

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for June 5, 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; Anja Curiskis; Paul Harstad; Liz Heyman; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Emily Balogh; Kate Davenport; and Ben Jilek.

Guests: City Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; Matt Barthelemy, NCEC Candidate; Debra Behrens, NCEC Candidate; Ralph Knox, UNN Chair; and ECCO residents Cynthia Stokes and Ben Kerl.

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

Cynthia Stokes

Cynthia Stokes is an ECCO resident and a member of the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, a 45 member professional orchestra that provides 10 free concerts at the Lake Harriet bandshell each July. The orchestra is asking for a contribution from the ECCO Board to support their program. ECCO has contributed each year since 1983. The ECCO Board is in the process of establishing a list of criteria for donation and will review the Pops' request once the criterion is established.

City Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- June office hours in the Ward have been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Please contact CM Bender's office directly to schedule a meeting.
- Open Streets will be held on Lyndale Ave on June 8.
- 29th Street will be reconstructed between Hennepin and Lyndale. A public meeting was held to gather input on redesigning the street. Additional outreach will continue as the project develops.
- The next Ten Talk is Thursday, June 26 and the topic is bee keeping. Time and location are being finalized.
- The Planning Commission approved 16Twenty, the mixed-use development on the NE corner of Lake and James.
- The Met Council is doing sewer construction on 36th St (between Dupont and Bryant) and on Dupont Ave (between 40th and 36th) from June-October. For more information go to www.metrocouncil.org/sewerconstructionupdates.
- The 36th St Bikeway project will be constructed this summer with a protected bike/ped lane from Richfield Road to Dupont Ave and regular on-street bike lanes from Dupont to Bryant. The slip turn will remain at Richfield Rd due to the high volume of turns at this intersection. The project will be evaluated pre and post installation, and the goal is to continue to make improvements to the project in the future.
- Beginning this month, Minneapolis housing inspectors will proactively inspect neighborhoods for nuisance and environmental violations.
- Don't prune ash trees until the fall to help prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

- Hennepin County is selling backyard compost bins for \$45. For information, go to www.hennepin.us/composting.
- The City is in negotiations with the Met Council regarding Southwest LRT.

Candidates for Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission (NCEC)

The two candidates for the District 6 seat on the NCEC (Debra Behrens and Matt Barthelemy) attended tonight's meeting to discuss their interest in serving on the NCEC.

The ECCO Board voted to support Debra Behrens as our commissioner. The election is June 12.

Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN)

ECCO resident Ralph Knox is the chair of the managing board that oversees the UNN. Ad revenues were down due to the long winter. The paper is seeking to raise \$6,000 via donations to www.rockethub.com by June 20th to cover two months of operating expenses. This will buy time for additional ad sales representatives to generate revenue. If the fundraising effort doesn't work, the June edition may be the last issue of the paper.

The ECCO Board will take an electronic vote to consider additional financial support for the UNN.

Committee Reports

Green Team, David Tompkins

The pollinator flyer and seed packets were distributed to the neighborhood. The project came in under budget thanks to the donation of seeds by Bachman's.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The Super Sale is Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- The 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 Labor Day celebration is Monday, September 1. Heather Wulfsberg will chair the organizing committee.
- ECCO's Directors and Officers insurance is up for renewal. The Board reviewed two options for coverage and voted to renew the individual policy.
- Public Works attempted to start the irrigation system on the 31st St medians. They discovered that the water line is broken and to fix the line would require tearing up a section of the street. Even if this repair were to be made, we still don't know the condition of the irrigation system since no water was available to test the system. Public Works does not have funds for the repairs. Council Member Bender's office, the ECCO Board and the Park Board will work together to consider options for the distressed trees.
- Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) is the administrator for ECCO's home improvement loan program. CEE is considering changing their fee structure, which could make the program untenable for ECCO. More information is expected mid-summer.

- CenterPoint Energy will be replacing a natural gas pipeline on Lake Street beginning at the end of June. Construction will occur along Lake Street from Excelsior Blvd to James Ave S (eastbound traffic lane nearest the south curb of Lake St). Go to www.centerpointenergy.com/construction for more information.

East Calhoun Bike Festival

Thanks to Anja Curiskis and her team, Sheila Eldred, Paul Harstad, Rob DeHoff, Kathy Scoggin and David Tompkins for organizing a successful Bicycle Festival on May 31.

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.

Livability Committee, Heather Wulfsberg

Lake and Irving Restaurant continues to work on a plan for outdoor patio on the east side of the building but the process is slower than they expected. They are considering adding 20 seats on the Lake St side of the property. The ECCO Board took no action at this time.

Announcement

- Special thanks to Liz Heyman for her service on the ECCO Board. Liz has resigned her position because she is moving out of the neighborhood. Ben Kerl is considering joining the board to fill a vacancy.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

No meeting in July. The next meeting is Thursday, August 7, 2014, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.