

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2014 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Harry Savage, Lara Norkus-Crampton and Linda Todd and approved by the ECCO Board by electronic vote prior to publication.

Board Members Present: Linda Todd, President; Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Anja Curiskis; Paul Harstad; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; Emily Balogh; Ben Jilek and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Kate Davenport; David Tompkins

Guests: City Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; Sgt R. Dudgeon, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct Patrol Supervisor; Brad Albertson, neighbor and Labor Day Event specialist

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

Board approved agenda.

Sgt. R. Dudgeon, 5th Precinct Patrol Supervisor

Fifth Precinct Report: From 7/1-8/5/14 there have been 3 armed robberies on the streets of ECCO, and one incident in which the victim was punched in the face and her purse stolen on East Calhoun Pkwy. The robberies occurred between 10:30 pm and 1:30 am. The targets appear to be cell phones and purses/wallets. The victims have been pairs of people robbed by two suspects. For more information or to report any additional information contact our crime prevention specialist Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov. Call the Robbery Unit at 612.673.2941, or utilize anonymous texting through the free MPD 411 app, which can be found at Google Play, or the App Store.

In the meantime, the officer recommended being aware of your surroundings and travelling in pairs/groups. Do not text and walk. Common ploys are to be asked for time or a cigarette as a way to approach you. If this seems inappropriate, ignore and keep moving. When in doubt or feel threatened, call 911. The officer was asked about utilizing Park Police for supplemental patrolling since some of the robberies are on parkways adjacent to park property. She said that currently there is not coordination between the Minneapolis and Park Police. There is also no coordination with Metro Transit Officers. An uptick in crime results in increase in foot and car patrols and plain-clothes details may be provided.

City Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

1800 Lake St Lawsuit: Per CM Bender's office--this is the latest summary of verified information from city attorney, Susan Segal. The discovery period for the City of Minneapolis and MPRB lawsuits ended on 7/21/14. All depositions and documents had to be submitted by this date.

Court Ordered Mediation is scheduled for: 9/30/14.

The city will be submitting a Motion of Summary Judgment by 10/13/14. Ben Somogyi, CM Bender's policy aide, clarified that the final motion by the city will be to end the illegal

dumping of water into the Chain of Lakes.

If the judge rejects the city's motion, the lawsuit will go to trial between 12/29/14 and 1/30/15. To date there has been nothing posted on the city website or published in the press regarding these latest developments. Water is still being discharged into the lake.

31st St Boulevard Trees: CM Bender said that the MPRB approved Coffee and Elm trees to replace the dying trees on the boulevard in October.

36th Street Protected Bikeway is moving forward with 50% funding by Hennepin County.

Hennepin/Lyndale reconstruction project Open House, including bike lanes was held August 4. For details or to comment see: <http://hennepinlyndaleproject.com>.

26th and 28th St Bike/Ped improvements: CM Bender said that Projects between 35W and Hiawatha are currently funded, including protected bike lane proposals and pedestrian safety elements. There is also discussion regarding possible future improvements to 26th and 28th Streets West of 35W—but no current funding. For more information:

http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MPLS/2014/07/01/file_attachments/303817/26th%252628th%2BSt%2BOpen%2BHouse%2BFlyer.pdf

SWLRT: CM Bender said the 100 people spoke at public briefing on 7/8; public testimony will be taken again at the 8/19 City Hall public hearing at 6pm. She said that the city was asked to make a decision before the end of 2014. The Met Council has reportedly stated that there will be no Environmental Impact Study available on this proposal until next January. This means that the full report of the potential environmental impact will not be available to the council members before they are expected to vote on the proposal. She also reiterated that the rail line is still publically controlled, and the City believes it is desirable to keep it under public rather than private control.

60/40 Liquor Ordinance changes: Authored by CM Glidden, Palmissano and Frey: Restaurants say that they cannot meet the current standard unless they get a full liquor license because most popular micro beers and wines are more expensive than they were previously. Public meetings will happen 8/21, 6:30 pm at Lynnhurst Park and on 9/9 at City Hall.

1-4 Unit Housing Proposal (R1-R4): CM Bender reported that CM Palmissano was proposing an ordinance that would restrict the size of new homes in residential neighborhoods (R1-R4). There will be a public meeting on this on 8/21.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Text Amendment: Would allow for accessory buildings to be turned into “granny flats”, for instance. These accessory buildings would still have homestead requirements. For details and a list of public meeting times/places see: <http://minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/WCMS1P-126877>

Food Trucks on Lake St? Some vendors have stated an interest in this. CM Bender noted some concerns have been expressed. Board members mentioned the problem of noisy generators and trash. Also, other cities have provided electrical infrastructure so

trucks don't have to use generators. Perhaps a central area for these kinds of uses could be identified? Linda Todd suggested that the Livability Committee provide input / review of any food truck activity that will occur in ECCO.

