

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for August 3, 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, Alex Cleberg, Gary Farland, Rhoda Reighard, Caroline Vaaler, and Jonas Walter. Board member alternate Tim Haas was also present.

Board members absent: Vice President Luke Schaan, Secretary Ericka Palmer, Nathan Campeau, Bobbie Keller, Marya Morstad, and Mary Sabatke.

Guests: Council Member Lisa Bender, Saralyn Romanishan from the LHENA, Michelle Bruch from Southwest Journal, Jessica Reighard, and Minneapolis Police Department representatives: Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Wisanen, Sergeant Matt St. George and Lieutenant Giovanni Veliz

ECCO residents: Al McMurchie and Tim Prinsen

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

Announcements:

- New *All are Welcome Here* signs will be available soon.
- Trail construction has started around Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska. Watch for detour signs and use caution.
- Volunteers are needed for the Uptown Art Fair this weekend.
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) will hold a public hearing to consider a new ordinance requiring equity criteria to select Regional Park and Trail projects. The hearing is Wednesday, August 9, 6:00 p.m. at MPRB headquarters.

Ward 10 Update, Council Member Lisa Bender

- The City Council will be voting to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco to tobacco shops and liquor stores.
- The City Council held a study session on affordable housing on August 3. Research shows that people of color spend more than 50% of their income on rent. Minneapolis has a 2% vacancy rate. The problem is exacerbated by a number of apartment buildings that have recently been sold in which the new owners are evicting tenants to renovate the units and raise rents. The City Council directed city staff to spearhead new housing initiatives and continue working on exiting strategies.
- Council Member Palmisano held a community listening session on policing in response to the recent police shooting of Justine Damond.
- Chief of Police Harteau has resigned. The mayor has appointed Medaria Arradondo as the new chief. A public hearing on the appointment will be held on August 9.
- Minneapolis Police have changed their body camera policy.
- Ryan Companies got the contract to purchase the Sons of Norway site. Ryan will contact ECCO in the early phases of planning for the site.

Uptown Crime and Safety Update from Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), Jennifer Wisanen, Crime Prevention Specialist, Sergeant Matt St. George and Lieutenant Giovanni Veliz

- 3% increase in Part I (serious) crimes in East Calhoun. In the period of June 1 – August 3, 2017 there were 4 robberies, 8 burglaries and 2 auto thefts in the neighborhood.
- Regarding issues with the bars in Uptown, the police have added new beat and overtime officers on the weekends. The police are working with the bar operators on strategies to deal with problem patrons.
- CM Bender reported that the Public Works director is working with police on traffic enforcement for pedestrian safety.
- MPD and the Park Police have overlapping jurisdiction on parkland and work together on issues in the parks.
- The officers stressed the importance of calling 911 to report issues and suspicious activity. Also, report any crime so the MPD can track the crime and look for patterns.

Calhoun Refectory Business

The Tin Fish is not renewing their contract at the Calhoun Refectory. MPRB invited a representative from East Calhoun to serve on a committee to review proposals for a new restaurant business at the Refectory. The ECCO Board appointed resident Al McMurchie to serve on the committee.

Air Quality Study

The Minneapolis Health Department (MDH) is working on an upcoming air quality study in conjunction with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The study will provide one air-monitoring site in each zip code in Minneapolis. Pollutants will be monitored for two years. MHD is requesting input from residents on placement of the sensors.

The ECCO Board referred this to the Livability Committee to review at their August 21st meeting.

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)

MCWD has issued a draft of the 10-year update to its Watershed Management Plan. Public comments are being accepted through September 5, 2017.

The ECCO Board will draft comments to the plan and approve them electronically to meet the September 5 deadline.

Labor Day Planning

Volunteers are needed for the Labor Day Celebration on Monday, September 4.

Treasurer's Report, Klaus Obergfell

Financials are stable. ECCO's bank balance is \$40K.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee

The committee did 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. A postcard will be mailed to promote the Annual Meeting and the Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is Monday, August 14, 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 5, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (during the Uptown Art Fair). All proceeds from the sale are used for Walker Library programs. Donations can be brought to the library at any time.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Tim Haas

The Greenway Glow, held on July 29, was a success with 150 participants. Tour de Fat is Saturday, August 19, at the Cabooze sponsored by New Belgium Brewing. Details at midtowngreenway.org.

New Business

Planning is underway for the Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 5.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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