

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for November 6, 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, Outgoing President; Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage, Vice-President; Abby Armstrong, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Paul Harstad; Chris Iverson; Steve Latham; Klaus Obergfell; Mark Rosenfeld; David Tompkins; and Anna Flaig (Alternate).

Board member absent: Caroline Vaaler.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; and ECCO residents Heather Wulfsberg, Nicholas Hall, Mary Sabatke, Deborah Spirn and Samantha Strong.

Outgoing 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

- Sign up for the Ward 10 e-newsletter; call 612-673-2210 to be added to the list.
- Ten Talk on Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 am at French Meadow. The topic is transportation policy.
- The 36th St Bikeway has been completed. The bikeway will be plowed so it can remain open all year. The traffic signals were retimed and additional bollards were added. Comments may be directed to the Ward 10 office at 612-673-2210.
- Calhoun Square offers a Winter Market on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and they have been approved for a farmers market in the spring.
- The city's 2015 budget process is underway. The budget includes staff restructure in Public Works, corner sidewalk plowing and curbside organics for 1-4 unit residential buildings. Council Member Bender supports a 3% increase in neighborhood funding but does not support additional funding to neighborhoods. Bender is requesting a study of the Neighborhood and Community Relations department and how the city handles community engagement. A hearing will be held at the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee meeting on November 17, 1:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- A public hearing will be held for Accessory Dwellings Units ("granny flats") on November 10, 4:30 p.m. at the Planning Commission.
- 1800 Lake: A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance. The judge has yet to decide on damages; a hearing will be held in 30 days.

Election of Alternate

Board alternate Steve Latham was appointed to the board to fill the seat vacated by Rich Bettini.

Board Expectations

Expectations of ECCO Board members were reviewed: attend board meetings, help with neighborhood events, serve on at least one committee, and participate in fundraising (e.g. wine tasting).

Officer Elections

The following officers were elected: Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage Vice President; Abby Armstrong, Treasurer and Ben Jilek, Secretary.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Heather Wulfsberg

Next Livability meeting is November 17, 7:00 pm at St. Mary's.

Heather Wulfsberg is the outgoing co-chair of the Livability Committee. The committee addresses zoning, traffic, safety and public event matters relevant to the neighborhood. Current co-chair Kate Davenport will continue and is looking for a new co-chair.

Green Team, David Tompkins

The next Green Team meeting is November 12, 7:00 p.m. at Dunn Bros. The Green Team's upcoming work will focus on education. They are working on the cherry tree project. The Green Team is considering promoting the project by distributing fliers to the neighborhood. The ECCO Board approved a discretionary fund of up to \$150.

Communications, Anja Curiskis

Members are needed for the Communications committee to work on increasing communications with residents, and maintaining the ECCO website. The Uptown Neighborhood News is planning a December issue but they continue to struggle financially.

Social

The Social Committee works on community building through events such as the Labor Day Celebration and the upcoming Holiday Caroling Party on December 17th.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad

The city is working on preliminary plans to reopen Nicollet Ave at Lake St (Kmart site).

Friends of Walker Library

The ECCO Board approved a motion to appoint Mary Sabatke as the East Calhoun representative to the Friends group. Ideas for the library can be share with Mary at mary.sabatke@gmail.com. The next meetings of the Friends of the Walker Library are November 17 and December 15.

Treasurer's Report, Susie Goldstein

- ECCO's financials were reviewed.
- The grant from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for the raingarden project was received. The project has been completed. ECCO's contribution to the project was \$2,412.31.
- A donation request form was received from Southwest Senior Center, 3612 Bryant Ave for \$500 to be used for general support for their work with improve the health and wellness of seniors in the area. The ECCO Board approved the donation. \$250 remains in the budget for donations for 2014.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The ECCO Board meeting for January will be moved to Thursday, January 8 to avoid a conflict with the holidays.
- The Task Force for Improvement in ECCO will hold their first meeting on Monday, November 10, 6:30 pm at the Walker Library. The ECCO Board appointed Susie Goldstein as the chair of the Task Force.
- The Ackerberg Group (local company) now owns Calhoun Square. Calhoun Square is interested in partnering with neighborhood associations. Marketing Manager Brian Trinh will be invited to an upcoming board meeting.

City Budget and Neighborhood Funding

The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts that fund neighborhood revitalization and Target Center debt is expected to generate more money than projected. The mayor's 2015 budget directs the surplus to other purposes. The ECCO Board reviewed a draft of a letter asking the City Council to protect the funding needed for neighborhood organizations to continue their critical role in the city. Board members will continue to review the letter and an electronic vote will be taken to determine how to proceed.

The board thanked outgoing President Linda Todd for her service to the neighborhood over the past four years.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, December 4, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.