For details on most of the above updates, see the Ward 10 newsletter page:
<http://us3.campaignarchive2.com/?u=252bfa090dc297129ad02b9f8&id=226ffc0f99&e=61f6f537ab#art-fairs>

Final Decision on ECCO Funding for proposed 36th St Bike and Pedestrian Path. Board discussion focused on previously stated safety concerns regarding the current proposal and whether or not they had been addressed by the city in any changes to the proposal. The consensus was that the board's concerns had not been sufficiently addressed. **The Board voted without dissent to withdraw funding for the proposal. The President was asked to send a copy of a letter with the previously stated concerns to the city, along with the board's decision, for the public record.**

Committee to be set up for ECCO staff Monica Smith's performance review. Ben Jilek and Emily Balogh volunteered and were accepted. The Board reviewed the current Contract for Staff and approved renewal of the contract.

ECCO Criteria for Neighborhood Donations: Linda Todd, Susan Goldstein and Anja Curiskis met to discuss criteria for donations, rather than automatically giving funding to the same entities year to year. **Proposed criteria was discussed and adopted with amendments.** This will be posted on the ECCO website. There was discussion on how/when to accept proposals. Would it make sense to publicly notice a particular time of year to decide on when funding would be awarded for the next 12-month period? There will continue to be discussion on this.

Review and Approval of Community Priority Plan Options to submit to ECCO neighborhood for a vote. Linda Todd, Ben Jilek and Lara Norkus-Crampton met to discuss possible proposals. Ben discussed a proposal with the Loppet organization to continue ski trail grooming on Lake Calhoun after the Loppet events. This idea has been received well by the Loppet's Mike Erikson—who noted that there are many people who ski the lakes from this area. They would be willing to work with ECCO to come up with a proposal and will discuss this with our park commissioner, Anita Tabb. Ben will continue to push this along to be presented for a vote at the ECCO annual meeting.

Lara presented a proposal to encourage the planting of fruit trees by offering the trees free of charge and helping people plant them correctly, with a few companion plants for tree health. In exchange the recipients would agree to not use pesticides or chemicals that could be harmful to pollinators, animals, or children. This would be a legacy project. One idea was to start with cherry trees, since they had already been successfully grown in the neighborhood without pesticides. They also produce fruit within a year or two of planting. Perhaps in a few years ECCO could have it's own cherry festival.

Apples would be another option. These tend to be the most heavily sprayed and are the number one crop under the Dirty Dozen listed for pesticide residues. See: <http://www.ewg.org/foodnews/>. ECCO sponsored a workshop on growing apples organically. This would be a benefit to people who would like to eat apples without all of the chemicals. Lara is working with master gardener Nancy Ward to develop a plan to be voted on.

The ECCO Board approved both of these proposals without dissent to be further finessed for presentation to the East Calhoun neighborhood and receive a final vote at the annual meeting in October.

CEE Contract: CEE has announced a change in fee structure to manage neighborhood organization's loan and grant processes. There would now be a flat rate of \$5,000 per year, and our current budget is approximately \$50,000. There was very little advance notice so the ECCO board must make a decision soon. **The board voted, without dissent, not to continue the program with CEE under the new fee structure and will be looking for other administrative methods to manage this.**

Community Innovation Project Guidelines: The Board reviewed and will submit a recommendation that the Guidelines include examples of possible projects that the city funding would hope to promote.

Approval of \$700.00 for mailing for Annual Meeting and Community Priority Plan Options: Approved without dissent.

Updates: Super Sale was a success. Thanks are especially extended to Sylvia Kafkas who once again organized a wonderful event. Joyce Food Shelf and Open Eye Theater also sent letters of appreciation to ECCO for their support.

Labor Day Event: Heather Wulfsburg is chair and will be working with Brad Albertson to organize bingo prizes, treats donations, etc. Board Members were asked to volunteer and to help pass out flyers. Agreed.

UNN Update: UNN continues to struggle financially. September will likely be the final issue. Board Members were invited to distribute advertising packets. UNN is also asking for support from ECCO and CARAG to help fund this final issue if necessary.

Livability Committee: No new proposals have been submitted to Chairs Kate Davenport and Heather Wulfsburg. The Livability Committee is planning to create guidelines for requests to the Livability Committee. This will be discussed by the committee and presented to the ECCO board.

Annual Meeting: Linda Todd asked the entire Board to begin to speak to ECCO neighbors who might be interested in seeking election to the Board at the October Annual Neighborhood Meeting. Currently, there are at least 5 vacancies to be filled. Discussion included recommendations for creating a brief informational questionnaire for each person interested in joining the Board, which could be used to introduce possible candidates to the neighborhood.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.