

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 6, 2020 via video conferencing.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Dane Stimart, Vice President Nick Muellerleile, Treasurer Judy Shields, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Jane Connelly, Deb Jessen, Ralph Knox, Marya Morstad, Mary Sabatke, Lee Todd, David Tompkins, Jenny Walter, Joe Wehri.

Guest speakers: Marion Greene, Hennepin County Board Chair and District 3 Commissioner; Jono Cowgill, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board President and District 4 Commissioner and Inspector Amelia Huffman, Minneapolis Police, 5th Precinct.

ECCO resident guests: Ryan Brown, Bruce Brunner, Nathan Campeau, Anne Chase, Carol Dines, Susie Goldstein, Terry Harris, Sally Spence, Denise Sewesky, Heather & Eric Wulfsburg.

Dane Stimart called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Encampments in Minneapolis:

Marion Greene, Hennepin County Board Chair and District 3 Commissioner and Jono Cowgill, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board President and District 4 Commissioner

Hennepin County is working with the Park Board, City and regional partners to provide shelter for unsheltered people. This is a regional issue and exacerbated by the coronavirus and the economy.

Permanent housing is the ultimate goal. Since January 2020, 800 people have been connected with permanent housing, but the need is much greater. The goal is to work toward housing homeless people by the winter.

Three new shelters will be coming online soon, each represents different partnerships.

In March, Governor Walz signed executive order that prevented the disbandment of encampments by state or local governments. Minneapolis parks became the sites of many encampments. The Powderhorn Park encampment grew very large and very dangerous.

In mid-July the Park Board passed a resolution requiring temporary permits for no more than 25 tents at a given site and limiting encampments to no more than 20 parks. The permits outline specific guidelines and regulations.

The Park Board Superintendent has the authority to disband dangerous and unsafe encampments.

There are currently four permitted sites in Minneapolis Parks; the closest to ECCO is on Richfield Road.

Question: What can individuals and neighborhood organizations do to help?

Answer: Working with the homeless population is hard work and takes training and support.

- Volunteer with or provide financial support to organizations (such as St. Stephens,

Simpson House) that have expertise in working with the homeless.

- Put pressure on the legislature to provide more funding for affordable housing.

Marion Greene, additional announcements:

- Primary election is August 11. You can vote by mail, in person at the early voting centers or at the polls on August 11.
- Hennepin County is using CARES Act funds to support small business owners and renters.

Jono Cowgill, additional announcement:

- Rebuilding the refectory at Bde Maka Ska has been delayed due to the coronavirus but it is in the budget and the Park Board expects to break ground next year.

Announcements:

- Census 2020: Reminder to complete your Census 2020 form.
- National Night Out: The event has been postponed until Tuesday, September 15.

The ECCO Board electronically approved the following since the last board meeting:

- Provide closed captioning, at the request of a resident, for the Culture, Diversity & Inclusion forum on Race in America on July 21 at a cost of \$155.
- In the rare circumstances that an expense arises between board meetings, allow the ECCO Board President (or Vice President in an absence) to approve expenditures (maximum of \$300). The expenditure will be reported at the next ECCO Board meeting.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) approved ECCO's NRP Plan Modification for the Traffic Study/Implementation Plan and contract amendment to provide support for the speed bumps on the 3500 block of Humboldt Ave S.
- The City Council approved the revised 2020 budget to address the \$150 million shortfall created by COVID-19. Budget cuts included hiring freezes, wage freezes and furloughs. The revised budget also shifted \$1.5 million from the police department to the Office of Violence Prevention.
- Neighborhoods 2020 draft guidelines: Minneapolis has extended the comment period until September 30. ECCO will prepare a response to be approved by the board at the next meeting.
- St. Mary's Greek Church has cancelled the Greek Festival this year and instead will be holding the "Big Greek Giveback" on September 12. St. Mary's requested a one-time use of ECCO's mailing list to mail invitations (through USPS) to residents to pick up a ready-to-go meal thanking neighbors for their support over the years.
- Dane Stimart and Monica Smith will begin planning for the annual meeting in October.

Board Discussion on ECCO Name

A board member requested that the ECCO Board revisit the neighborhood name in light of events since the killing of George Floyd.

After much discussion by board members and residents present, the following motion was presented: To hold a town hall meeting in the next month to invite neighbors to discuss the neighborhood name in light of the events of the last few months. The motion did not pass.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were not presented since the meeting was running late.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.