

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Judy Shields, Vice President Dane Stimart, Treasurer Gary Farland, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Jane Connelly, Ralph Knox, Nick Muellerleile, Mary Sabatke, Lee Todd and Jenny Walter.

Board members absent: Daré Magnus-Lawson, Marya Morstad and Rhoda Reighard.

Guests: Madeline Hudek, Minneapolis Park Board.

President Judy Shields called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Tina Erasmus, Council Associate, Ward 10

Hennepin Avenue construction work to be completed includes:

- Signage, landscaping and trees.
- Low-level and high-level street lights.
- Stop light at Hennepin and 31st St. Board members suggested a study to see if a 4-way stop or stop light is better at this intersection as well as a flashing light at the mid-block pedestrian crosswalk on Hennepin between Lake and 31st St.

Girard Ave project:

Public Works plans to reconstruct Girard Ave between Lagoon and Lake St in 2020. Five conceptual design alternatives are being considered. To review the option and to provide feedback on the alternatives, go to minneapolismn.gov/cip/futureprojects/girard-ave-s-reconstruction.

Irrigation system on 31st St and Irving:

The plumbing equipment has been removed from the broken irrigation system. The above ground components will be removed in the spring.

Development on East Calhoun Parkway:

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 25, 4:30 pm at City Hall for a 4-story. The City Planner will likely not recommend approval of the project.

(Special Note: as of February 13, 2019, the public hearing on February 25 for this project has been cancelled as the developer is revising the proposed project.)

Lake and James development:

A 10-story apartment building project was discussed at a Planning Commission Committee of the Whole in January. The project is not yet on the agenda for a Planning Commission hearing. Tina reported that Council President Bender remains open-minded about the design and details of buildings on the Lake St corridor to help address the housing shortage, complaints from constituents about the low quality of building materials with the same six-story box designs and the lack of affordable housing. The current design for this project includes 20% of the units at affordable rates.

The ECCO Board requested to be invited to any meeting between Council President Bender and developers for projects in ECCO.

Madeline Hudek, Minneapolis Park Board

The Park Board is undertaking a master plan process for all of the neighborhood parks in Southwest Minneapolis. Two design options have been published for each neighborhood park. Public comments are being accepted on the designs until the end of March.

The Loon Lake Trolley Path is the only park property in East Calhoun that is included in this project.

Public workshops have been held to gather feedback on the design options. There is one additional workshop scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.

To review the design options for all of the parks and to comment, go to minneapolisparks.org/sw.

Announcements

- The Community Connections Conference was held on February 2.
- There will not be an Open Streets event on Hennepin Ave in 2019. Organizers are hopeful that issues can be addressed to move forward with an event in the future.
- I-35 W construction – 31st St between 1st Ave S and 3rd Ave S will be closed for one day on Monday, February 11.
- Amazing Thailand is planning their third annual Thai New Year event on Saturday, April 27. Hennepin Ave will be closed from noon-9:00 p.m. between Lake St and 31st St for the event.
- The Park Board's 2018 annual report was shared.
- The Wedge neighborhood is hosting Feet First, an open house focusing on walkable neighborhoods, on Saturday, February 23, 10:00 a.m. – noon at The Wedge Table, 2412 Nicollet Ave.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Meeting room use at St. Mary's: Committee chairs should speak with Julie at St. Mary's when requesting space for committee meetings at the church. Please use the assigned room only.
- The ECCO Board needs to submit a Community Participation Program (CPP) annual report to the City. The board discussed 2018 highlights to feature in the report. A draft of the report will be presented to the board for approval at the March meeting.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) will conduct a routine financial and programmatic review of ECCO and other low-risk neighborhood organizations.
- NCR has partnered with Birken Law Office to expand legal services available to neighborhood organizations.

Treasurer's Report, Gary Farland and Monica Smith

The treasurer's report for the fiscal year ending 12/31/18 was presented.

Monica Smith pointed out a correction from the 2019 unrestricted budget document presented at the January 2019 meeting. The VFW donated \$200 to ECCO in 2018 (not \$300 as was presented).

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Lee Todd

The committee is engaging with Public Works to request a comprehensive traffic study in the neighborhood.

The committee is exploring options for signage to state the hours for park use at Bde Maka Ska and noise ordinances.

East Calhoun Pkwy development (3017, 3021, and 3025 East Calhoun Pkwy): The board approved a draft of a letter to respond to this development if the project goes forward to the public hearing scheduled for February 25.

The next Livability Committee meeting is Monday, February 18, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's and will include a presentation for a proposed development on the SW corner of Lake St and James Ave.

NRP, Gary Farland

The committee held a meeting on January 22. Ideas for spending down NRP Phase II funds were discussed and will be explored further at their next meeting.

Social Committee, Marya Morstad

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

A coordinator is needed for ECCO to host a street party this summer. The board will discuss the future of this event at the March meeting.

Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

The January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Green Team, Dane Stimart

The team held a meeting on February 6 and is working on the following:

- Earth Day Clean Up on April 20
- Walking tour of the neighborhood raingardens
- Possible Fall clean up

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Jane Connelly

Jane met with Soren Jensen, Executive Director of the Midtown Greenway Coalition and attended a board meeting. Issues include land use, art & gardening, wayfinding and possible extension of the Greenway over the river to St. Paul. The coalition board passed a resolution in support of West Lake Station park.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is in support of a connection from the Greenway to Calhoun Square via the Girard Ave reconstruction project.

The ECCO Board approved a motion to appoint Jane Connelly as ECCO's representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition board.

Neighborhood Name Review Committee, Ralph Knox

The committee held their first meeting on February 5. The first order of business for the committee is to do outreach to the community to see if residents are interested in changing the name of the neighborhood. Community meetings will be planned for May.

The next committee meeting is Monday, March 4, location is to be announced.

Renter Committee, Nick Muellerleile

The committee will hold their first meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving Restaurant.

Communications, Judy Shields

Super Sale – an organizer is needed for the event to happen in 2019. If an organizer is identified, ECCO may consider holding the event in May to coordinate the date with South Uptown to share advertising expenses and draw a larger audience.

South Uptown has been invited to the February ECCO Happy Hour.

President's Report, Judy Shields

Neighborhoods 2020 is a process to determine the future of neighborhood organizations when the designated funding source expires at the end of 2020.

The City published a draft of the framework and it is open for a 45-day comment period. A subcommittee of the ECCO Board will review the proposals and bring comments to the board in March.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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