

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for May 1, 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; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Paul Harstad; Liz Heyman; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Ben Jilek.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Ward 10 Council office; Sheff and Athena Priest, Tin Fish; Jen Borger, NEHBA; Samantha Loesch, King's Wine Bar; Meg Forney, Park Board Commissioner; and ECCO resident Sara Wahl.

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

Jen Borger, Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association and Samantha Loesch, King's Wine Bar

Borger and Loesch presented information about a proposed change to the Minneapolis Charter.

Most restaurants in Minneapolis are governed by City ordinances with the exception of about 70 neighborhood restaurants with a "Charter Wine license" (beer and wine license). These restaurants are governed by the Minneapolis Charter that dictates some of the regulations regarding liquor sales including the ratio of food (70%) to alcohol (30%) based on receipts and whether one can be served alcohol while waiting to be seated.

These restaurants are seeking to be governed by ordinance (not by the Charter). To have something moved from the Charter to an ordinance requires either a unanimous vote by the City Council or a ballot initiative.

The ECCO Board passed a motion to support moving the liquor regulations out of the Charter and into ordinance. The vote does not imply any request for changes in the regulations themselves.

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

- City staff is crafting a text amendment to the zoning code to allow for small scale composting (up to 80 cubic yards) in industrial zones. Board members stressed the need to include training in best practices and for soil testing to ensure that the soil in the industrial area is not contaminated.
- The City is also looking at making it easier to keep honeybees in residential areas.
- Council Member Bender is advocating for the best possible outcome for Southwest LRT.
- Public Works will test the irrigation system on the 31st St median in mid-May and attend the next ECCO Board (June 5th) to discuss options.

Meg Forney, Commission at Large, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

- Due to the Emerald Ash Borer, the Park Board is implementing a plan to remove all of the ash trees on boulevards and in parks over an eight-year period. A variety of replacement trees will be planted to ensure a more diverse urban canopy.
- The Park Board is monitoring the Southwest LRT developments. A supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be issued to address impacts to the channel between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake.

36th Street Bike/Pedestrian Path

An ECCO resident attended the board meeting to express concerns about the proposed bike/ped path and to encourage the ECCO Board not to use ECCO funds to support the project.

The 36th St bike/ped path is part of the City's master plan and the ECCO Board has no control over whether or not the plan is implemented. However, the ECCO Board has been advocating for the improvements to the design to maximize safety for all users.

The ECCO Board approved a draft of a letter asking for changes to the intersection of 36th St and Richfield Road (asking to replace the slip turn with a 4-way signalized stop and make a direct connect from the bike/ped path to Lake Calhoun) and requesting a crosswalk at Irving to allow access to the bike/ped path, or alternatives which would achieve the same goals of safety and access. The letter states: "Should the plan proceed without addressing these safety issues, ECCO will feel obligated to withdraw its financial support." (ECCO has reserved \$8,990 to be allocated to the project.)

The City will hold a public meeting about the project on Tuesday, May 6, 6-7 pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.

Committee Reports

Green Team, David Tompkins

The Earth Day Clean Up was a success.

The Green Team is working on raising awareness about pollinators. The ECCO Board previously approved a budget of \$300 (using NRP funds) to print fliers and purchase seeds for bee friendly flowers to be distributed to ECCO residents. Special thanks to Bachmans for donating neonicotinoid-free seeds.

The Organic Apple Workshop on April 8th was a big success. Thanks to Lara Norkus-Crampton for organizing the presentation.

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

East Calhoun Bike Festival, Anja Curiskis

The festival is Saturday, May 31, 1-3 pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. Volunteers are needed.

The North Star Bicycle Festival (formerly the Nature Valley Grand Prix) is Friday, June 13 in Uptown. Anja is organizing volunteers to help monitor compost stations at the event.

Uptown Neighborhood News, Anja Curiskis

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.

Livability Committee, Heather Wulfsberg and Kate Davenport

The April 21st meeting included a presentation about the 36th St Bike/Ped project. Also discussed was the intersection at 33rd and Humboldt. Future Livability Committee meetings will address pedestrian safety issues in the neighborhood.

The Uptown Opportunity Task Force met in March to discuss common goals for Uptown.

A joint meeting of Uptown zoning committees and Green Teams will be held on May 8th to discuss advocating for green building guidelines in Uptown.

The public meeting for the 16Twenty development (NE corner of Lake/James) is May 5th, 4:30 pm at City Hall.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad

The Midtown Greenway Coalition has not taken a position on the Southwest LRT project.

The Coalition is hiring a full time program coordinator.

Upcoming events:

- Spring Social Ride on May 8
- Greenway Glow on June 14

Go to www.midtowngreenway.org for more information.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The ECCO Board selected Susie Goldstein as the Elector and Anja Curiskis and Heather Wulfsberg as Alternate Electors to represent ECCO at the election for Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, District 6 on June 12.
- The Super Sale is Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration is now open (go to www.eastcalhoun.org/east-calhoun-events)
- ECCO Block Party and Puppet Show is Saturday, June 7, 5 pm on w 34th St (at Irving) featuring a performance by Open Eye Figure Theatre and a pot luck dinner. The Board approved a budget of \$100 for hot dogs and dessert. Help is needed for set up, managing the grill and clean up.
- ECCO's Directors and Officers insurance is up for renewal. We have the option of renewing our existing policy or joining a group policy that the City offers to neighborhood organizations. More information will be available at the June board meeting.

President's Report, Linda Todd

- The ECCO Board approved a motion to donate \$250 to Kenwood Community School to support their Carnival and \$500 to Joyce Food Shelf.
- The ECCO Board will form a Charity Committee to set criteria for donations made by the Board.
- Special thanks to Andrew Bornhoff for his service on the ECCO Board. Andrew has resigned his position because he is moving out of the neighborhood.

Announcement

- A public meeting for Southwest LRT will be held on Thursday, May 29 6 pm at the Hennepin County Government Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, June 5, 2014, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.