

ECCO Annual Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2016
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Attendance

Approximately 50 residents attended the Annual Meeting including 2015-16 Board members: President Susie Goldstein, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Abby Armstrong, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, Gary Farland, Paul Harstad, Mark Rosenfeld, Mary Sabatke, and Caroline Vaaler.

The event began with pizza and a social hour.

ECCO Board President Susie Goldstein called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Marion Greene, Hennepin County, District 3

- Hennepin County has a \$2 billion budget. Funding comes from the following sources: One-third from property tax, one-third from state government, and one-third from federal government.
- The county provides a safety net for employment, housing and health care.
- The county also works on roads/bridge projects and operates the Hennepin County Library system.

Deborah Bartels, Project Manager, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan process

- The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) completed their work. The Master Plan document is currently being drafted.
- Overall recommendation focus on:
 - Access and circulation
 - Cultural resources
 - Recreation, events/enterprise
 - Equity – the CAC is recommending that the name of Lake Calhoun should be changed to Bde Maka Ska.
- A 45-day comment period will open when the draft document is published (tentatively January 2017). A public hearing will be held, followed by adoption by the Park Board and Metropolitan Council.
- In the meantime, planning is underway for \$3 million in trail and access improvements to be constructed in 2017.

Trail and Access Improvements

- Extend trail on north side of Lake Calhoun into eastbound lane of Lake St.
- Add at-grade crossing on the west side of East Calhoun Parkway at Lake St.
- Reconstruct trail on SE side of Lake Harriet.
- An online survey is open until 10/28/16 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CalhounHarrietTrail
- A second open house will be Wednesday, November 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Lyndale Farmstead, 3900 Bryant Ave S.

Calhoun Refectory

- The preferred concept plan for the building and site around it will be brought to the Park Board Commissioners for approval on November 2, 2016.

For more information on all of these projects, go to www.minneapolisparcs.org and to Current Projects.

Special thanks to Harvey Zuckman who served as ECCO's representative to the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan CAC.

Activities of the 2015-16 ECCO Board, Susie Goldstein

ECCO Task Force update:

- ECCO's Radon Program was introduced at last year's annual meeting.
- A three-year loan was provided to Nonprofits Assistance Fund to provide affordable housing in Minneapolis. When the loan is repaid, the funds will be available for other neighborhood programs/projects.

2015-16 Events:

- Wine Tasting Fundraiser, October 31, 2015. ECCO raised \$4,959, which was used to fund social events and neighborhood activities. Thanks to event organizer Patrick Fleetham and event sponsors Calhoun Square, Hennepin Lake Liquors, Parella, and Great Clips. We are looking at a possible spring date for the 32nd annual event.
- Holiday Caroling Party in December. Thanks to hosts Judy and Michael Shields.
- Organic Apple Tree Workshop in February organized by Lara Norkus-Crampton.
- Personal Safety Workshop, co-sponsored by ECCO, held in March. Another workshop will be held on Thursday, October 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Bryant Square Park.
- The Earth Day Clean Up, April. Thanks to Nespresso for providing coffee and Green Team co-chairs Sally Spence and Chuck Bennett for organizing the event.
- 44th annual Super Sale, June. Thanks to organizer Sylvia Kafkas.
- Community puppet show and potluck dinner, held after the Super Sale.
- Burglary Prevention Workshop, June.
- Labor Day Celebration in September. Thanks to Brad Albertson for securing all the donations of bingo prizes and food (Chipotle, Caffery's Deli & Subs, Starbucks, and Sebastian Joe's). Special thanks to the businesses that donated to the event and to all the volunteers who made the event possible.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Mark Rosenfeld

The committee works on zoning issues, traffic, safety and public event matters relevant to the neighborhood.

The work in the past year included:

- Wells Fargo project on Humboldt Ave and Lake St.
- Development on Holmes and 31st St.
- La La Homemade Ice Cream, 3146 Hennepin, outdoor patio seating.
- Lucia's, 1432 W 31st, 15-minute meters.
- Personal Safety and Burglary Prevention Workshops.

The next meeting is Monday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. The agenda includes a proposal for a new condo development on East Calhoun Pkwy (replacing the residences at 3017, 3021 and 3025 E Calhoun Pkwy).

Thanks to committee co-chairs Ben Jilek, Brittany Edwards and Mark Rosenfeld.

Social Committee, Mark Rosenfeld

ECCO sponsors a monthly Happy Hour at Lake & Irving Restaurant, 2nd Monday of the month, 5:00-6:30 p.m. The next event is Monday, October 10.

Thanks to Social Committee co-chairs Alex Cleberg and Mark Rosenfeld.

Communications

Communication efforts include quarterly postcard mailings, e-newsletter, website, and chalkboard signs. Thanks to Caroline Vaaler for designing the mailings.

Green Team

The Green Team works on waste reduction, energy conservation, storm water management, gardens and trees.

Focus the past year:

- Lake Street Energy Challenge involvement. ECCO is one of 17 neighborhoods along Lake Street and Greenway that joined the community campaign to save energy and use more renewable energy.
- Green team organized a Community Solar and Home Energy informational meeting; they also attended a couple of neighborhood events and handed out free LED light bulbs.
- Earth Day event involving trash pick up around the lakes and along the Greenway.

Upcoming events:

- Loon Lake Trolley Path Mulching on Saturday, October 15, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Future goals will be discussed at their next meeting on Saturday, October 15.

Thanks to co-chairs Sally Spence and Chuck Bennett.

Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

The Friends raised \$900 for programming by hosting a jewelry sale in August. The Friends also raise money by selling books on the book cart.

Meetings are the third Monday of the month, 6:00-7:30 at the library.

