

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for December 5, 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: Linda Todd, President; Andrew Bornhoft, Vice-President; Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Emily Balogh; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Liz Heyman, Jim Smith, and Sarah Sponheim.

Guests: Michael Mechtenberg, Metro Transit and residents Gary Farland, Brian Murn and Allison Yang.

ECCO Board President Linda Todd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis, Presenter Michael Mechtenberg, Metro Transit**

The purpose of the Alternatives Analysis (AA) is to identify and analyze the benefits, costs, and impacts associated with transit alternatives. The AA is studying transit options (Light Rail Transit, Streetcar, Bus Rapid Transit and Dedicated Busway) for Lake Street and/or the Midtown Greenway (between the proposed Southwest LRT and the Hiawatha LRT). The AA will result in a selection of a locally preferred alternative (LPA) that best meet the identified purpose and need for the project.

The transit options have been narrowed to:

- Enhanced bus on Lake Street (capital costs of \$50 million)
- Double/single track rail in the Midtown Greenway (capital costs of \$185-220 million)
- Combination of both of the above (capital costs of \$230-265)

The bike trail will remain in the Greenway under all scenarios. Further study is needed for the Greenway regarding bridge protection, retaining walls, street crossings and the historic status of the corridor.

Metro Transit is in the final screening stage of the AA. The Policy Advisory Committee will select the LPA in February 2014. If rail is selected, the vehicle type and single vs. double track will be determined at a later date.

For more information: [www.midtowntransitway.org](http://www.midtowntransitway.org).

### **Bylaws Review**

The conflict of interest (Article 8, Section 9) clause of the bylaws was reviewed. The ECCO Board is an independent body that does not endorse candidates. A statement to that effect will be posted on ECCO's website along with a yearly reminder to board members prior to each election season.

Also, reminder that if individual board members support a political candidate, the board member will inform the candidate that the support is independent of the ECCO Board.

### **Treasurer's Report, Susie Goldstein**

The separate bank accounts for the Green Team have been closed and the funds transferred to the ECCO account. Wine Tasting revenue was \$2,505; we will also receive 25% of the proceeds of the tickets sold at the door. We are awaiting the final grant payment for the raingarden project.

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

- ECCO's application for the next three-year cycle of the Community Participation Program (CPP) has been approved by the city.
- The expenses for the current CPP program were reviewed. We expect to spend the remaining balance of \$1000 by the end of the year. The board approved shifting funds between expense categories as needed.
- The Park Board is seeking community input in planning for improvements to the Kenwood Rec Center at an Open House on December 17, 6:30-8 pm at the Rec Center, 2101 Franklin Ave. Improvements will focus on accessibility and improved building function.
- ECCO will host a Holiday Caroling Party on Wednesday, December 18. Meet at St. Mary's at 6:30 pm. We will carol from 7-8 and end the evening with socializing and refreshments at the home of Judy and Michael Shields.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Livability Committee, Kate Davenport**

The committee is holding off on a recommendation regarding the proposed development at Lake and James (NE corner). The East Isles Zoning Committee has communicated concerns about the project to the developers and is awaiting a response.

The FAA is proposing implementing a new navigation system (RNAV) at MSP airport that will result in a significant increase in flights departing over Uptown (135 a day vs. the current 20-30). The Livability Committee drafted a letter to be sent to Senators Klobuchar and Franken and a separate letter that will go to East Calhoun residents in an e-blast and an Uptown Neighborhood News article. The letters will be emailed to the ECCO Board for an electronic vote.

Next committee meeting is December 17, 7 pm at St. Mary's. The agenda will include a presentation by an architect for a new single family home to be built at 3336 Humboldt Ave and a discussion about Southwest Light Rail Transit.

#### **Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN), Anja Curiskis**

The UNN is considering a three-day delivery schedule (vs. the current five-day schedule). Ideas for articles are always welcome to keep the paper interesting and relevant. They are also working on developing a website. The UNN Board continues to watch the finances closely as they operate on a very tight budget.

#### **Communications, Andrew Bornhoft**

The redesigned website ([www.eastcalhoun.org](http://www.eastcalhoun.org)) is seeing increased traffic. The

programs page is the most viewed page.

**Green Team, David Tompkins**

The Uptown Green Teams will meet on December 10, 7 pm at Jefferson School to discuss cooperative energy futures. The ECCO Green Team will not meet in December.

**President's Report, Linda Todd**

- Jim Smith is temporarily relocating to California and has resigned from the ECCO Board. Alternate Paul Harstad will fill the vacant board seat.
- The board discussed overlapping committee activities that can lead to confusion. When zoning issues are involved, the Livability Committee will take the lead and work with other committees that may want to be involved with the issue.
- The Uptown Association is currently offering discounted rates for nonprofit members. Linda Todd will investigate if ECCO is eligible for the discounted rate as a 501(c)(4) and if so, send an email to board members to vote on funding a one-year membership for ECCO.
- The Park Board is accepting public comments on an Urban Agriculture Plan for the parks. For more information go [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org).
- We will have a quorum to hold the next meeting on the regular date (Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>). Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams will be invited to address concerns about recent robberies in East Calhoun. The agenda will also include priority setting for 2014 board activity.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 2, 2014, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.