to make improvements based on the needs of each neighborhood. The NRP program is phasing out; there is no new funding for this program. East Calhoun is spending down our NRP funds and offers the following programs for residents:

- Home Improvement Loans and Grants for energy-related improvements or other exterior improvements to your home.
 - Grant: 25% NRP funds to 75% homeowner funds, \$3,000 maximum grant, no income limits. Program funds are nearly depleted.
 - Loan: 4% fixed interest rate, flexible terms, \$15,000 maximum loan, no income limits.
- Home Security Grants of up to \$250 per household for security upgrades.
- Tree Treatment Grant of up to \$250 per property/per year for professional treatment of elm, ash and oak trees. *Expiring for the season on November 1, 2013.*
- Rain Barrel and/or Compost Bin Grants of up to \$100 per property.

ECCO receives funding from the City of Minneapolis for Community Participation Program (CPP). ECCO's allocation for 2014 is \$24,000 (2% increase over current year).

Board Elections

The following individuals were elected to the ECCO Board: Anja Curiskis (2nd term), Kate Davenport (2nd term), Harry Savage (2nd term) and David Tompkins (1st term). Paul Harstad was elected to serve as an Alternate.

Special thanks to outgoing Treasurer Glen Christianson for his service to the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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