

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

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

Board members absent: President Judy Shields and Daré Magnus-Lawson.

Resident guests: Ryan Brown, Lara Norkus-Crampton and Luke Yost.

Other guests: Tina Erazmus from Ward 10 office, Inspector Amelia Huffman from Minneapolis Police and Bernedette Hornig from Hornig Co.

Vice President Dane Stimart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Inspector Amelia Huffman, Minneapolis Police Department, 5th Precinct

Inspector Amelia Huffman is the new commander of the 5th Precinct.

The 5th Precinct encompasses 20 neighborhoods south of downtown and west of I-35W.

Property crimes are the biggest issue in the 5th Precinct: primarily theft from motor vehicles and garage burglaries.

To reduce the opportunity for crime:

- Keep doors locked
- Store items in the trunk of the car

Answers to questions from board members:

- Traffic planning is done by other departments of the City and the police cope with the outcome.
- Emergency vehicles are allowed to park on the west side of Hennepin Ave during emergencies.
- The use of scooters is not addressed in ordinances. The best interpretation is that scooters are treated like bicycles and should use bike pathways and roadways. Scooters should not be parked on sidewalks.
- The department has done de-escalation training and has implemented a co-responder program that pairs a mental health worker with an officer.
- Call 911 for incidents in process. Noise issues will be a lower priority for a response.
- Minneapolis has an anti-idling ordinance. This is commonly a place-based problem and addressed that way (for example, pick-up time at schools).
- A suspect has been charged for the fire that destroyed the refectory at the lake. The fire was caused by hot coals.
- The police have revised their policy for using canines.
- East Calhoun Pkwy noise – the Park Police take the lead on park property. Lighted trails are not subject to park closure hours.

Tina Erazmus, Ward 10 Update

- The Ward 10 office met with residents of Edgewater over concerns about panhandling on East Calhoun Pkwy and the pocket park (on the parkway at Lake St). Panhandling is not a crime. Call 911 to report aggressive behavior. Tina will share a document that was drafted as a result of the meeting.
- Hennepin Ave will reopen on June 7. Minor work remains (seal coating and installing some power poles).
- 36th St Bikeway – the City applied for a federal grant to make improvements to the bikeway, but they were not awarded the grant. Nothing is scheduled at this time.
- Neighborhoods 2020: Council President Bender was not supportive of the draft Neighborhoods 2020 framework that recently passed the City Council. CP Bender thought the framework lacked perspective and was overly detailed; she wants to look at the bigger picture, accountability and equity to support City policies.
- No update on the Lake and James development.
- Tina is working to organize a meeting with the 5th Precinct, Uptown bar owners and Ward 10 neighborhoods.

Open Forum

Bernadette Hornig, Hornig Companies, attended the meeting to raise awareness about a new ordinance that the City Council is drafting that would limit how landlords use information to screen prospective tenants. Hornig shared her concerns about the lack of engagement on the ordinance proposal and her concerns that restricting a landlord's ability to screen tenants would prevent them from having information about potentially unsuitable applicants.

A public hearing for the ordinance is expected this summer.

For more information on the issue, go to safeaffordablempls.org.

Hornig Companies owns 49 rental properties in Ward 10.

Announcements

- Park Board updates:
 - The master plan process called Parks for All is beginning. Applications are being accepted until June 20 for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC).
 - A dedication of public art at Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska will be Saturday, June 8, 10:30 a.m.
- Transportation Action Plan/Vision Zero:
 - Public comments are being accepted through June 6. More information at go.minneapolismn.gov.
- The East Isles Farmers Market will be held on The Mall, Thursdays throughout the summer from 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- The Zen Center is hosting a capital campaign kick-off on Sunday, June 30, 12:30 p.m. at 3343 E Calhoun Pkwy. ECCO Board members are invited to attend.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- The board approved the annual report to be submitted to the MN Attorney General.
- Super Sale: 26 households participated in the 2019 Super Sale. Thank you to Sylvia Kafkas for organizing the event for years. A volunteer has offered to coordinate the event next year.
- Planning is underway for the Labor Day Celebration. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event.
- The ECCO Board approved a motion to participate in the 2019 Wine Tasting Fundraiser, which includes a commitment to sell tickets and volunteer at the event. The planning committee has begun meeting.
- Southwest Service Area Master Plan: Revised concepts have been published for the neighborhood parks. The Community Advisory Committee has five upcoming meetings scheduled to discuss the park concept designs and provide recommendations to the project team. For more information: minneapolisparcs.org/sw.
- Neighborhoods 2020 update: On May 17, the City Council approved the Neighborhoods 2020 framework recommendations and two staff directions: 1) to collaborate with a consultant to complete the process of furthering the framework and developing program guidelines and 2) to conduct an enterprise-wide evaluation of community engagement efforts and to develop a workplan and timeline for adopting a Citywide Engagement Policy.
- NCR published a proposed change to the NRP plan modification approval process. The proposed change is that plan modifications over \$100,000 would require approval by the NRP Policy Board. Plan modifications of \$100,000 and under will be approved by the NCR Department Director. The policy change is open for a 45-day comment period.
- NCR published two documents: 2018 Neighborhood Programs Annual Report and 2018 Neighborhood Boards Diversity Survey Report. The ECCO Board does not expect to submit comments.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Lee Todd

