

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes taken by Ericka Palmer

Board members present: President Ralph Knox, Vice President Luke Schaan, Secretary Ericka Palmer, Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg, Gary Farland, Marya Morstad, Rhoda Reighard, Mary Sabatke, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board members absent: Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Bobbie Keller, and Jonas Walter.

Guests: Resident Susie Goldstein, Tina Erazmus, Ward 10 City Council Associate and David Schorn, candidate for Ward 10 City Council.

Announcements

The Lake Street Bash is Thursday, October 26, 5:00-8:30 pm at Five Event Center, 2917 Bryant Ave S.

Ward 10 update, Tina Erazmus, Council Associate

- Sons of Norway development: Ryan Companies will hold an open house to gather feedback about the project on Thursday, September 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Sons of Norway.
- Hennepin Ave Reconstruction: the project is in the detailed design phase. The project webpage is www.minneapolis.gov/cip/hennepin-uptown.
- Fall Street Sweeping will begin October 17.
- Board members asked about pedestrian safety at the 31st St and Holmes intersection and about removing the aboveground component of the broken irrigation system in the median at 31st St and Irving.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Thursday, October 26, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

- The tickets are available for sale and ECCO keeps 100% of proceeds from tickets we sell and one-quarter of proceeds from tickets sold at the door.
- The ECCO Board decided to give a ticket price discount to our volunteers for the event. Volunteers who work at least 1½ hours can buy a ticket for \$15.

Labor Day Celebration Recap

- Thanks to all of the event volunteers.
- VFW gave a \$250 cash donation.
- The event came in under budget.
- Suggestions for next year included adding more activities for older kids during the game time and a beer garden.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Reminder for election season: the ECCO Board must remain neutral and not support any particular candidate. Board members may personally support candidates of their choosing but not as an endorsement from the ECCO Board.
- The Southwest Journal wrote an article about the Rita's House (housing for youth ages 18-21 at The Bridge for Youth), made possible with the support of ECCO and other

neighborhood organizations.

- Draft feedback from the Neighborhoods 2020 meetings is available for review and comment by October 31. Go to minneapolismn.gov/ncr/wcmsp-202320.
- People for Parks is offering customizable pavers to help fund a new plaza coming to Lake Calhoun near the World War 1 Mast Memorial. Details at www.peopleforparks.net/paver-and-benches.
- A selection committee is in the process of making a recommendation for a new business to run the food concession at the Calhoun Refectory since the current owners of the Tin Fish are not renewing their lease.
- The ECCO Board electronically approved a letter to be sent to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to provide feedback for the 10-year Watershed Management Plan draft.

NRP Phase II Reallocation Committee, Gary Farland

- The NRP (restricted funding) budget was reviewed.
- Exploring funding lead detection within the neighborhood. Pace Analytical will test tap water for lead at a discounted rate of \$25 per test instead of normal \$50. Pace will bill ECCO and send the result to the resident.
- Question as to whether ECCO should provide grants for lead mitigation or just provide testing. Mitigation could range from somewhat inexpensive filters to major plumbing work. Gary recommends moving forward with testing. It was moved and approved that we would shift \$10,000 from the radon program to dedicate to lead testing.
- The board also discussed using funds for a traffic and/or parking study. Consultants are extremely expensive so the objectives would need to be clearly defined and if a neighborhood funded study would have any sway with the City of Minneapolis.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Susie Goldstein

Sons of Norway project: An open house is planned for Thursday, September 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Sons of Norway. The project includes retail space, office space, green space, and residential with the building height being concentrated along Lake Street and stepping down toward W 31st St.

The project team will attend the next meeting of the Livability Committee on Monday, September 18, 7 pm at St. Mary's and invited to present at the Annual Meeting on October 5.

Communications, Caroline Vaaler

A mailing will go to all East Calhoun residents to promote upcoming events including the Annual Meeting and the Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

Social Committee, Alex Cleberg

Happy Hour has continued to go well.

The Social Committee is planning the annual Holiday Caroling for December 12.

Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

- This year's jewelry/scarf sale during the Uptown Art fair netted over \$1200.
- The book cart has been averaging \$80/month.

Green Team— Sally Spence resigned as committee chair; Gary Farland offered to chair the committee.

Midtown Greenway Coalition — No report.

NCR Grievance Policy, Monica Smith

NCR drafted a revised policy to deal with grievances against neighborhood organizations. The ECCO Board authorized Monica Smith to review the policy and provide feedback on the draft.

Ward 10 City Council Forum

Makes Homes Happen, a coalition of organizations working on affordable housing issues, is organizing a forum for Ward 10 City Council candidates (date TBD). The focus of the forum is affordable housing, tenant rights, community development, racial and economic disparity.

The Ward 10 neighborhoods are attempting to organize an additional candidate forum with a broader focus. Nathan Campeau will be ECCO's representative to help organize a forum.

Annual Meeting Planning

The meeting will include information tables during the social time from various organizations. The agenda will include updates from elected officials, a presentation about the Sons of Norway project and ECCO Board elections.

Childcare will be provided.

Volunteers are needed for the annual meeting. Pizza Luce will be asked to give us a discount on pizza again this year.

Six positions are open on the ECCO Board. Gary Farland and Rhoda Reighard will be seeking another term on the board. Nathan Campeau, Alex Cleberg and Ericka Palmer will not be seeking another term. We are waiting to hear from Jonas/Jenny Walter.

Monica Smith's Contract

The ECCO Board voted to approve a one-year contract for Monica Smith at \$40/hour with no benefits, not to exceed 624 hours for the year.

