

## ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2015 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Board members present: Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage, Vice-President; Abby Armstrong, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Steve Latham; Klaus Obergfell; Mark Rosenfeld; and David Tompkins.

Board members absent: Anna Flaig, Paul Harstad and Caroline Vaaler.

Guests: Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; residents John Hartwig, Sally Hed and Linda Todd.

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

### **Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10**

- Curbside organics is being rolled out citywide. ECCO residents who have been participating in the pilot program are now paying for the service.
- Working on changing ordinance for backyard composting and allowing composting businesses within the city.
- Multi-modal traffic study will be conducted for the area around the proposed West Lake Station for Southwest LRT. The scope of the study is being finalized; more details will be available in the spring.
- 1800 Lake: A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance and must stop by March 31, 2015. The Park Board's portion of the lawsuit about the environmental impact to the lakes may not go forward.
- Bender is looking at reducing the city's parking space requirements for new residential projects near transit stations. Higher rent usually equates to a higher desire for parking so Bender expects that developers would keep the parking in place for any projects in ECCO.
- The City Council is reviewing policies regarding locations of homeless shelters.
- Lowry Hill East and CARAG are interested in collaborating on traffic calming.
- Bender met with Wells Fargo to review their tentative plans for a new building on Lake and Humboldt. Public Works will need to be consulted regarding a request to move the location of the driveway on Lake St.

### **New Board Member**

The ECCO Board approved a motion to elevate Anna Flaig from Alternate to Board Member to fill the seat vacated by Chris Iverson.

### **Uptown Association Annual Meeting**

Board members staffed an ECCO information table at the annual meeting. Feedback for next year is to request to be in the same room as other expo vendors, to have ECCO business cards or flier, and to provide a more interactive experience.

### **Staff Report, Monica Smith**

- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is conducting audits of neighborhood organizations. ECCO will receive a Financial Operations Review – a proactive check-in to review how we are doing, to receive feedback and an “accounting grade.”

- NCR published a guideline for allowable spending of NRP/PPP funds for festivals and community building events. ECCO is in compliance with the guidelines.
- Minneapolis Health Department is launching Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative. Kate Davenport will represent ECCO at the informational meeting on February 24 to learn more.
- Minneapolis is seeking input on measuring how it achieves its goals. Go to [success.minneapolismn.gov/a/index](http://success.minneapolismn.gov/a/index) to give feedback by February 6.
- The Park Board will begin work on a Master Plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. The plan will be a vision for the next 25 years. The budget for 2015 is \$700K (\$200K for planning and \$500K for projects – mostly trail improvements). The Park Board is seeking an additional \$3 million from the state legislature in 2016. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed. The CAC will meet ten times between April-December. ECCO will be able to appoint one representative to serve on the CAC (details are not yet available).
- The Park Board will be launching RecQuest – a system-wide needs assessment of Minneapolis recreation centers and programs to discover gaps between current facilities and offerings and the needs of the community. The assessment will instruct the next 25 years of investment in recreation centers. Community engagement will begin in early spring.
- The Community Connections Conference will be Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The conference will feature creative, interactive exhibits by neighborhood organizations and nonprofits. ECCO is considering its capacity to staff to an exhibit table.
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will begin updating its Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (updated every 10 years). Informational meetings will be held this month. For more information: [www.minnehahacreek.org/2017](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/2017).
- Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene holds monthly office hours in the district. The next event is Friday, February 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Spyhouse on Hennepin Ave. Sign up for her monthly e-newsletter, go to: [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) (and search Find Your Commissioner).
- The Home Security grant funding from NRP Phase I is nearly depleted. The ECCO Board approved a motion to implement the grant program in our NRP Phase II plan with \$100 grants for home security.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Abby Armstrong provided an overview of the financial transactions since last month. The ECCO Board approved the proposed budget for unrestricted spending in 2015.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Livability Committee, Ben Jilek and Kate Davenport**

The committee met on January 19 and reviewed two projects: Wells Fargo and CPM development on Lake St.

Wells Fargo presented tentative plans to build a new bank branch at 1505 W Lake St (current location of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage office and drive through). The new building would be a 5,000 square foot, 1-story building and become the location for the Wells Fargo Uptown branch that is currently in the Sons of Norway building. A parking

variance would be needed. The committee asked Wells Fargo to consider moving the proposed driveway exit onto Lake St slightly further to the east to improve sight lines for pedestrian safety. The city will need to approve moving the driveway.

CPM presented designs for a new 4-story building on W Lake St to be called Seventeen10 (replacing the homes located at 1708 W Lake St and 1714 W Lake S in East Isles). The committee took no action but will discuss the project at their next meeting on Monday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.

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**

- ECCO has received orders for 40 cherry trees. A workshop is being planned for mid-late April.
- A pollinator event is being organized for mid May.
- Earth Day clean up is scheduled for April 25.
- The Green Team will not be asking the ECCO Board for funds to support the East Isles speaker series on food.

**Social, Mark Rosenfeld**

The East Calhoun happy hour will be Monday, February 9, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving. A survey will be available to get feedback on the types of social events residents are interested in attending.

**Communications, Anja Curiskis**

The Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN) has hit their financial trigger point, meaning that they will only produce one more paper (March issue) unless an additional funding is identified.

The UNN board has plans in place to held increase ad revenue and is asking ECCO and CARAG to support to the paper to allow extra time to implement the plans. The ECCO Board approved a motion to provide \$1,050 (of ECCO's NRP funds designated for UNN) for full-page ads in the March and April issues. The vote was 5 yea, 3 nay and 1 abstain (note: Ben Jilek was not present during this vote). A suggestion was made to form a working group to discuss ECCO's communication plans.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

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