

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for April 7, 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, Ellen Anderson-benge, Abby Armstrong, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, Gary Farland, Paul Harstad, Mark Rosenfeld, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board member absent: Vice President Brittany Edwards, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Secretary Ben Jilek, and Rachel Hoben.

Guests: ECCO residents Chuck Bennett, Bobbie Keller, Rhoda Reighard, Sally Spence, and Linda Todd.

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

Report for Ward 10

City Council Member Lisa Bender sent a written update:

- Wells Fargo's request for a sign variance was denied by the Planning Commission in November 2015. Wells Fargo is reapplying for a sign variance. A public hearing will be held on April 25.
- Arvig boulevard repair: ground cover restoration work at locations distributed by last fall's fiber installation will begin when the growing season starts. Arvig is required to restore the ground cover to as-good or better conditions than before the ground was disturbed for the work.
- The City Council is reviewing options for parks funding. The Council will likely vote on one of the proposals by the end of the month.
- Bring Your Own Bag ordinance was adopted by the City Council on April 1. The ordinance goes into effect on June 1, 2017.

Open Forum

A resident raised concerns about density, asking how the City defines density and how density will impact neighborhoods.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

ECCO's Task Force met and will provide the board with a written recommendation for an affordable housing loan to Nonprofits Assistance Fund (3 year term).

Susie Goldstein gave a recap of the Community Connections Conference held on April 2.

The ECCO Board reviewed donation requests from two organizations. The board approved a \$200 donation to the Kenwood School carnival on May 14 and a \$100 donation to the Loppet Foundation.

Southwest LRT: Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene held a community meeting in February to provide an update on Southwest LRT. Go to www.swlrt.org for more information. The Multimodal Transportation Study has been completed. The final report can be found on the City's website www.minneapolismn.gov.

Board members are encouraged to provide feedback to the City regarding the proposed changes to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Calhoun/Harriet CAC: Harvey Zuckman responded to some of the concerns that the ECCO Board raised for the East Calhoun section of the proposed plans:
 - Currently there is nothing in the plan about changing Calhoun Pkwy to one-way.
 - The plan calls for the conversion of the tot lot to a nature playground that would accommodate ages 0-12.
 - Boardwalk: details such as material, width, and maintenance will be addressed in the design phase. The boardwalk would be built above the high water mark.
 - Plans call for an ADA ramp at 32nd St. It is not clear how planners would accommodate drop-off/loading at this location. 34th Street would need very minor changes to be fully ADA accessible.
 - Concerns about a roundabout at 36th St would be addressed if this plan is moved forward.
 - The CAC voted 15-4-1 to recommend that the Park Board pursue restoring the name of Lake Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska.
- The ECCO Board approved a motion to adopt the 2015 CPP Annual Report with corrections noted at the board meeting.
- June 4th event: the date is confirmed with Open Eye Figure Theatre for the puppet show and with sPARKit for the pop-up park with games and music.

Treasurer's Report

ECCO's financials remain strong.

Committee Reports

Green Team

Green Team Chair Sally Spence reported that the Energy Reduction Workshop in March was very informative with presentations about Home Energy Squad and community solar gardens.

Learn more about community solar at a Solar Speed Dating event, Wednesday, April 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Amherst H Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy, St. Paul.

Earth Day Clean-Up is Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Look for the register table near the Tin Fish to pick up supplies.

Communications

ECCO's spring events postcard went out in March. The next postcard will go out in May and will highlight the June 4th events (Super Sale and Street Party).

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Trail Watch volunteers needed. There will be an open house and informational on April 6, 6:45 p.m. for anyone who is interesting in becoming a trail watch rider.

The Coalition has a shortfall of funds because the New Belgium Brewing Tour De Fat is

not returning this year. The Coalition is asking each board member to help by raising \$500.

The Greenway Glow is on Saturday, June 18, 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.; this year will feature a 5K run, as well as bike ride, art, food, and beer.

Livability Committee

The architect/developer for the 1721 West Lake project (Lake and Knox) will be invited to attend the April 18 meeting of the Livability Committee to share updates on the project. The Livability Committee will draft a recommendation that will be brought to the May 5th meeting of the ECCO Board.

The Personal Safety Workshop held on March 31st was well attended. A garage safety workshop will be held in June.

Social

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

The new Activity Group is a sub-committee of the Social Committee.

The Annual Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival is April 7-23.

Board Member Update

Board member Ellen Anderson-benge is moving out of the neighborhood. Special thanks to Ellen for her service to the board. The ECCO Board voted to elevate Mary Sabatke from Alternate to Board Member.

New Business

A public hearing will be held on April 19, 1:30 p.m. at City Hall for an ordinance for tobacco dealers. If approved, full service grocery stores located in C-1 zoning districts will be eligible for a restricted tobacco dealers license.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, May 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.