

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2015 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: Susie Goldstein, President; Abby Armstrong, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Anja Curiskis; Paul Harstad; Steve Latham; Klaus Obergfell; Mark Rosenfeld; David Tompkins; and Caroline Vaaler.

Board members absent: Harry Savage, Vice-President; Kate Davenport; and Anna Flaig.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; resident Jason Howell.

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

- The property tax valuation notices have been mailed. Follow instructions on the notice if you would like to contest the listed value.
- Minneapolis/St. Paul will host the 2016 International Winter Cycling Congress.
- The Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) program is looking for volunteers to help local seniors with leaf raking and yard cleanup this spring. Please contact the HOME program volunteer coordinator at scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org or 952-767-7894 for more information.
- Wells Fargo is revising their plans for a new building at Lake and Humboldt to avoid a curb-cut on Lake St.
- Curbside organics is being rolled out citywide. ECCO residents who have been participating in the pilot program are now paying for the service. Residents can save money by requesting smaller trash bins.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The Park Board will begin work on a Master Plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed. ECCO will be able to appoint one representative to serve on the CAC. Details will be available in early April. ECCO will ask candidates to complete an application. ECCO will select its representative at the May ECCO Board meeting.
- Park Board news: a redesigned website was launched (www.minneapolisparcs.org); the milfoil harvesting maps for the Chain of Lakes are available; and their 2014 annual report was published.
- Public meeting for trail improvements to William Berry Parkway is Thursday, March 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church (Lecture Room).
- The Community Connections Conference is Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To register, go to: www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference
- The board reviewed the social events that ECCO has been sponsoring. The board approved funding for the Puppet Show and Community Potluck on June 6th.
- The ECCO Board will not meet in July due to potential conflicts with the July 4th holiday weekend.
- The ECCO Board approved the 2014 Community Participation Program (CPP) annual report.

Treasurer's Report

Abby Armstrong presented the Treasurer's Report. Armstrong is considering resigning as Treasurer if someone is interested in serving in the role.

Committee Reports

Communications, Anja Curiskis

The Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN) continues to struggle. They will publish an April paper but that may be their last edition. The UNN Managing Board will meet on March 11th to review the finances.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad

The emergency phones on the Greenway have been upgraded. Additional lighting and signage has been added to the Greenway.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is promoting an Adopt-A-Garden program. The ECCO Green Team will consider the program at their next meeting.

Livability Committee, Ben Jilek

The committee met on February 16 and heard a presentation regarding a request to rezone 3448 Hennepin Ave from a duplex to a triplex. Seven nearby neighbors attended the meeting to share their opposition to the rezoning. The Midtown Greenway Rezoning Study reviewed every parcel in ECCO (and other neighborhoods) to determine if the property should retain the current zoning or be changed. The study was adopted by the City Council in 2010 and included retaining the R2B (duplex) zoning for 3448 Hennepin Ave S. The ECCO Board approved a draft of a letter to be sent to the property manager and architect stating that ECCO does NOT support the request to rezone the property.

Regarding the proposed 4-story building on W Lake St to be called Seventeen10 (1708 -14 W Lake S in East Isles). The board will wait to see what action the East Isles board takes at their meeting on March 10. The Livability Committee will make a recommendation to the ECCO Board and take an electronic vote prior to the public hearing for the project on March 16.

Green Team, David Tompkins

- The next Green Team meeting is March 10, 7:00 p.m. at Dunn Bros. on 34th and Hennepin.
- Upcoming events are: Cherry Tree Workshop, April 14, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's; Earth Day Clean Up on April 25, 9:30 a.m. – Noon at Lake Calhoun; and Pollinator Workshop on May 16, morning at St. Mary's.
- The Green Team will be discussing the possibility of a social event after the Earth Day Clean Up. The ECCO Board approved up to \$100 for food if the Green Team decides to plan an event.

Social, Mark Rosenfeld

The first East Calhoun happy hour on February 9 was well attended. The ECCO Board approved \$60 for a second event, tentatively to be held on April 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving. Details need to be confirmed.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

Susie Goldstein gave an overview of the February 2nd Task Force meeting. The next meeting is March 9, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

The board is considering options for communicating with residents if the Uptown Neighborhood News goes out of business.

New Business

- Mark Rosenfeld suggested that the ECCO bylaws need to be updated to remove gender specific pronouns and to include a voice vote (vs. paper ballots) for ECCO Board members at the annual meeting.
- The North Star Bicycle Festival race will be on Friday, June 19 in Uptown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, April 2, 2015, 7 pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.