

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2018 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 Luke Schaan, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Marya Morstad, Rhoda Reighard, Mary Sabatke, Judy Shields, Dane Stimart, Lee Todd, Caroline Vaaler, and Jenny Walter.

Board members absent: Tim Haas.

ECCO residents/property owner: Ryan Brown and Chris Kirwan.

### **Announcements**

- Follow update for I-35W construction project (ramp, bridge and lane closures) at [mndot.gov/35w94](http://mndot.gov/35w94).
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation updates:
  - Nominations are being accepted for Volunteer of the Year Awards through March 9. Go to [minneapolisparcs.org/volunteer\\_and\\_give](http://minneapolisparcs.org/volunteer_and_give).
  - The Park Board is beginning a master planning effort for the Southwest area, which includes all neighborhood parks south of I-394 and west of I-35W. A Community Advisory Committee will be formed. The application process is open until March 21, go to [minneapolisparcs.org](http://minneapolisparcs.org) and search Southwest Service Area Master Plan.
  - The Park Board will host a Volunteer Appreciation Open House on Tuesday, April 24, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Bryant Square Park.
- Enter a lottery to purchase a low-cost tree for your property at [treetrust.org/minneapolis-tree-sale-lottery](http://treetrust.org/minneapolis-tree-sale-lottery); deadline is March 9.
- The ECCO Board meeting in April has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 12.
- Hennepin County is evaluating options for replacing or rehabilitating the Fremont Ave Bridge (over the Midtown Greenway). Learn more at [Hennepin/us/greenwaybridges](http://Hennepin/us/greenwaybridges).

### **Board Member Replacement**

Amy Rutherford has resigned her position on the ECCO Board; the board unanimously elevated Dane Stimart from alternate to board member.

### **Ward 10 Update, Ron Harris, Senior Policy Aide**

- Lisa Bender was unanimously elected to be City Council President.
- A draft of Minneapolis 2040 (the Comprehensive Plan) will be published later in March and open for public comments. Engagement opportunities will be announced.
- Ward 10 will be working on protecting tenant rights and working with the police inspector to push for more mental health funding and to reduce crime. Affordable housing is another priority.
- The courts ruled in the City's favor in raising the minimum wage.
- The Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Project was approved by the Transportation & Public Works Committee on February 27 and referred on to the full council for approval.
- The ECCO Board expressed concerns that two letters from the board and a number of emails/postcards from East Calhoun residents were not included in the public record for the Sons of Norway project. Ron Harris said that the Ward 10 office is committee to transparency and apologized that some people didn't get responses from the office

about the Sons of Norway project, saying that he was focused on getting CM Bender reelected then elected as Council President.

- The ECCO Board requested that one member of our board be invited to any meeting that the Ward 10 office has with a developer about projects in the East Calhoun neighborhood.

### **CPP 2017 Annual Report**

The board reviewed a draft of the 2017 Annual Report. A few edits are being made and the final draft will be forwarded to the board for electronic voting in advance of the March 30 submission deadline.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Livability Committee**

The ECCO Board voted to approve Lee Todd as the new chair of the Livability Committee.

The February Livability Committee meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm.

The Zoning & Planning Committee of the City Council denied ECCO's appeal of the Sons of Norway project on February 15. The project received final approval from the City Council on February 23.

Chris Kirwan, Oak Management & Development, is the new owner of four properties on the SW corner of Lake St and James Ave (1711 Lake St, 3000, 3004 and 3008 James Ave). Chris will attend an upcoming meeting of the Livability Committee to have a preliminary discussion about their plans for the properties.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. The agenda will include proactive traffic calming measures and options for the redevelopment of 3017, 3021 and 3025 E Calhoun Pkwy.

#### **NRP, Gary Farland**

- The lead and radon testing workshop was held on Tuesday, February 20, at St. Mary's. The workshop featured speakers from the Minnesota Department of Health and Minneapolis Water Works.
- The City approved ECCO's request for a language change to the NRP Phase II plan and the allocation of \$2,162 toward the warming house project.

#### **Social Committee**

- The next Happy Hour is Monday, March 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.
- Sylvia Kafkas will organize the annual Super Sale on Saturday, June 2.
- Marya Morstad volunteered to organize the annual street party on Saturday, June 2.

#### **Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke**

- The library will feature a new art exhibit each month.

### **Midtown Greenway Coalition**

No report.

### **Green Team**

Dane Stimart is the new chair of the Green Team.

### **Staff Report, Monica Smith**

- The Personal Safety Workshop is Saturday, March 24, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. at Calhoun Square.
- The Community Connections Conference was held on February 10.
- The City published a draft of Neighborhoods 2020. The public comment period is open until April 30. Mary Sabatke, Judy Shields, and Caroline Vaaler volunteered to work with Monica Smith to review the draft and bring comments to the ECCO Board in April.
- Marya Morstad, Rhoda Reighard, and Judy Shields volunteered to meet with a representative from the City to learn about the Legislative Management System (LIMS), the City's new search engine, and give an update to the ECCO Board in lieu of a 40-minute presentation at a board meeting.

### **New business**

- The City has announced the 2018 Clean Sweep program.
- A suggestion has been made to implement an educational program for residents about keeping leaves/grass clippings out of the street in the autumn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, April 12 (Note: date change), 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.