

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2014 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; Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Anja Curiskis; Emily Balogh; Paul Harstad; Liz Heyman; Ben Jilek; and Lara Norkus-Crampton.

Board Member Absent: Andrew Bornhoft, Vice-President; Kate Davenport; David Tompkins; Harry Savage; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Guest: residents Rob DeHoff, Douglas Frank, and Anne McLaughlin.

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

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

Council Member Bender and policy aide Ben Somogyi gave the following update:

- CM Bender will have weekly office hours in the ward (location will rotate) and a monthly breakfast or happy hour. The next event is February 19, 8-9:30 a.m. at the Egg and I. The topic is Ending Homelessness in Our Communities with Commissioner Gail Dorfman and Congressman Keith Ellison.
- Sign up for the Ward 10 e-newsletter. Sign up at: www.minneapolismn.gov/ward10.
- Benders priorities are: redevelop Lake and Nicollet (re-open Nicollet at Kmart site); Nicollet-Central streetcar line; comprehensive plan to add protected bikeways; and citywide curbside organics.
- Southwest LRT: Bender is committed to getting the line built and will advocate for city lakes and trail system.
- 1800 Lake dewatering: The City and the Park Board filed separate lawsuits against the developer. The district court consolidated the suits. They are currently in the discover phase with a possible trial date in 2015.
- 31st St center boulevard: The sprinkler system was installed in 1993. At some point the system was turned off and the trees are dying. The Park Board policy is that they don't actively water trees over 2 years in age. The 31st St trees may need to be replaced with drought and disease resistant trees. In the spring, the City will check on the condition of the sprinkler system and review options.
- Bender's committee assignments: Zoning and Planning, Chair; Health, Environment and Community Engagement; Transportation and Public Works; and Ways and Means.
- Bender also serves on the Airport Working Group. The FAA is issuing a report about RNAV.
- Public hearing on Feb 19, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall for amendment to allow additional sale of products on sidewalk of retail businesses (currently only allowed at stores that sell books or garden supplies).

Note: The ECCO Board remains engaged with resolving the issues of the 1800 Lake dewatering and the 31st St trees.

Election of new board member

Ben Jilek was unanimously elected to fill a vacant board seat.

Announcement

Hennepin County is withdrawing its request to burn more trash at the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) and instead focus on increasing organics recycling.

Treasurer's Report, Susie Goldstein

The ECCO Board approved the proposed budget for 2014. Adjustments may be needed throughout the year. Expenses are budgeted at \$3,250 for event food/entertainment and donations. Revenue: we are waiting for grant money from the raingarden project (ECCO's total out-of-pocket expenses for the project are expected to be \$380). Donation allocation will be discussed at a future meeting.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- A draft of the Annual Report for the 2013 CPP program was sent to board members prior to the meeting. The report will be formally approved at the March meeting.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is hosting the 2nd Annual Community Connections Conference on Saturday, March 22nd from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Keynote speaker is Dr. Verna Cornelia Price. The event is free. Registration will open mid-February.
- Community Innovation Fund is a new program being crafted by NCR. It will allow neighborhoods to apply for funding to develop innovative projects. \$300K will be available for competitive grants in 2014-15.
- Minneapolis is recruiting businesses and organizations to grow food for local food shelves through a program called Giving Gardens. A workshop for interested organizations is February 27, 9:15-11:30 a.m. at East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee

The January meeting included a presentation by MSP FairSkies Coalition about the proposed increase in airplane traffic over SW Minneapolis and a discussion with Lake & Irving (1513 W Lake St) about their application for Class C1 entertainment license (to allow for live entertainment of up to 5 musicians).

The next meeting is Monday, February 17, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's.

Green Team

Kathy Scoggin and David Tompkins will co-chair the Green Team and will focus on key events like the Earth Day clean up, Bike Festival (second annual event planned for May 31st 1-3 at St Mary's) and zero waste at neighborhood events.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m. at Dunn Bros. on 34th and Hennepin. New members, ideas and energy are welcome.

Midtown Greenway

The final meeting for the Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis will be held on February 12, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. at Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Ave S. The key agenda item is to select the locally preferred alternative (LPA) from the following options: enhanced bus on Lake Street, rail on the Midtown Greenway, or a combination of both.

Paul Harstad is interested in serving as ECCO's representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition board.

Uptown Neighborhood News

The paper continues to seek more ad revenue and more story ideas. It is also seeking another ad rep to work on commission for the paper.

President's Report, Linda Todd

- The Uptown Association annual meeting in January was a good event (ECCO sent nine representatives).
- 36th St Bikeway: Simon Blenski is the new planner assigned to the project. He will attend the April ECCO Board meeting to provide a project update.
- RNAV: Liz Heyman volunteered to create an informational flyer that could be delivered to the neighborhood, posted on our website and in the e-newsletter.
- Priority setting for 2014 Board activity will be discussed by the Livability Committee.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to identify a new community priority project. Members include Lara Norkus-Crampton, Ben Jilek, Linda Todd and Monica Smith. Other interested parties are welcome to join the committee.
- Staff salary was discussed and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 6, 2014, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.