

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

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Ralph Knox, Vice President Gary Farland, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Marya Morstad, Rhoda Reighard, Amy Rutherford, Mary Sabatke, Judy Shields, Caroline Vaaler and Jonas Walter.

Board members absent: Tim Haas and Luke Schaan.

Guests: Tony Barranco, Ryan Companies.

ECCO residents: Livability Committee Chair Susie Goldstein, Board Alternate Lee Todd and residents Sharon Cornejo, Carol Dines, Claire Hanson, Bob Hentges, Corky Hisle, Alison Lyder, Jaana Mattson and Wes Mattson. Lowry Hill East resident Marvin Wensman.

Announcements

- Free radon test kits are available. Contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastcalhoun.org.
- The Hennepin County Board voted 4-3 to support the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's recommendation that Lake Calhoun's name be restored to Bde Maka Ska. In order to become official, the name change needs approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and then the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.
- The City released the 2016 Neighborhood Programs Annual Report.

City Council Ward 10 Report

Representatives from the Ward 10 office were unable to attend.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Susie Goldstein

Sons of Norway project:

- Tony Barranco from Ryan Companies attended the meeting and reported that they are working on options to alleviate the massing on 31st St but they have not yet found the balance that works for the project. They have no new plans to show us at this time. Ryan intends to submit their plans to the City on December 15. Ryan expects to close on purchasing the property on February 1, 2018.
- The board reviewed a letter drafted by the Livability Committee opposing the rezoning of part of the Sons of Norway property from R4 to R6.
- The ECCO Board voted (including 1 abstention) to send the letter to the City with the following corrections: the shadowing studies were shown in the Staff Report to the City Planning Commission (not Swing Traffic Solutions); the word "tall" was deleted before "six-story buildings;" a reference was added about the Midtown Greenway Rezoning Study that downzoned 3016 Holmes to R4; and a few typos were identified.

There has been an increase in crimes near St. Mary's Church (mostly theft from vehicles) and the appearance of people camping on the trolley path. Call 911 to report any problems.

The next Livability Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

NRP, Gary Farland

The committee met on December 4 and is exploring the following ideas:

- Host a meeting in January or February to inform residents about our radon and lead testing programs.
- Support the grooming of the cross-country ski trails on Lake Calhoun.
- Add four additional park benches on the east side of Lake Calhoun.
- Replace equipment at the Tot Lot.
- Work with U of M students to conduct a parking and traffic study.
- Provide an additional loan to Nonprofits Assistance Fund for affordable housing.

The ECCO Board approved a budget of \$150 (of unrestricted funds) for pizza and refreshments to be provided at the radon/lead testing meeting in January or February.

Social Committee

The next Happy Hour is Monday, December 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.

The Holiday Caroling Party is Tuesday, December 12. Meet at St. Mary's at 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

The board approved a motion to reappoint Mary Sabatke as ECCO's representative to the Friends of the Walker.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

No report.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- ECCO and CARAG are planning a Personal Safety Workshop on Saturday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. (location to be confirmed).
- The ECCO Board voted to ask the City to remove the above-ground mechanicals for the broken irrigation system on the 31st St median (at Irving).
- The Community Connections Conference will be Saturday, February 10, 2018.
- The 2017 expenditures for the Community Participation Program were reviewed.
- A representative from the City will be invited to an upcoming board meeting to show us the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS), the City's new search engine, which is designed to help the public easily track local legislation, find calendars and agendas, and get involved with the City's many public advisory boards and commissions.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

ECCO's total revenue from the Wine Tasting Fundraiser was \$3,668.50. Thanks to all who sold tickets and volunteered to make the event a huge success.

Minneapolis 2040

Minneapolis 2040 is an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, a document that shapes how Minneapolis will grow and change.

Four open house meetings to provide citizen input were held in December. There is one additional open house scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave.

For more information and to sign up for updates, go to minneapolis2040.com.

A representative from the City will be invited to an upcoming board meeting.

Committee Assignments

Board members signed up for committee assignments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, January 4, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.