Greater Uptown Community Partnership

The Uptown Community Partnership is a coalition of neighborhood groups and business associations all coming together to work on shared issues. Rachel Hoben was the ECCO representative to the group. Ben Nicla will now step in to attend these meetings and represent ECCO and our concerns.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Roger Messner

Roger Messner serves as ECCO representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition

board.

Recent events include the Greenway Glow and the Progressive Dinner.

Volunteers are needed for the Trail Watch program.

Upcoming: repaving of the Greenway between Uptown and Midtown, more permanent art, and improved signage.

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- Two new staff members: Lindsey Wallace and Ron Harris
- The 5th Precinct has a new inspector, Kathy Waite. Inspector Waite has been proactive in meeting with Uptown bars and restaurants as they see an increase in business due to safety concerns downtown.
- Working on the city's Comprehensive Plan and transportation issues.
- Public Works is working on storm water management issues and plans for street repairs. They are reviewing traffic signal timing citywide.
- The Complete Streets plan was approved.
- The Mayor's proposed budget for 2017 has a significant investment in police and fire.
- The city continues to work on a minimum wage ordinance.
- Residents raised concerns about: 36th St protected bikeway; obsolete plastic box at 31st and Irving; lawn care providers blowing leaves into the street; ornamental lighting on 31st St blocked by trees, making the street darker; fiber optic/cable providers destroying boulevards; and pedestrian safety issues.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) was a 20-year City of Minneapolis program that provided funding to neighborhoods to make improvements based on the needs of each neighborhood. The NRP program is phasing out; there is no new funding for this program. East Calhoun is spending down our NRP funds (i.e. the Radon Program).

ECCO receives funding from the City of Minneapolis for the Community Participation Program (CPP) for community engagement and administrative expenses of the board. ECCO's allocation for 2016 is \$24,000. Funding will be \$25,000 for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Funding beyond 2019 is uncertain.

Program for residents:

- Home Security Grants of up to \$100 per household for allowable security upgrades.
- Rain Barrel, Compost Bin, and Raingarden Grants of up to \$100 per property.
- Radon program grants.

Radon Program:

ECCO has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health on this program that was initiated by the ECCO Task Force and was introduced at the annual meeting in 2015. ECCO has allocated \$50,000 of NRP funding for a radon mitigation grant program.

Radon is colorless, odorless, tasteless soil gas that seeps into homes. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Mitigation can reduce radon levels in homes. The average price for mitigating a single-family home is \$1,500-2,000.

Two in five homes in MN have elevated levels of radon. 61% of kits tested through the ECCO program registered higher levels of radon (34% were recommended for retesting and 27% were recommended for mitigation).

ECCO is offering a grant program to help residents with mitigation expenses of up to 25% of the cost with a maximum grant of:

- \$500 for 1-2 unit residential buildings
- \$1,000 for 3-4 unit residential buildings
- \$1,250 for 5+ unit residential buildings

Grants will be available while funds last, first come, first served. Grant must be approved before work begins.

Radon Mitigation Program Process:

Step 1: Test your home.

- Free short-term test kits are provided by ECCO
- Retest if recommended

Step 2: Pursue mitigation if desired.

Step 3: Contact a certified radon mitigation professional for an estimate (www.health.state.mn.us/radon).

Step 4: Complete ECCO grant application before mitigation work begins.

Applications are available on our website: www.eastcalhoun.org/programs.

Step 5: ECCO will approve eligible grants and reserve funds for your project.

Step 6: Schedule the certified radon mitigation contractor to complete the work (within 90 days). Pay contractor directly.

Step 7: Send in the ECCO Grant Completion Certificate with receipts.

Step 8: Receive grant reimbursement from ECCO.

Get involved with the neighborhood by signing up for the e-newsletter, joining a committee or the board.

Senator Scott Dibble, District 61

Senator Dibble gave an update on the legislative session:

- The legislature was at political impasse. Tax, transportation and bonding bills were not passed. A special session was not called.
- The legislature didn't fund Southwest LRT, so the Met Council and Hennepin County provided additional dollars to meet the necessary state and local funding for the project.
- Investments were made in the following areas: early childhood, mental health services, homeless youth, and fighting sex trafficking.
- Concerns were raised about the increasing cost of health insurance, drinking water infrastructure, and the financing of the Viking's stadium.

Treasurer's Report, Klaus Obergfell

Klaus Obergfell reviewed ECCO's financials, which remained stable since last year's report.

Upcoming Events

- Happy Hour, Monday, October 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving
- Loon Lake Trolley Path Mulching, Saturday, October 15, 1:00 p.m.

- Personal Safety Workshop, Thursday, October 27, 6:30 p.m. at Bryant Square Park

Thanks to the following who fulfilled full or partial terms in 2015/16:

Susie Goldstein, President; Brittany Edwards, Vice President, Co-Chair, Livability; Ben Jules, Secretary, Co-Chair, Livability; Ellen Anderson-benge, Communications; Abby Armstrong, Livability; Anna Flaig, Co-Chair, Social; Paul Harstad, Greenway Coalition rep; Rachel Hoben, Communications and Greater Uptown Community Partnership rep; and Mark Rosenfeld, Co-Chair, Social and Livability.

And thanks to the family and friends of board members who volunteer for various ECCO events.

Board members continuing their term in 2016/17:

Nathan Campeau, Green Team; Alex Cleberg, Co-Chair, Social; Gary Farland, Livability, Green Team; and Mary Sabatke, Friends of Walker Library rep.

Board Elections

The following individuals were elected to the ECCO Board: Klaus Obergfell (2nd term), Caroline Vaaler (2nd term), Bobbie Keller, Ralph Knox, Marya Morstad, Ben Nicla, Ericka Palmer, and Luke Schaan. There is one open seat and two alternate positions to be filled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 3, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.