

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2016 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, Secretary Ben Jilek, Ellen Anderson-benge, Abby Armstrong, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, Rachel Hoben, Mark Rosenfeld, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board member absent: Treasurer Klaus Obergfell and Gary Farland.

Guests: Council Member Cam Gordon, Ward 2, Allison Sharkey from Lake Street Council and ECCO resident Jim Freethy.

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

The Save Our Minneapolis Parks speaker was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

### **Council Member Cam Gordon, Ward 2**

Council Members Gordon and Warsame are proposing the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance, which would ban single-use plastic bags (these bags cause litter, are hard on the waste stream and have manufacturing impacts). The proposal calls for retailers to no longer allow single-use plastic bags at checkout and instead offer recyclable paper, compostable plastic or thicker (4 mil) plastic bags for 5¢. There are exemptions to the ordinance (such as dry cleaners, newspapers).

A public hearing will be held at the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee meeting at City Hall on March 21, 1:30 p.m.

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

- ECCO received \$685 from the holiday tree lot at Calhoun Square. Thank you cards were sent to the sponsors: Go 96.3 and Calhoun Square.
- The Community Connections Conference is April 2, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. The event is free and open to all. Register at [ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://ci.minneapolis.mn.us).
- ECCO is collecting foil-lined energy bar wrappers and GoGo squeez pouches. The wrappers are sent to TerraCycle to be recycled and ECCO receives payment. Contact Monica Smith at [nrp@eastcalhoun.org](mailto:nrp@eastcalhoun.org) for more information and to collect wrappers/pouches.
- Tree Trust is offering \$25 trees to Minneapolis residents. Ward 10 residents can preorder trees beginning March 7; pick up May 21-23. Go to [treetrust.org](http://treetrust.org) to order.
- ECCO is co-sponsoring a Personal Safety and Robbery Prevention Workshop on March 31, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Bryant Square Park, 3101 Bryant Ave S.
- Radon program update: 20 radon kits have been analyzed; 30% had elevated levels of radon. Two grants have been paid.
- NCR is working on a revised draft of Community Participation Program (CPP) guidelines for 2017-2019. The draft will be available for public comment next month.

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

The next meeting of CAC will be March 24, 6:00 p.m. at Park Board headquarters. Focus areas #4-6 will be discussed. ECCO's CAC member Harvey Zuckman will be invited to the March 21<sup>st</sup> Livability Committee meeting to gather more feedback about the proposed changes for the East Calhoun section of the lake.

### **Community Participation Program Annual Report**

Neighborhoods are required to complete an annual report for 2015 CPP activity. The document asks neighborhoods to identify highlights from 2015 and priorities for 2016.

Highlights identified:

- Cherry Tree program
- Creating a Task Force for unspent NRP fund and implementing the Radon Program.

Priorities will include:

- Support the work of the Calhoun/Harriet Master Plan
- Partner with four Uptown neighborhoods to sponsor quarterly crime and safety events
- Work to balance the development on Lake Street while maintaining livability of a residential neighborhood.
- Communicate and engage residents via new quarterly postcard mailing and online presence (website, e-newsletter and Facebook).

A draft of the report will be presented to the board for approval at the April meeting.

### **June Block Party event**

The ECCO Board approved the following for the June 4, 2016 ECCO Block Party: Open Eye Figure Theatre puppet show and "sPARKit" a mobile pop-up park with games.

### **Treasurer's Report**

ECCO's bank balances were reported.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Communications**

Caroline Vaaler is finalizing the postcard that will go to all ECCO residents to promote upcoming events. Additional postcards will be printing to use for door knocking.

All are encourage to "like" the page: East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO). The board approved a promotion to give a free ECCO t-shirt (up to \$35) to one of the first 200 people to like the page.

#### **Greater Uptown Community Partnership**

The group is working on their mission statement. The partnership will be featured in an upcoming Southwest Journal article.

#### **Livability Committee**

The February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting featured a presentation for a proposed development at 1721 W Lake St (at Knox Ave). The project would require the property to be rezoned as C1 and a conditional use permit (CUP) would be needed for the building height. Committee

members were concerned about the building height, parking and the alley egress (visibility issues due to Cal Surf building). Ben Jilek will email feedback to the architect and check in to see if there are any significant changes to the building design.

**Activity Group**

Abby Armstrong, Brittany Edwards, Rachel Hoben and Mark Rosenfeld are forming a committee to plan special neighborhood events.

**Social**

The next Happy Hour event is Monday, March 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.

**President's Report, Susie Goldstein**

The Organic Apple Tree Workshop was held on February 23.

The board prefers loaning NRP housing dollars to Nonprofits Assistance Fund (for affordable housing) vs. reintroducing a home improvement grant program. The Task Force will reconvene and make prepare a formal recommendation for the funds.

The Green Team's Energy Reduction Workshop is Tuesday, March 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's.

The board will meet monthly this summer.

**Allison Sharkey, Lake Street Council**

The Lake Street Council is a business association that assists businesses along the entire length of Lake Street with marketing, advocacy and direct assistance. Upcoming events include their Annual Meeting on March 11 and a bike and brew tour in May. Sign up for the bi-weekly e-newsletter; go to [lakestreetcouncil.org](http://lakestreetcouncil.org).

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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