

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for August 4, 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, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, Gary Farland, Paul Harstad, Mark Rosenfeld, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board member absent: Vice President Brittany Edwards, Abby Armstrong, Rachel Hoben, and Mary Sabatke.

Guests: Ron Harris, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10.

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

**Ron Harris, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10**

- Construction has begun on 29<sup>th</sup> St (between Lyndale and Bryant).
- Two rezoning proposals were discussed at Planning Commission on August 4:
  - Creating a Pedestrian Overlay District for Hennepin Ave, Lyndale Ave and Lake St.
  - Zoning changes in Lowry Hill East.
  - There will be a public comment period for both proposals.
- Minneapolis hired a new Public Works director.
- The city is working on the community engagement strategies for the Comprehensive Plan (10 year plan that outlines growth, jobs, streets, etc).
- The City Council voted against charter amendment proposals on minimum wage and police insurance from becoming ballot initiatives in November.
- Some of the City Council members held a Town Hall Forum to discuss police violence. A follow up meeting may be scheduled.
- Amendments were made to the ordinances governing Accessory Dwelling Units and the definition of half-story.
- CM Bender's office has been in contact with Xcel Energy about the frequent power outages in ECCO.

**President's Report, Susie Goldstein**

- Neighborhood boards are tax-exempt organizations that are bound by IRS and contractual restrictions regarding political activity. The IRS code states that tax-exempt organizations may not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office. Neighborhood organization may participate in voter registration, work on ballot initiatives and organize non-partisan candidate forums.
- The Park Board is conducting a facility and grounds study of the Calhoun Refectory building (currently operated by The Tin Fish). Two open houses are schedule to gather community input in planning for future improvements to the site: August 12, 7:00-9:30 a.m., Noon-2:00 p.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m. and September 8, Noon-2:00 p.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m. Open Houses will be held at the Calhoun Refectory, 3000 E Calhoun Pkwy.
- Neighborhood organizations met on July 19 to continue discussing the future of neighborhoods when the dedicated funding source from the City expires. The

- group will draft a mission statement and a survey.
- Planning has begun for the 2016 Wine Tasting Fundraiser. Tentative date is October 26.
- ECCO's Annual Meeting is Thursday, October 6. New board members are needed.
- Monica Smith's contract with ECCO expires in late September. Renewal of the contract will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- The Minneapolis Bike Tour is Sunday, September 18.

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

- Super Sale on June 4: 44 households hosts sales this year. Expenses slightly exceeded registration fee income.
- Street Party on June 4 was well attended. A brief rain shower didn't diminish participation. Sparkit (the trailer filled with games) was a nice addition to the event.
- The Burglary Prevention Workshop held on June 16 went well. The next event will be a personal safety workshop hosted by East Isles in September.
- The Labor Day Celebration is Monday, September 5 at St. Mary's. Volunteers are needed. The ECCO Board approved \$50 to purchase safety vests for the parade wranglers. The ECCO Board members will deliver fliers to promote the Labor Day event.
- The Jewelry Sales to benefit the Walker Library is Saturday, August 6, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Walker Library.
- Help is needed to review quotes for ECCO's liability insurance.
- The City Council approved the Community Participation Program (CPP) guidelines and allocations for the next three-year cycle beginning in 2017.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Social**

The next Happy Hour event is Monday, August 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving. The committee is working on a plan to invite new homeowners to the Happy Hour events. ECCO's insurance agent will weigh in on liability concerns about offering a kids' playdate during Happy Hour.

##### **Activity Committee**

The Trolley Path mulch event will be held on Saturday, October 15 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The ECCO Board approved \$50 for food/beverage for the event.

##### **Communications**

The next issue of the Southwest Journal will feature an article about ECCO resident Bill Remmers.

ECCO will distribute flyers for the Labor Day Celebration. The next postcard will promote fall events (annual meeting and wine tasting).

##### **Livability Committee**

June meeting update: La La Homemade Ice Cream presented plans for a sidewalk café at the new business opening at 3146 Hennepin. The ECCO Board electronically approved a letter of support in late June.

The committee did not meet in July.

The committee will focus on the Xcel Energy power outages at their next meeting on Monday, August 15, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

**New Business**

- Primary Election day is August 9.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, September 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.