Highlights from the May 20 Livability Committee meeting:

The Tasting Room is applying to the City for sidewalk seating. The committee had no objections.

The Park Board has started the process to rename roads that include the name Calhoun. Public comments are being accepted until July 1. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 p.m. at Park Board headquarters, 2117 W River Road. The final vote is expected on August 21. The Livability Committee is not recommending a position.

East Calhoun Pkwy development (3017, 3021, and 3025 East Calhoun Pkwy): The ECCO Board electronically approved a letter that was submitted to the City regarding the development stating no position (neither support nor opposition). The Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 13. Several ECCO residents testified and spoke about the working relationship with the developer that resulted in reducing the building from 5 stories to 3 stories but shared concerns about the variance for height, which included the rooftop patio landing structures and added 10' to the building height (over Shoreland Overlay District limit).

The next approval is expected at the City Council Zoning and Planning Committee on June 13. Construction would begin in September.

Lake & James: The project appears to be on hold. Lee Todd will speak with the developer the week of June 10.

The Pedestrian Safety subcommittee:

- Results of the survey were shared. It was agreed that 31st St will be the first priority.
- The ECCO Board approved a letter to be sent to the City and Park Board with suggested improvements to East Calhoun Pkwy.

The Park Board will undertake a community engagement process for the rebuilding of the refectory at the lake.

Neighborhood Name Review Committee, Ralph Knox

The three community meetings held in May about the name of the neighborhood went well.

The next step is to open the vote on whether or not to change the name of the neighborhood. Residents will be able to vote in one of three ways: postcard mailing, online voting or in person voting on July 11. A simple majority of the vote will determine whether or not we go on to Phase 2 (the process to select a new name).

The committee is recommending the following to promote the vote: mailer with the official ballot, email promotion and a flyer.

The ECCO Board approved the following:

1. The voting instructions and the ballot.
2. The additional cost of \$425 for a larger mailer than previously planned and to add a promotional flyer.
3. The three-person panel to count the votes will be: Judy Shields, Ralph Knox and Monica Smith.

NRP, Gary Farland

The committee is recommending the following to ensure that ECCO will meet the required thresholds for contracting and expending of NRP Phase II funds.

- Add \$32,258 to the loan to Propel Nonprofits that supports affordable housing in Minneapolis and extend the term of the contract to December 31, 2020. This action requires a plan modification to move \$4,229 from Energy Audit Program and \$10,000 from Trees/Invasive Species Removal for a total of \$14,229 to the Revolving Loan Program.
- Use NRP funds to pay Staff and Administration (currently being paid by Community Participation Program funds).
- Plan modification to reallocate Phase II funds and amend the existing contract to move \$10,144.32 from Advertising in Local Newspaper to Staff and Administrative Support.

The City requires a 21-day notice to the board before a vote is taken. The board is not meeting in July. The ECCO Board will electronically vote to approve these recommendations via email beginning on June 27.

Social Committee, Marya Morstad

The next ECCO Happy Hour is Monday, June 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving Restaurant.

The Labor Day Celebration will be held on September 2.

Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

The Friends are planning walking tours. You can vote on the walking tours that interest you at the library.

Green Team, Dane Stimart

The Green Team held two meetings the week of June 3. Initiatives will include trash pick-up events and boulevard tree watering campaign.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Jane Connelly

The Midtown Greenway Coalition released an engineering feasibility report that concludes that the bridge over the Mississippi River could be used to extend the Greenway over the river to St. Paul.

The Greenway Glow Arts Festival will be held on July 27.

The Greenway gardens are being upgraded.

Renter Committee, Nick Muellerleile

The committee is planning a renter social event. The board approved a motion for up to \$1,100 for the event to include advertising and securing the space at Amazing Thailand on Thursday, July 11.

Communications

No report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The ECCO Board will not meet in July. The next meeting is Thursday, August 1, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.