

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for September 6, 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, Dane Stimart, Lee Todd, Caroline Vaaler and Jonas Walter.

Board members absent: Tim Haas and Judy Shields.

Guests: Park Board Commissioners Jonor Cowgill and Meg Forney. Arlene Fried, Bryn Mawr and John Edwards, Lowry Hill East. East Calhoun residents: Ryan Brown, Tim Prinsen and David Tompkins.

President Ralph Knox called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Park Board Update, Commissioners Jono Cowgill and Meg Forney

- The Park Board just approved a levy request that includes adding funding for community-school wraparound programs.
- A search committee is in place for the hiring of a new superintendant with the goal of hiring someone by the end of October.
- NPP 20 is a plan to provide 20 years of funding for neighborhood parks.
- Commissioner Cowgill is the Park Board's representative on the City Planning Commission.
- Board members raised concerns about:
 - the proposed development on East Calhoun Pkwy (including rezoning, building height and alley traffic) - Commissioner Cowgill said he will withhold judgment until the public testimony but will consider these concerns.
 - parking restrictions on East Calhoun Pkwy (south of W 31st St)
 - aquatic invasive species in city lakes
 - revenue at Lola's on the Lake - Commissioner Forney reported that she can request a report that compares projected revenue to actual revenue for their first season.
- Commissioner Cowgill offered to come back to an ECCO Board meeting with Park Board staff members to explain the Park Dedication Fees.

Announcements

- I-35W will be closed for construction the weekend of September 14-16.
- An update on the construction of Hennepin Ave was provided.
- Calhoun Pkwy will be closed on Sunday, September 9 from 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. for the City of Lakes 25K.
- Suburban World/Granada Theater: ECCO received a letter from DJR Architecture outlining plans to rehabilitate the vacant building as a banquet hall and live music venue.
- Public hearings will be held for the following by the City Planning Commission on Monday, September 17, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. The staff reports for these amendments were not available prior to the board meeting.
 - Revise regulations related to rooftop mechanical equipment, penthouses and height.
 - Establish a new overlay district that allows split zoning.
 - Remove the definition of entertainment and its regulations from the zoning code.

- Michael Malone was elected to serve as the District 6 representative to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC).

Annual Meeting Planning

The annual meeting will be Thursday, October 4 at St. Mary's.

The board decided to invite Mayor Frey, City Council President Bender and a city staff person to report on Minneapolis 2040 and how the plan impacts Ward 10. The speakers will outline the changes from the first draft to the revised plan that is due to be published by the end of September. There will be no Q&A. After the speakers present, the board will ask the community for feedback. The speakers will be invited to stay and listen if they would like.

The ECCO Board approved a request from Ryan Brown to have a table at the annual meeting soliciting feedback from residents about potentially changing the name of the neighborhood now that the name of the lake has officially been changed to Bde Maka Ska. A motion to include information in the annual meeting mailer about providing input into a potential name change did not pass.

Six seats on the ECCO Board are up for election. Five current board members are eligible for a second term. Caroline Vaaler has reached her term limit. Thanks to Caroline Vaaler for her service!

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) staff is holding weekly office hours in the community to engage with residents about the Neighborhoods 2020 Work Groups (contact nrp@eastcalhoun.org for a list of the office hours).
- NCR is conducting a demographic survey of volunteers who serve on neighborhood boards. The survey was distributed to board members.
- Sylvia Kafkas will be retiring from her position at St. Mary's. The ECCO Board approved up to \$200 from ECCO's unrestricted funds for a gift for Sylvia.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Lee Todd

The Livability Committee has formed two new subcommittees:

- Subcommittee to work on the proposed development on East Calhoun Pkwy – Dane Stimart and David Tompkins will co-chair.
- Subcommittee to work on parking issues on East Calhoun Pkwy – Dane Stimart and Tim Prinsen will co-chair.

East Calhoun Pkwy development (3017, 3021, and 3025 East Calhoun Pkwy):

City staff recommended against upzoning the property at the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole meeting. Despite that recommendation, the project team intends to move forward

with their plans. The board may be asked to take a formal position on the development in advance of a public hearing. ECCO will ask for a traffic study that focuses on the alley behind the development.

East Calhoun Pkwy parking restrictions:

The ECCO Board approved the following resolution:

The ECCO Board proposes the following action be taken by the Minneapolis Park Board and the City of Minneapolis related to East Calhoun Parkway on-street parking and Knox Avenue South Permit Parking:

1. Remove the paper “no parking” signs between West 31st Street and West 36th Street along East Calhoun Parkway and return to the historical non-enforcement of no parking between 10PM and 6AM.
2. Keep metal signs posted between West Lake Street and West 31st Street along East Calhoun Parkway, which state “No Parking, 10PM – 6AM, April 1 to Oct. 1”.
3. Coordinate a meeting with City of Minneapolis staff to seek the inclusion of residence located along East Calhoun Parkway between Lake Street and West 31st Street into the current permit parking system located on Knox Avenue South.
4. Coordinate the following actions with the Minneapolis Park Police and staff:
 - A. Post signs for park hours and how conditions change at 10PM and 12AM.
 - B. Create standard nightly enforcement plan. Do a drive-by along the lakeshore 1-2 times before Park Police shift ends at 1AM.

NRP, Gary Farland

Gary Farland and Monica Smith met representatives from the Park Board to discuss ideas for using Park Dedication Fee funds.

Communications

A mailer will go out to promote the annual meeting and the Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

Social Committee

No report due to time constraints of the meeting.

Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

Friends of the Walker Library raised \$1,800 at the jewelry sale held on August 4.

Green Team, Dane Stimart

The Green Team is working on raising awareness about the importance of bagging leaves so they don't go into the lake and pollute the water.

The team raised the idea of having a wildlife exhibit on the lakeshore.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

No update.

Monica Smith's Contract

The ECCO Board voted to approve a one-year contract for Monica Smith and raised the hourly rate by \$2.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting is the ECCO Annual meeting on Thursday, October 4 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.