

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for July 6, 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: Vice President Luke Schaan, Secretary Ericka Palmer, Nathan Campeau, Gary Farland, Marya Morstad, Rhoda Reighard, Caroline Vaaler, and Jonas Walter.

Board members absent: President Ralph Knox, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Alex Cleberg, Bobbie Keller, and Mary Sabatke.

Guests: Lindsey Wallace, Policy Aide for Council Member Lisa Bender

Board member Gary Farland called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Announcements:**

- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1. Plan an event on your block. Register your event at [minneapolis.gov/nno](http://minneapolis.gov/nno).

**Ward 10 Update, Lindsey Wallace, Policy Aide**

- \$15 minimum wage ordinance passed the City Council. The wage increase will be phased in over the next 5-7 years.
- The sick and safe time ordinance went into effect on July 1.
- CM Bender is shifting her focus to working with small businesses in the city.
- The city approved the purchase of the land under Kmart with the goal of reopening Nicollet Ave at Lake St. However, Kmart has a long-term lease.
- The City Council approved the design for the Hennepin Ave reconstruction. The next step is preparing to get bids from contractors.
- There were two recent shooting incidents in Uptown. The police are meeting with Uptown businesses and adding more beat cops during the late night hours.

**Committee Reports**

**Livability Committee**

Recap from the June 19, 2017 committee meeting:

- Reviewed a proposed mixed-use development on the NE corner of Hennepin Ave and 32<sup>nd</sup> St (in CARAG).
- Discussed starting a program to offer test kits to East Calhoun property owners to test tap water for lead. The NRP Phase II Reallocation Committee will consider this idea.

The committee will not meet in July.

The next committee meeting is Monday, August 21, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

**Communications**

Flyers will be distributed in mid-August to promote the Labor Day Celebration.

## **Social**

The next Happy Hour event is Monday, July 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.

## **Green Team**

No update.

## **Friends of Walker Library**

A Gently Used Jewelry, Scarf and Handbag Sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Walker Library on Saturday, August 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (during the Uptown Art Fair). All proceeds for the sale are used for Walker Library programs. Donations can be brought to the library at any time.

## **Midtown Greenway Coalition**

The Greenway Glow is Saturday, July 29, 7:00 p.m. – Midnight. The event is a fundraiser for the Midtown Greenway Coalition and features an art festival, 5K run and 10K bike ride. Details at [midtowntogreenway.org](http://midtowntogreenway.org).

## **Fundraiser Opportunity**

The Uptown Association has fundraising opportunities for organizations to staff beverage booths during the Uptown Art Fair. The ECCO Board declined due to the number of volunteer shifts that would need to be covered during the 3-day event.

## **West Calhoun – Renaming Lake Calhoun**

The West Calhoun Neighborhood Council is considering options for providing feedback on renaming Lake Calhoun. The ECCO Board affirmed their previous decision not to weigh in on this issue.

## **NRP Phase II Reallocation Committee, Gary Farland**

The first meeting of the committee will be scheduled in August.

## **Metro Blooms, Caroline Vaaler and Monica Smith**

Caroline and Monica met with Metro Blooms to discuss possible projects. Two projects were proposed:

- Pollinator Planting – focusing on the design and installation of native plantings in boulevards throughout the neighborhood.
- Pick Your Project – focusing on providing sustainable landscape projects in the neighborhood.

The NRP Phase II Reallocation Committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the ECCO Board.

## **Staff Report, Monica Smith**

- ECCO received an email from the new supervisor at 911 who is offering to come out and give tips about calling 911 and answer questions. We will invite 911 representatives to attend the annual meeting in tandem with possible other presentations regarding safety in light of recent shootings in Uptown.
- Several neighborhoods have agreed to provide grants to the Bridge for Youth for Rita's House, a transitional home for up to 13 youth, ages 18-21.
- Monica provided clarification from last month's meeting about the use of grants/donations to nonprofits using NRP funds. NRP is primarily a bricks and mortar

program so grants can be made using NRP funds for housing related initiatives. The law that governs NRP constrains other grants/donations such as scholarships.

- The Future of Neighborhood Organizations meetings were held in April-May throughout the city. NCR continues to organize the data from the meetings and will present the findings later this summer.
- ECCO's contracts with the city for our CPP and NR funding prohibit neighborhood organizations from engaging in political activity.
- NCR is offering Learning Labs on a variety of topics. The sessions are free and open to city employees and residents. Learn more and register at [ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/WCMSP-201120](http://ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/WCMSP-201120).
- The ECCO Board approved the budget to order 30 additional *All are Welcome Here* signs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, August 3, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.