

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2015 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Board members present: Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage, Vice-President; Anja Curiskis; Paul Harstad; Chris Iverson; Klaus Obergfell; David Tompkins; and Caroline Vaaler.

Board members absent: Abby Armstrong, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Kate Davenport; Steve Latham; and Mark Rosenfeld.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10 and Brian Trinh, Calhoun Square.

President Susie Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

- 1800 Lake: A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance and must stop by March 31, 2015.
- East Calhoun Parkway is closed from 33rd St to 36th St for sewer repair through February 13. Hennepin Ave is the detour route. Contact Sean Oberg 612-366-5275 with questions.
- The city is monitoring a request from a resident for a no left turn signs onto Holmes Ave from eastbound 36th St.
- The city is finalizing the application process for businesses to apply for parklets.
- Update on the 2015 city budget: the budget includes fully funding the Clean Energy Partnership and organics composting and a 3% increase for neighborhood funding.
- Next Ten Talk: 2015 Ward 10 Priorities, Wednesday, January 28, 5:30-7:00 pm at Black Sheep Pizza (25th and Nicollet).

Brian Trinh, Marketing Manager, Calhoun Square

- Calhoun Square is now locally owned and operated by Ackerberg.
- Improvements are underway with more art, way-finding signs, new furniture and lighting, and a new AV system.
- The winter market has been a big success.
- A farmers market is being planned for every Friday from May-October (3-7 pm) with fresh produce and handcrafted items.
- Store update: Bay Street Shoes closed. Peoples Organic will be opening soon. Calhoun Square is in negotiations for a restaurant to least the former Figlio's space.
- Calhoun Square has budgeted to host the Wine Tasting fundraiser this summer.
- The vacant lot on Lake Street will be used for a variety of event but plans are to eventually build a hotel on the site.
- Brian can be reached at 612-465-0283 or briantrinh@Ackerberg.com

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The annual report for the 2014 Community Participation Program (CPP) is due March 16.
- The City of Lakes Loppet is looking for volunteers to staff stations on January 31 and February 1. Contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastcalhoun.org. They are also offering 10 tickets to ECCO for the Luminary Loppet.

- The board approved a gift card to be sent to Judy and Michael Shields for hosting the Holiday Caroling after party and donating food/drinks.
- An overview of ECCO's funding sources was reviewed: ECCO unrestricted (money generated by fundraising), Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding, and CPP funding (yearly funding for community engagement and administration).
- The Uptown Association annual meeting is Tuesday, January 27. ECCO will host a table for the Expo and purchase tickets for board members who will help staff the table.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is hosting the annual Community Connections Conference, Saturday, March 21. More information will be available next month.

Treasurer's Report

Susie Goldstein provided an overview of the financial transactions since last month.

Committee Reports

Communications, Anja Curiskis

The Uptown Neighborhood News continues to produce the monthly newspaper.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad

The coalition board did not meet last month.

Livability Committee

The committee met in December and gave an overview of their work to new committee members.

The next meeting is Monday, January 19, 7 pm at St. Mary's. Wells Fargo will discuss their tentative plans to build a new bank branch at 1505 W Lake St (current location of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage office and bank drive through). CPM will present designs for a new 4-story building on W Lake St (to replace the homes located at 1708 W Lake St and 1714 W Lake St).

The February committee meeting will be Monday, February 16 and include a review of an application from the owner of 3448 Hennepin to rezone the property from a duplex to a triplex.

The letter was sent to the Park Board requesting extending the cross-country ski trail grooming on Lake Calhoun. No formal response has been received.

Green Team, David Tompkins

- The next Green Team meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. at Dunn Bros.
- ECCO has received orders for 37 cherry trees.
- The Green Team will offer to help with organics recycling at the Uptown Association annual meeting.
- The East Isles Green Team asked ECCO to help support a 4-part speaker series on the subject of food. The first event is called "Eating Consciously... healthy food choices for the planet and us" on January 26, 7-8:30 at Grace-Trinity

Community Church, 1430 W 28th St. The event is free to participants, please RSVP to nrp@eastisles.org. The ECCO Green Team will discuss their capacity to support the event and get more information about the specific costs associated with supporting the series.

Social

Susie Goldstein shared an idea from Mark Rosenfeld about organizing an East Calhoun happy hour. The ECCO Board authorized \$60 to provide snacks (drinks will be cash bar) and suggested holding the event at Lake & Irving on a Monday or Tuesday in February at 7:30 pm.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

The Task Force met on December 8th. Committee members volunteered to research various ideas for neighborhood funding to determine costs and feasibility. The next meeting is Monday, February 2, 7 pm at St. Mary's.

Announcements

Chris Iverson reported that he is moving out of the neighborhood and is resigning from the ECCO Board. Thanks to Chris for his service to the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7 pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.