

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for September 4, 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; Emily Balogh; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Paul Harstad; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board member absent: Ben Jilek.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; and ECCO residents Klaus Obergfell and Mark Rosenfeld.

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

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

- The 36th St Bikeway construction is expected to begin this month.
- Food trucks: Council Members have the authority to allow food trucks in their wards. The ordinance allow food trucks to be located on residential streets, but the Council Member may choose to restrict access to certain locations. The ordinance does not require notifying property owners that food trucks are allowed on their street. CM Bender is looking for feedback on allowing food trucks in ECCO.
- Accessory Dwellings Units ("granny flats"): Two remaining Open Houses are scheduled: September 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N. and September 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Kenwood Community Center. Information is also available online at www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/WCMS1P-126877
- 60/40 Liquor Ordinance changes: A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 1:30 pm at City Hall.
- The ordinance that would restrict the size of new homes in residential neighborhoods was unanimously approved by the City Council. New regulations will go into effect on October 1st.
- Southwest LRT: The city approved municipal consent for the project. The Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDIES) has not been released regarding environmental impacts of the tunnels in the Kenilworth Corridor. The City Council directed city staff to immediately present options if the SDIES reveals any detrimental environmental impacts.
- An ECCO board member requested that the city provide more public information regarding the status of the lawsuit against 1800 Lake.

Green Team, David Tompkins

31st St Median Tree Replacement Plan: This fall, the Park Board will remove the dying tree and grind the stumps. New drought resistant trees (disease resistant elm and seedless Kentucky coffeetree) will be planted in the spring. Watering bags will be provided for the first year or two. ECCO will request that the new trees be as mature as possible and to be planted with plants that will help sustain water in the area. Also discussed was the possibility of some type of monument or statue on the median.

Raingarden project: Signs have been installed in all of the gardens. Special thanks to resident, Nathan Campeau, for his work on the project.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Budget and expenses were reviewed for NRP and CPP programs. The ECCO Board approved a motion to shift \$2,400 from under used line items to the staff line item in the CPP budget.
- An NRP plan modification may be required to shift budgets to pay for proposed ECCO projects.
- The ECCO Board approved a motion to extend the time of performance for two NRP contracts set to expire on 12/31/14.
- The contract with Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) for the home improvement loan program has been cancelled.
- ECCO will establish a task force to recommend priorities for unspent NRP and CPP funds.

Treasurer's Report, Susie Goldstein

- ECCO's financials were reviewed.
- The grant from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for the raingarden project is expected soon. ECCO's contribution to the project was \$1,642.31.
- The Wine Tasting Fundraiser will not be held this fall. Organizers are hoping to hold the event in the spring.
- ECCO has awarded half of the \$1500 donation budget this year. The board approved a motion to add the donation application to our website and make the additional funds available for donation.

Committee Reports

Labor Day Celebration, Heather Wulfsberg

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the event a big success. Special thanks to Brad Albertson for all of his hard work to secure donations of food and bingo prizes.

Communications, Anja Curiskis

Anja is working on recycling lawn signs to promote ECCO events. The Uptown Neighborhood News will have at least one more issue. Ad sales have been increasing.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad

The Trailwatchers are seeking a partner to provide additional crime prevention monitoring on the Hiawatha Trail.

Next event: Progressive Dinner on September 7.

Livability Committee, Heather Wulfsberg and Kate Davenport

The Livability Committee introduced a new document to be used by developers/residents when requesting support from ECCO for variances, conditional use permits, rezoning, etc. The document will help ensure that nearby neighbors are notified of any potential projects. The board approved the document which will be included on ECCO's website for developers/residents to access as needed.

Food trucks: Concerns were raised about potential noise and fumes from food trucks if they are allowed on residential streets.

ECCO Projects

Ben Jilek is working with the Loppet Foundation to encourage the Park Board to extend their cross-country ski trail grooming to include Lake Calhoun.

Lara Norkus-Crampton presented a proposal for a cherry tree legacy project in East Calhoun. The ECCO Board approved a motion to offer the program at the annual meeting with a budget of \$1,500 for a pilot project. NRP funds will be used for the project.

President's Report, Linda Todd

- A performance review was conducted for Monica Smith and her contract was renewed for another year.
- A postcard mailing will be sent to all residents inviting them to the annual meeting.
- Board elections will be held at the annual meeting. Candidates are needed to serve on the board. Contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastcalhoun or 612-821-0131 for more information.
- The annual Holiday Caroling party will be held on December 17.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting is the annual meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2014, pizza dinner and social time from 6-6:30, the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.