

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for September 3, 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; Klaus Oberfell, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Abby Armstrong; Anja Curiskis; Kate Davenport; Anna Flaig; Paul Harstad; Mark Rosenfeld; and Caroline Vaaler

Board member absent: Harry Savage, Vice-President.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10 and resident Harvey Zuckman.

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

Harvey Zuckman, ECCO's representative to the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan & Improvements Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC is working on a the Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan that will be the vision for the lakes over the next 25 years. Funding of \$3 million is budgeted for construction to begin in Spring 2017. Additional improvements will be implemented as funds become available.

Ideas for improvement from the ECCO Board have been submitted for consideration. Additional ideas may be submitted to Deb Bartels, Project Manager at dbartels@minneapolisparks.org (and please copy Harvey Zuckman at harveyhz@mac.com).

Upcoming CAC meetings:

- September 21, 6:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave
- September 29, 6:30 p.m. also at Jones-Harrison Residence

Upcoming Open Houses:

- October 1, 6:30 p.m. at Bakken Museum
- November 5, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

For more information about the project, go to www.minneapolisparks.org and search Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan. All documents relating to the project can be found on the website.

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

- Council Member Bender is working on a working-families ordinance (paid sick time and fair scheduling) and revising the homeless shelter ordinance.
- There is no update from Wells Fargo on their plans for a new bank building on the SW corner of Lake St and Humboldt Ave.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The Labor Day Celebration will be held on September 7. Volunteers are needed.
- The Annual Meeting will be October 8. The agenda will feature: activities of the board, introduction of the radon program, updates from elected officials, and

elections of new board members. Volunteers will be needed for set up, pizza serving, welcome desk, and clean up.

- The Wine Tasting Fundraiser is October 28, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Calhoun Square. ECCO's goal is to sell 140 tickets. The ECCO Board approved the following: \$50 toward a gift for Pat Fleetham, the long-time event organizer; 1 free ticket for anyone who sells 10 or more tickets; 1 free ticket for anyone who volunteers for a 2-hour shift at the event; and to donate 2 tickets for bingo prizes at the Labor Day Celebration.
- The Community Participation Program (CPP) budget vs. spending was reviewed.

Treasurer's Report

Klaus Obergfell reported that the finances remain stable and within budget.

Committee Reports

Communications

The chalkboard signs will be used to promote Labor Day and the other upcoming events.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

There has been a spike in late-night crime on the Greenway (near Cedar and Bloomington Aves).

Livability Committee

Jim Graves and Collage Architects will be invited to give an update on the proposed development at 3041 Holmes Ave at the next meeting of the Livability Committee, September 21, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is September 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Lake & Irving. The holiday caroling party is December 17.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

- The ECCO Board approved a one-year extension of Monica Smith's contract (with two additional hours per week to implement the Radon Program).
- ECCO submitted the following priorities to the Greater Uptown Community Partnership:
 - Promote a safe environment with calmed streets and widened sidewalks.
 - Create priority list of intersections to address pedestrian safety issues.
 - Encourage redevelopment projects to be transit supportive with integration of bike and pedestrian amenities as well as accessible and visually appealing transit stops.
- The next meeting of the Task Force is October 26, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's.
- The ECCO Board voted to approve the August 6th board meeting minutes.
- Mark Rosenfeld suggested changes to the ECCO Bylaws to make them gender neutral and to change the voting procedure for the ECCO Board elections to voice vote (if uncontested). Mark will send the revisions to board members for electronic approval. The community will officially vote on the proposed bylaws changes at the annual meeting on October 8.
- The Park Board is facing funding gaps for neighborhood parks. A group has formed

to assess the chances for a referendum. A public forum will be held to hear how other cities have tackled funding challenges. The forum is September 29, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Walker Art Center.

New Business

- The discussion about a letter of support for Southwest LRT was tabled since the author of the letter was not in attendance to introduce the issue.
- AchieveMpls is interested in partnering on an initiative called *Our City, Our Schools*, a community-wide education series designed to enhance community understanding of the strengths and challenges of Minneapolis Public Schools. Anja Curiskis volunteered to get more information about the program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next meeting is the ECCO Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 8, 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.