

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2017 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 Ralph Knox, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Nathan Campeau, Gary Farland, Bobbie Keller, Marya Morstad, Mary Sabatke, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board members absent: Vice President Luke Schaan, Secretary Ericka Palmer, and Alex Cleberg.

Guests: Council Member Lisa Bender; Jeanette Colby, Kenwood Isles Area Association; and Daniel Elias, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

ECCO residents: Kathleen Dion, Susie Goldstein, Rachel Kieke, Rhoda Reighard, Jan Scott, and Jon Silverman.

President Ralph Knox called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Announcements:

- Citizens have been trained to properly prune boulevard trees. Neighborhoods can request the service.
- A fundraiser for Minneapolis Pops Orchestra will be held on May 22 at Modist Brewing, 505 N 3rd St. Details at mplspops.org/events.

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- The city budget process is underway; public hearings will be held in the fall.
- City staff is preparing a presentation on increasing the minimum wage. The City Council will likely consider a proposal in June.
- The Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated. Goals were adopted by the City Council to provide direction to staff. The plan is expected to be adopted in early 2018.
- The city is revising the ordinance for amplified sound.
- The work continues to purchase the land to reopen Nicollet Ave at Lake Street.
- Ackerberg is moving forward with the second phase of the MoZaic project on Lagoon.
- Protected bikeways on 26th and 28th Streets will be extended to Hennepin Ave.
- Hennepin Ave Reconstruction Project:
 - Three public meetings have been held. The staff recommendation calls for removing all parking between Lake St and 31st St, and eliminating parking on the west side of Hennepin between 31st and 36th Streets. Bike lanes and wider sidewalks would be added from Lake St to 36th St. The project is expected to go to the City Council for approval in June.
 - Meeting attendees expressed concerns about losing parking and placing bike lanes on a busy thoroughfare and suggested moving the proposed bike lanes to a more residential parallel street. CM Bender responded that staff is following the city's adopted bicycle master plan that recommends bicycle lanes on Hennepin Avenue.

Dan Elias, Project Manager, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

The Park Board formally adopted the Master Plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. Currently the Park Board has \$3.7 million allocated for trail and access improvements around the two lakes, which will be completed in 2017 (the work on the NE corner of Calhoun is scheduled to begin in September). Priorities for funding are to widen the exiting off-road bike and pedestrian trail over the Lake Street Bridge by reducing traffic lane widths (a traffic lane will not be eliminated as previously reported), add an at-grade crossing along East Calhoun Parkway between Calhoun and Lake of the Isles, improve pedestrian crossings and repair the very worst sections of the bike/ped trails around the lakes. The Park Board plans to maintain complete trail loops around both lakes throughout construction; however, trail users should anticipate detours and trail congestion while work takes place.

Upcoming Events:

- Happy Hour – Monday, May 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving
- Personal Safety Workshop – Monday, May 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's
- Super Sale – Saturday, June 3, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The Southwest High Gymnastics team will deliver fliers on May 13 as a fundraising event.
- ECCO Street Party – Saturday, June 3, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at W 34th St. Volunteers needed to help throughout the evening.
- Wine Tasting Fundraiser – Thursday, October 26

Committee Reports

Livability Committee

Livability Committee Chair Susie Goldstein presented a letter that the committee drafted regarding the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction project. The ECCO Board voted to approve the letter that will be sent to the Transportation Committee of the City Council opposing elements of the proposed plan (vote was 7-1). Specifically the letter states the board's opposition to the elimination of parking on the west side of Hennepin from 31st Street to 36th Street and replacing it with bicycle lanes as well as opposing the addition of bike lanes on Hennepin between Lake Street and 31st Street.

Other potential projects:

- Developers are exploring options for the Sons of Norway property; no formal plans have been submitted at this time.
- A retail company has signed a lease for the Suburban World but the deal has not been announced.
- CARAG held a meeting to review a proposed mixed-use development on the NE corner of Hennepin Ave and 32nd Street.

The next committee meeting is Monday, May 15, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

Communications

ECCO's spring events postcard was recently mailed.

Upcoming events will be posted on our Facebook page and NextDoor.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is Monday, May 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.

Green Team

Chuck Bennett is moving out of state and will no longer serve as the Green Team co-chair.

Friends of Walker Library

Mary Sabatke reported that the art piece commissioned for the library will be installed next month.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The Future of Neighborhood Organizations meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Martin Luther King Park.
- The *All are Welcome Here* signs that ECCO ordered were all distributed within the first week.
- Minneapolis Police Department 5th Precinct news:
 - Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams is leaving to work for the Sherriff's department.
 - The 5th Precinct Open House is Wednesday, May 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at 3101 Nicollet Ave S.

Treasurer's Report

Klaus Obergfell will be completing ECCO's 990 federal tax filing due on May 15.

ECCO's annual report is due to MN Attorney General on July 15.

President's Report, Ralph Knox

- ECCO has two board vacancies to fill. Candidates will be considered at the June meeting.
- Volunteers are needed to represent ECCO on the Midtown Greenway Coalition board and the Greater Uptown Community Partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, June 1, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.