

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2016 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

The ECCO Board approved the minutes on February 4, 2016. A quorum was not present at the meeting so no formal business was conducted.

Board members present: President Susie Goldstein, Vice President Brittany Edwards, Treasurer Klaus Oberfell, Ellen Anderson-benge, Nathan Campeau, and Gary Farland.

Board member absent: Secretary Ben Jilek, Abby Armstrong, Alex Cleberg, Paul Harstad, Rachel Hoben, Mark Rosenfeld, and Caroline Vaaler.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10 Mike Erickson, Loppet Foundation and resident Lara Norkus-Crampton.

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

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

- Wells Fargo's proposed bank building for the SW corner of Lake St and Humboldt Ave): The Zoning and Planning Committee of the City Council approved a revised parking variance for 25 parking spaces (the code allows 17 space). The City requested that Wells Fargo make the parking lot available for after-hours use by others. Details to be worked out.
- Workplace Regulations Partnership is a 19-member body that has been established to study the impact of policy proposals related to workplace regulations on earned sick time and paid time off, to engage the community in the development of policy proposals, and to reports its policy proposal on earned sick time and paid time off to the City Council Committee of the Whole by February 24, 2016.
- Council Member Bender is working on an ordinance for inclusionary zoning that would provide incentives to developers for including affordable housing in new developments.
- The City expects to adopt a Complete Streets Policy by the summer.

Mike Erickson, Loppet Foundation

The City of Lakes Loppet is scheduled for February 5-7. The race finish line will be on the west side of Lake Calhoun (weather permitting). A new event is being planned for this year -- speed skating races on a one-kilometer oval on Lake Calhoun (weather dependent).

Volunteers are needed to help with the event. To sign up, go to www.loppet.org/cityoflakesloppet/volunteer.

The Loppet Foundation is planning to build a \$10 million adventure center in Wirth Park. Once built, the Loppet Foundation will take over the cross-country trail grooming responsibilities from the Park Board. ECCO and the Loppet Foundation are advocating to extend the trail-grooming season on Lake Calhoun.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Radon program: Two radon mitigation grant applications have been approved. 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.
- 155 trees were sold at the Calhoun Square holiday tree lot. Proceeds will be distributed to the four Uptown neighborhoods.
- An outside consultant has been hired by the City of Minneapolis to evaluate the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department and its programs (CPP and NPR).
- NCR is making final edits to the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement. The final document will go the City Council for final approval and adoption in February.
- Organics recycling: Certain materials are no longer accepted in the organics carts: dryer lint and paper products that are not certified compostable (Chinese food containers, ice cream tubs, to-go containers, paper plates with designs, butcher paper). All paper cups, plates, and to-go containers with a lining must be certified compostable to be accepted.
- Minneapolis Park Board is considering ballot language for a November 2016 referendum to invest more money in neighborhood parks (annual maintenance and capital improvements).
- Uptown neighborhoods will host a personal safety workshop in early April.
- An ECCO resident suggested that we host a neighborhood clothing swap. The Green Team will consider the suggestion.

Treasurer's Report, Klaus Obergfell

The Treasurer's Report was emailed to board members in advance of the meeting.

A budget for ECCO's 2016 unrestricted expenses will be presented at the February meeting.

Organic Apple Tree Workshop, Lara Norkus-Crampton

ECCO hosted a successful organic apple tree workshop in 2014. Lara Norkus-Crampton would like ECCO's approval to offer another workshop (February 2016). Lara is requested a guest speaker honorarium of \$150 (using NRP funds). The information will be emailed to the ECCO Board for an electronic vote since we did not have a quorum at tonight's meeting.

Committee Reports

Communications

The Communications Committee will meet to begin working on a postcard mailing.

Livability Committee

Graves' development on Holmes and W 31st St: A public hearing for the proposed development will be held by the Planning Commission on January 11, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. The Livability Committee Co-Chairs will review the letter that the ECCO Board approved in November 2015 to make sure there were no additional changes to the development since the letter was approved.

Brittany Edwards will work with the police liaison to recruit block leaders for every block in the neighborhood.

Green Team

The Green Team is planning a solar garden workshop in February.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is January 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.

Thanks to Judy and Michael Shields for hosting the holiday caroling after-party.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

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

The Greater Uptown Community Partnership will meet on January 13th.

The next meeting of the Calhoun/Harriet Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is January 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence. The CAC will begin making decisions to finalize the master plan for the lakes.

Lake Street Council

Allison Sharkey from the Lake Street Council will reschedule her presentation to the board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, February 4, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.