

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for June 4, 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; Harry Savage, Vice-President; Klaus Obergfell, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Abby Armstrong; Mark Rosenfeld; David Tompkins; and Caroline Vaaler.

Board members absent: Anja Curiskis, Kate Davenport, Anna Flaig, and Paul Harstad.

Guest: Residents Lara Norkus-Crampton and Linda Todd.

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

#### **Update from Ward 10:**

- Off-Street Residential Parking: Proposed ordinance change to completely eliminate off-street parking requirements for multi-family dwellings of 5-50 units that are within 350 feet of a bus or rail transit stop with midday service of 15 minutes or less (in other words: no off-street parking would be required). A public hearing will be held at the Planning Commission on June 15, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The City Council will vote on the repeal of the spitting and lurking ordinance on June 5.

#### **President's Report, Susie Goldstein**

- ECCO is working to ensure that the Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held in 2015.
- Task Force: As discussed last month, the Task Force would like to pursue a radon program to provide testing and grants for abatement. A loan to a nonprofit that promotes affordable housing in the city is also being considered. ECCO will need to amend our NRP Phase II language to make these uses allowable for our NRP funds. After introducing the language change last month, the ECCO Board approved the following language: "Matching Grant and Revolving Loan Program – Establish a housing matching grant or loan program to promote initiatives such as energy efficiency and environmental upgrades, exterior home improvements, and affordable housing." Plans need to be refined further and the board will vote on definite plans at a later date.

The Task Force is meeting on June 8, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's with the Minnesota Department of Health to draft a radon program. The goal is to announce the program at the annual meeting.

- The City is evaluating changes to the City's zoning ordinance for overnight shelters. The current regulations require that all new overnight shelters must be in an existing religious place of assembly. Two community meetings will be held: June 22, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E Franklin Ave, and July 27m 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Hennepin County North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N.
- Susie Goldstein attended the May 28th Uptown Community Engagement meeting hosted by the Uptown Association. Participants included residents from Uptown

neighborhoods and representatives from the business associations. Three initial common priorities emerged:

- Improving accessibility and vibrancy of local business. Work to make sure that residents and customers can more easily access successful businesses.
- Reduce crime and increase safety.
- Strengthen neighborhood voice in new development.

Next step: The group will meet in June and answer the following questions:

- Are the initial priorities correct? If not, what would you prioritize?
- What would get you excited to participate in an umbrella organization of neighborhood and business associations?

Susie will forward the information to board members to review and provide feedback.

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

- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) published a draft of a new policy for unspent NRP funds. The policy requires neighborhoods to take action if they have not expended at least 85% and contracted at least 95% of the original plan allocation plus program income within seven years of their NRP Plan approval. Neighborhoods can request a waiver if they meet established criteria. The ECCO Board reviewed an overview of the policy and will make the following suggestions:
  - Recommend changing the waiver language *from* one year *to* three years (for recent plan modification, contract closeout or receipt of program income that may temporarily result in the neighborhood being below thresholds).
  - Expand waiver to include:
    - If money is in an active contract but it hasn't been spent yet (for example ECCO's Home Security Grant program).
    - If a contract is pending (for example with the Park Board).

ECCO's 7-year anniversary date is April 24, 2017 (for Phase II). To-date, we have contracted 76% and expended 66%.

- NCR also published a draft of the "Blueprint for Equitable Engagement." ECCO asked for an extension of the comment period so we have a more thoughtful review of the policy before commenting. The policy includes the following statement: "The role of neighborhood organizations has not substantially changed for over 20 years. As the city has become more diverse and the issues and opportunities have changed, it is time to review the role of neighborhood organizations. In addition, in order to be effective, neighborhood organizations must have strong and positive relationships, recruit and develop new leadership, and preserve their integrity with the community, other agencies and elected officials."

ECCO also requested that NCR host a community meeting to discuss the policy draft.

Linda Todd, Caroline Vaaler and Lara Norkus-Crampton volunteered to work on a response to the policy.

- The Task Force is focusing on improvements to the east side of Lake Calhoun. Members of the team walked the area with Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb to discuss ideas. Commissioner Tabb said most of the ideas should be reviewed by the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the upcoming Calhoun/Harriet Master Plan. Maintenance issues (such as repairing a broke swing or stripping crosswalks) will be handled by Park Board crews.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> events: Super Sale and Puppet Show and Block Party. Volunteer sign-ups were reviewed.
- The ECCO Board approved the Labor Day budget as presented.
- Upcoming Park Board meetings (in June/July for SW Minneapolis) will cover two topics:
  - RecQuest – Vision for the next generation of Park Board’s recreation centers (facilities and programming) to form a 30-year investment strategy.
  - Closing the Gap – Reviewing funding gaps specifically for neighborhood parks.
- The Lake Street Energy Challenge is an opportunity for residents and businesses along the Lake Street-Midtown Greenway corridor to impact the way energy is used and produced in the community. Neighborhoods that border Lake Street are being asked to join the program. The ECCO Board is interested in learning more to possibly participate in the program.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

The report will be emailed to board members.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Communications**

The final issue of the Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN) is the June 2015 edition. Board members will hand deliver fliers for the Labor Day Celebration and we are planning a postcard mailing for the Annual Meeting. The ECCO Board will consider communication options for the future.

#### **North Star Bicycle Festival**

Paul Harstad is organizing a Kids’ Fun Zone to complement the kids’ race at June 19<sup>th</sup> event. The Fun Zone will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and will feature various bike activities. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts. Contact Paul Harstad at [pharstad@yahoo.com](mailto:pharstad@yahoo.com) to sign up.

#### **Livability Committee**

The next meeting is June 15, 7:00 p.m. at Calhoun Square (in empty retail space on main floor next to Blush). The agenda includes:

- Variance request to increase the size of a detached Accessory Dwelling Unit at 3213 E Calhoun Pkwy.

- Presentation for a proposed development at 3041 Holmes (Lucia's parking lot) for a 9-unit, luxury apartment building of six stories (80' tall) with a first-floor restaurant. The developer is requesting the following:
  - Rezone the property from multi-family residential to commercial to allow for mixed-use.
  - Conditional use permit for building height of 80 ft (56 ft is allowed).
  - Variance for sideyard setback of 5 ft (from allowable 15 ft) on the north side.

The project team mailed a notice to property owners within 350 ft of the proposed building inviting them to come to the meeting on June 15.

### **Green Team**

The Green Team is in transition and in need of a committee chair.

Pollinator Program on May 16 was very interesting, unfortunately attendance was low.

The final number of trees planted through the cherry tree program was 47. The team is working on a small sign for participants to place in their yards.

### **Social**

The next Happy Hour events are: June 8 and July 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Lake & Irving.

The ECCO Board does not meeting in July. The next meeting is Thursday, August 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.