

ECCO Annual Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2014 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Attendance

Approximately 60 residents attended the Annual Meeting including Board members: Linda Todd, President; Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Paul Harstad; Ben Jilek; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg.

Board Member Absent: Emily Balogh.

The event began with pizza and a social hour.

ECCO Board President Linda Todd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Remarks from Elected Officials:

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- Working on transportation issues: Southwest LRT; safer bikeways including the new protected bike/pedestrian trail on W 36th St and a project for Hennepin/Lyndale; streetcars on Nicollet Ave and the Midtown Greenway; improvements to bus shelters; and improved markings on sidewalks.
- 1800 Lake: Minneapolis is suing the developer of 1800 Lake for pumping groundwater into the lagoon between Calhoun and Isles. Mediation sessions have not been successful.
- Organics composting will be rolled out citywide in Spring 2015 for 1-4 unit residential buildings.
- Other initiatives reviewed were:
 - New ordinances for bee keeping and farm stands in the city.
 - Clean Energy Partnership with Xcel Energy and Centerpoint Energy with goals for greenhouse gas reductions.
 - Partners in Energy – Xcel Energy is working with midtown corridor communities to set energy goals.
 - Increasing housing options to include Accessory Dwelling Units, “granny flats” which will include a homestead requirement.
 - Reopening Nicollet at Lake St – the city is having the land and Kmart appraised to put together a financial offer to buy the property and reopen Nicollet.
 - A pilot to allow food trucks in Uptown is being considered.

Commissioner Anita Tabb, District 4, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- The dying trees on the 31st St median have been removed. Trees will be replanted in the spring, and the Park Board will water them for two year so they get well established.
- A \$3 million study of the Chain of Lakes will begin in 2015. A community advisory committee (CAC) will be formed. The 2012 design charrette will be used as a foundation.
- The land bridge idea for Lake St from the 2012 design charrette is something that the Park Board may want to pursue. There is currently no funding available for this large project so partners would need to be identified.

Senator Scott Dibble, District 61

- Accomplishments in the last session: huge investments in education including early childhood and all day kindergarten; increased the minimum wage; renter's credit; and big issues such as the marriage equality, anti-bullying bill, and medical cannabis.
- Working on a transportation bill.
- RNAV – a navigation system that was to be implemented at MSP airport that will narrow the flight paths of incoming/outgoing planes has been delayed. RNAV will significantly increase airplane traffic over certain neighborhoods. More work needs to be done on the state level but a federal solution is needed.

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), Debra Behrens

NCEC is a volunteer commission of 8 elected and 8 appointed representatives that advise the Mayor and City Council on community engagement. Debra Behrens was elected to represent ECCO and nine other neighborhoods in District 6. Behrens is serving on the NRP Policy Board and the city department engagement task force.

Activities of the 2013-14 ECCO Board, Linda Todd

Community events:

- Holiday Caroling Party in December. Thanks to hosts Judy and Michael Shields.
- 2nd annual Bike Festival in May. Thanks to organizers Anja Curiskis, Sheila Eldred, and Paul Harstad.
- 42nd annual Super Sale in June. Thanks to organizer Sylvia Kafkas.
- Community puppet show and potluck dinner in June.
- Labor Day celebration in September. Thanks to Brad Albertson for securing all the donations of bingo prizes and food and to event chair Heather Wulfsberg.

The ECCO Board worked to educate the neighborhood about RNAV and the potential impacts to the neighborhood and promoted a letter writing campaign.

Committees:

- Livability Committee: Co-chairs Kate Davenport and Heather Wulfsberg. The committee works on zoning issues, traffic, safety and public event matters relevant to the neighborhood. Implemented "good faith, good neighbor" guidelines for developers.
- Green Team: Co-chairs David Tompkins and Kathy Scoggin. The Green Team sponsored a Growing Organic Apple Workshop in April organized by Lara Norkus-Crampton and a Protect Our Pollinators project in May organized by David Tompkins and Avi Manneberg.
- Communications:
 - Uptown Neighborhood News is our local paper overseen by representatives appointed by ECCO and CARAG. ECCO reps are Anja Curiskis, Ralph Knox and Pat Rounds. The UNN is in financial jeopardy and needs financial support.
 - ECCO communicates with residents via a monthly ad in the UNN, our website (eastcalhoun.org), monthly e-newsletter and 10 new placards that

are placed around the neighborhood for updates (thanks to Anja Curiskis).

Upcoming event: Holiday Caroling Party on Wednesday, December 17.

Special thanks to the 2013-14 ECCO Board: Linda Todd, President; Susie Goldstein, Treasurer; Emily Balogh; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Paul Harstad; Ben Jilek; Lara Norkus-Crampton; Harry Savage; David Tompkins; and Heather Wulfsberg. Also thanks to the following people who served during part of the past year: Andrew Bornhoft, Liz Heyman, Jim Smith and Sarah Sponheim.

Treasurer's Report, Susie Goldstein

Susie Goldstein reviewed ECCO's financials. The board creates a budget each year. Fundraising revenue is generated by the Wine Tasting event. The event will not be held this year but organizers are hoping for a Spring 2015 event. Most of ECCO's expenses are paid by city funding. Money raised through fundraising pays for food and entertainment at ECCO event and donations to other nonprofits. A new donation application policy was adopted this year and \$750 remains in the budget to be donated this year. See www.eastcalhoun.org for the application.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) was a 20-year City of Minneapolis program that provided funding to neighborhoods to make improvements based on the needs of each neighborhood. The NRP program is phasing out; there is no new funding for this program. East Calhoun is spending down our NRP funds.

ECCO receives funding from the City of Minneapolis for the Community Participation Program (CPP) for community engagement and administrative expenses of the board. ECCO's allocation for 2014 is \$24,000.

Program for residents:

- Home Security Grants of up to \$250 per household for security upgrades.
- Rain Barrel, Compost Bin/Raingarden Grants of up to \$100 per property.
- Cherry tree project
- The home improvement loan program has been cancelled due to a drastic increase in the fees being charge by the housing administrator.

A planning task force for investment in ECCO is being formed. Volunteers are needed to identify priorities for \$75K of unspent NRP/CPP funds. The task force will begin meeting in November and will make recommendations to the ECCO Board in 4-6 months.

Residents were invited to get involved with ECCO by signing up for the e-newsletter, joining a committee, task force or the board.

Organic Cherry Tree Legacy Project, Lara Norkus-Crampton

Lara Norkus-Crampton announced the new cherry tree project being offered by the ECCO Board to support the planting of 50 organic cherry trees throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors will be asked to pay \$10 for each tree. ECCO will cover the rest of the expense. Four types of cherry trees are being offered. Registration deadline is

December 12, 2014 and the trees will be available for planting in the spring. Details are at www.eastcalhoun.org.

Board Elections

The following individuals were elected to the ECCO Board: Abby Armstrong, Rich Bettini, Susie Goldstein (2nd term), Chris Iverson, Ben Jilek (appointed in February 2014) Klaus Obergfell, Mark Rosenfeld and Caroline Vaaler. Anna Flaig and Steve Latham were elected to serve as Alternates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 6, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.