

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for November 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: President Susie Goldstein, Vice President Brittany Edwards, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Secretary Ben Jilek, Rachel Hoben, Anna Flaig, Paul Harstad, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board member absent: Secretary Ben Jilek, Ellen Anderson-benge, Abby Armstrong, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, and Mark Rosenfeld.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10 and residents Gary Farland and Linda Todd.

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 City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for Wells Fargo (for a new bank building on the SW corner of Lake St and Humboldt Ave) on November 16, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The city has not yet received an application for the Graves' project on the corner of Holmes and W 31st St.
- Lucia's is requesting to convert parking meters for valet parking use. Lucia's will be invited to our next Livability Committee meeting.
- W 29th St will be reconstructed in two phases - 2016: Lyndale to Bryant and 2020: Bryant to Hennepin.
- Reopening Nicollet Ave at Lake St: A City Council committee will vote on a proposal to purchase one-third of the property and on a 2-year purchase agreement for the remainder of the property. Kmart has a lease on the land through 2053.
- 2016 Minneapolis budget public hearings: November 18 and December 9, both hearings are at 6:05 pm at City Hall. Two-thirds of property owners will see a decrease in property taxes.
- Neighborhood funding comes from a TIF district created by the state legislature; the TIF district will expire in 2020.
- Regarding a possible Park Board referendum: The City Council has the power to decide if this item will be a ballot referendum.

Officer Elections

The following ECCO Board officers were elected: Susie Goldstein, President; Brittany Edwards, Vice President; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Klaus Obergfell, Treasurer.

Board Expectations

Expectations of ECCO Board members were reviewed: attend board meetings, help with neighborhood events, serve on at least one committee, and participate in fundraising (e.g. wine tasting).

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Wine Tasting Fundraiser: Thanks to all for volunteering and selling tickets. ECCO sold 137 tickets, plus 20 online tickets. Special thanks to the sponsors: Hennepin Lake Liquor, Calhoun Square, Parella, and Great Clips.
- Radon program: free radon test kits are being distributed at ECCO meetings and events; at St. Mary's church office (during office hours Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm); and by neighbor Bobbie Keller at 612-825-1694.
- NRP and CPP expenses were reviewed. The ECCO Board approved a motion to extend the NRP Phase II implementation contract for another three years.
- ECCO will partner with the 5th Precinct and the other Uptown neighborhoods for a series of crime prevention events in 2016. The first event will be a personal safety workshop hosted by CARAG in March. ECCO will host a garage security event in June.

Treasurer's Report

Klaus Obergfell sent the Treasurer's report to board members via email. A suggestion was made to move some of ECCO's unrestricted funds to a certificate of deposit for a better interest rate.

Committee Reports

Communications

Caroline Vaaler and Rachel Hoben will serve on the Communications Committee.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Resident Roger Messner is interested in being ECCO's representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition board.

Livability Committee

The ECCO Board approved the following:

- A draft of a letter to be sent to the Planning Commission regarding the proposed Wells Fargo bank building on Humboldt and Lake St in support of the variance requests for parking and sign height.
- A draft of a letter regarding the proposed Grave's project on Holmes and W 31st St. The letter will not be sent until ECCO receives a notification of the formal application to ensure that there are no changes to the proposal since Mr. Graves last presented to the committee.
- Lucia's will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the valet parking options.
- The next meeting is Monday, November 16, 7:00 pm at St. Mary's.

Green Team

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. More information will be shared next month to see if ECCO wants to join the effort.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is November 9, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Lake & Irving. The holiday caroling party is December 17. A suggestion was made to add an activity for National Night Out next year.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

- The Mayor abandoned the Working Families Agenda proposal.
- The board discussed the name change for Lake Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska. There were mixed reactions but generally people talked about a long-term transition (if at all).
- The next meeting of the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan Community Advisory Committee is November 17. Gary Farland will represent ECCO in Harvey Zuckman's absence.
- Rachel Hoben will be ECCO's representative to the Greater Uptown Community Partnership.
- Residents met with Park Board Commissioner Tabb to explore options for improvements to the Loon Lake Trolley Path (mowing overgrown vegetation and adding wood chips to the walking path).
- Task Force: board members will share opinions via email about a home improvement grant program vs. providing a loan for affordable housing in the city.
- MSP Home Tour – organizers are looking for home in SW Minneapolis. Dates of the tour are April 30-May 1, 2015. Go to www.msphometour.com for more information.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations revised their draft of the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement. The ECCO Board will review the draft and vote electronically on comments to the draft.
- The holiday lighting in Uptown will be changed from twinkle lights to LED snowflake lights.

New Business

- Food Drive to benefit Joyce Uptown Food Shelf: drop off food at Calhoun Square through November 15.
- Mary Sabatke was appointed as ECCO representative to the Friends of Walker Library.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.