

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for April 3, 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; Andrew Bornhoft, Vice-President; Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Emily Balogh; Kate Davenport; Paul Harstad; Ben Jilek; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Anja Curiskis, Liz Heyman, and Lara Norkus-Crampton.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Ward 10 Council office; Simon Blenski, Minneapolis Public Works; ECCO residents Rob DeHoff and G.J. Savage and Augsburg students Dave Weber and Andrew Krupke.

ECCO Board President Linda Todd called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- Council Member Bender will be expanding food truck locations in Ward 10 (on commercial corridors). Trucks must be at least 300 feet from residential property, 100 feet from a restaurant, and 200 feet from park board property. Vendors must obtain a business license from the City and abide by its requirements.
- The City's lawsuit against 1800 Lake is in the discovery phase (which is expected to last until Fall 2014).
- 31st St center boulevard: the City will check on the condition of the sprinkler system when the snow melts.
- Southwest LRT: The Metropolitan Council will be voting on the project scope and budget on April 9. The City Council passed a resolution (on March 5th) that they do not support co-location of LRT and freight in the Kenilworth Corridor (including the option for shallow LRT tunnels). Mayor Hodges voted against the project at the advisory committee meeting on April 2.
- Upcoming event: Innovative Economy discussion on Monday, April 28, 5:30-7 p.m. at CoCo, 1010 W Lake St #100.
- Council Member Bender has office hours in the neighborhoods on Mondays; 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Call her office to schedule an appointment, 612-673-2210.
- Minneapolis is working toward offering citywide curbside organics by January 2015.

36th St Bikeway, Simon Blenski, Bicycle Planner, Minneapolis Public Works

- Public Works has been working on plans for a protected bike lane on 36th Street from Lake Calhoun to Dupont Ave S (with possible extension to Bryant Ave S).
- One of the eastbound travel lanes will be removed to create a 2-way protected bike lane and pedestrian path along the south curb of 36th St.
- There will be a 3' buffer between the vehicle lane and the bikeway and will include flexible verticals posts and painted pavement to mark the buffer zone.
- ECCO Board members raised concerns about how the bikeway interfaces with Richfield Rd/E Calhoun Parkway, other intersections, crosswalks and bus stops.
- Blenski was invited to the Livability Committee meeting on April 21st to review the project in more detail.
- A public meeting will be held by Minneapolis Public Works in May.

- Construction is expected this summer.
- More information is available at:
www.minneapolis.gov/bicycles/projects/36th_St_West

Treasurer's Report, Susie Goldstein

ECCO's financials are healthy. We are waiting for grant money from the raingarden project.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

The raingarden program financials were reviewed. We are waiting for two participants to sign the maintenance agreements required by the watershed district grant. ECCO's expenditure will be \$225 if we receive signed agreements from all participants and \$1025 if don't receive the final two agreements. The ECCO Board approved a budget of up to \$800 for raingarden signage (the watershed district will reimburse approximately half of this expense). David Tompkins will work with Nathan Campeau on the signage.

The ECCO Board voted and will not be renewing the tree grant program due to concerns about the impact of the chemicals on the environment and pollinators. Options will be considered for the remaining balance of \$1714.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Heather Wulfsberg and Kate Davenport

The March 17 meeting included a proposal for a variance request for a single-family home at 3347 E. Calhoun Pkwy and a three-story, mixed-use development on the NE corner of Lake St and James Ave (1618 W Lake St, 1620 W Lake St and 2915 James Ave S).

The ECCO Board approved motions stating that the board does not oppose these projects.

Southwest LRT: Ben Jilek and Harry Savage presented a resolution in support of Southwest LRT. After much discussion about this complex project, the resolution did not pass (vote: 5 yea – 5 oppose).

The next meeting Livability Committee meeting is Monday, April 21, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's.

Green Team, David Tompkins

The Green Team is planning for the following events:

- Organic Apple Workshop – Tuesday, April 8, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's.
- Earth Day Clean Up – Saturday, April 26, 9:30 a.m. – Noon, meet at the Tin Fish.
- East Calhoun Bicycle Festival – Saturday, May 31, 1 – 3 p.m. at St. Mary's.
- Video about raingardens.

The Green Team is also working on raising awareness about pollinators. The ECCO Board approved a budget of \$300 to print fliers and purchase seeds for bee friendly flowers to be distributed to ECCO residents (we will try to get seeds donated).

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m. at Dunn Bros. on 34th and Hennepin.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad

Volunteers are needed for upcoming Greenway events:

- Tree planting event on May 3
- Trail Watch riders
- Greenway Glow on June 14

Go to www.midtowngreenway.org for more information.

Uptown Neighborhood News, Linda Todd

The UNN is at a critical juncture. They have not been able to increase their ad revenue, and the June paper may be their last issue if they can't generate more revenue. They will be forming an on-line fundraising campaign to try to raise money and continue to look for a new ad rep.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, May 1, 2014, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.