

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for December 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: President Susie Goldstein, Vice President Brittany Edwards, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Secretary Ben Jilek, Ellen Anderson-benge, Abby Armstrong, Gary Farland, Paul Harstad, Rachel Hoben, Paul Harstad, Mark Rosenfeld, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board member absent: Nathan Campeau and Alex Cleberg.

Guests: Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; Chloe Brigl, Lake Street Energy Challenge; and residents Kay Anderson, Chuck Bennett, Sally Spence and Harvey Zuckman.

President Susie Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Member Elevation

The board approved a motion to elevate Gary Farland (first Alternate) to fill the board seat vacated by Anna Flaig.

Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

ECCO did not have enough online votes to approve the comments to the revised draft of the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement so the comments were not sent.

Greater Uptown Community Partnership, Rachel Hoben

Candidates are being interviewed for the Coordinator position. ECCO will send a check for \$350 to support the partnership.

Lake Street Energy Challenge

ECCO Green Team Co-Chairs Sally Spence and Chuck Bennett along with Chloe Brigl discussed the Lake Street Energy Challenge, which 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.

Eight of 17 neighborhoods along the corridor have to sign on to participate.

The ECCO Board approved a resolution to work on Lake Street Energy Challenge efforts in 2015 and 2016.

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- The City Planning Commission denied the parking variance requested by Wells Fargo (for a new bank building on the SW corner of Lake St and Humboldt Ave). Wells Fargo appealed the decision, which will be heard by the Zoning & Planning Committee of the City Council in January.
- The application was filed with the city for the Graves' project on the corner of Holmes and W 31st St. A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission in January. A zoning change to OR2 is being requested. The building will include a commercial space (no longer a restaurant).

- Mr. Graves is also proposing to build an 84' tall hotel on Lake St and Emerson Ave. CM Bender does not support the current design.
- CM Bender approved Lucia's request to convert two parking meters on W 31 St for valet parking use.
- W 29th St will be reconstructed in two phases - 2016: Lyndale to Bryant and 2020: Bryant to Hennepin.
- Reopening Nicollet Ave at Lake St: the city continues to work toward purchasing property to reopen Nicollet Ave at Lake St (Kmart site).
- The mayor proposed a 3.6% increase to the total levy for the 2016 budget. A public hearing will be held December 9, 6:05 pm at City Hall. Two-thirds of property owners will see a decrease in property taxes.
- The City Council recently amended the ordinance to allow emergency overnight shelter in all parts of the city (30-day maximum stay).
- CM Bender discussed the recent protest at the 4th Precinct.
- The final Council meeting of the year originally scheduled for December 16th has been cancelled.
- Resident Kay Anderson raised concerns about an internet company laying cable on residential property on Irving Ave. CM Bender will investigate.

Calhoun/Harriet Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Harvey Zuckman

- The CAC began its work in July 2015 and is expected to finish by February 2016 to create a 25-year master plan for the lakes. Any potential improvements need to be included in the plan to be considered for funding in 2017 and beyond.
- Areas of focus are: ecology, recreation and story telling.
- A survey to provide feedback to proposals is available through December 6.
- Harvey Zuckman said that the idea of extending the trolley from Lake Harriet to the Tin Fish is being considered but it may not be practical and it would not effectively move people around all areas of the lakes.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Wine Tasting Fundraiser: Thanks to all for volunteering and selling tickets. ECCO's total sales were \$4,459. Special thanks to the sponsors: Hennepin Lake Liquor, Calhoun Square, Parella, and Great Clips. ECCO may be asked to be the permit holder if the event is held again next year.
- Radon program: The ECCO Board approved the first radon mitigation application. 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.
- The City Council approved the revised policy for unspent NRP funds. Within 7 years of NRP plan approval, neighborhoods need to expend 85% and contract 95% of funds. If the thresholds have not been met, the policy outlines steps that neighborhoods can take to meet those thresholds. ECCO has spent all of our Phase I money; the 7-year anniversary for Phase II is April 2017.
- Calhoun Square is selling holiday trees to benefit the four Uptown neighborhoods. Trees are \$29, \$39 and \$49 and are being sold during mall hours through December 23.
- NCR published an annual report of neighborhood activities for 2014.

Treasurer's Report

The bank account has outdated information for authorized signers. The ECCO Board approved a motion to send a letter to the bank limiting access to all accounts to Susie Goldstein and Klaus Obergfell only.

Committee Reports

Communications

Rachel Hoben will be the administrator of the Facebook page. A postcard mailing is being planned for the first quarter of 2016.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Paul Harstad reported that the Tour de Fat fundraiser has been cancelled for 2016. New ideas for fundraisers are being explored.

Livability Committee

The application has been submitted for the Grave's project on Holmes and W 31st St. The Livability Committee will revise its letter to reflect recent changes to the plans. The ECCO Board will review and approve the letter at the January 7, 2016 meeting.

Two home burglaries have been reported on the 3100 block of Humboldt.

The committee will not meet in December. The next meeting is Monday, January 18 (MLK day), 7:00 pm at St. Mary's.

Green Team

The Green Team will be planning events for the Lake Street Energy Challenge. Approval will be requested from the ECCO Board if there are any costs associated with the events.

Sally Spence will be the site coordinator for the Earth Day Clean Up in April 2016.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is December 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Lake & Irving. The holiday caroling party is December 17, meet in the Lecture Room at St. Mary's (south end of building) at 6:30 p.m.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

The ECCO Board will discuss the possibility of reintroducing a home improvement grant at the January 7th meeting.

New Business

- An East Isles resident is seeking support to lobby the city and county for better lighting on Lake St (west of E. Calhoun Pkwy). The request will be forwarded to the Greater Uptown Community Partnership.
- A representative from the City of Lakes Loppet will be invited to the January 7th meeting.

- An ECCO resident wants support to request that the bus shelter be replaced on Lagoon at E. Calhoun Pkwy. This will be on the agenda for the January Livability Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, January 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.