

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2016 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith and approved by the ECCO Board by electronic vote prior to publication.

Board members present: President Susie Goldstein, Vice President Brittany Edwards, Treasurer Klaus Obergfell, Secretary Ben Jilek, Ellen Anderson-benge, Abby Armstrong, Alex Cleberg, Gary Farland, Rachel Hoben, Mark Rosenfeld, and Caroline Vaaler.

Board member absent: Nathan Campeau and Paul Harstad

Guests: Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10; Graves hotel project team members: Pete Keely, Matt Mering, Sally Ableither, Ian Haines, Claudette Guillermo; and ECCO residents Harvey Zuckman, Linda Todd and Roger Messner.

President Susie Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10

- Council Members Bender and Goodman are working on an ordinance change to prohibit drive-throughs within the Uptown Pedestrian Overlay Districts.
- The Working Families Agenda listening sessions continue. A recommendation will be made to the City Council in March.
- The City Council is expected to vote to award the recycling contract to Eureka Recycling.
- Graves' hotel project on Lake and Emerson: CM Bender noted that her constituents are split on this issue; the Planning Commission will vote on the project on February 8th.

Open Forum

Aaron Rubenstein, a CARAG resident, attended the meeting to share his concerns about the Graves' hotel project on Lake Street. Rubenstein is supportive of a hotel in Uptown but objects to the location of the hotel on Lake/Emerson. The Uptown Small Area Plan calls for a hotel within the Activity Center or the Urban Village (the Lake/Emerson property is outside of those areas).

Graves Hotel Project, Pete Keely, Collage Architects and Matt Mering, Graves Hospitality

The project team reported that they made substantial changes to the building design at the request of the CARAG neighborhood. The project is now a 5-6 story, 70' tall building with a 40 seat bar/restaurant. A conditional use permit is needed for the building height. The property needs to be rezoned from C2 to C3A to allow for a hotel. Variances are needed for floor area ratio (FAR), side yard setbacks and loading zone. Parking will be valet service using the Calhoun Square ramp.

Calhoun/Harriet Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Harvey Zuckman

The CAC continues to meet to discuss the 20-year vision for the lakes. There are a total of nine focus areas (of which five are for Lake Calhoun).

Ideas specific to East Calhoun include:

- Convert the Tot Lot to nature play with play opportunities for the 5-12 age group

- Improve water quality entering the lake from ECCO; integrate recreational amenities into the stormwater treatment (pedestrian boardwalk)
- Provide ADA compliant ramp
- Provide landing areas along the curb at East Calhoun Parkway and reconstruct stairway to the lake
- Improve the 36th St W intersection

Ideas for NE corner of the lake:

- Move the sailing school and boat launch to the NW side of the lake
- New restroom facilities
- Move boat rental facility to south side of Tin Fish
- Land bridge over Lake St to make better connections

All of the proposed plans can be found on at www.minneapolisparks.org (search Calhoun-Harriet).

The next meeting of the CAC is Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The board approved a \$40 gift card as a thank you to Judy and Michael Shields for hosting the holiday caroling after-party.
- An outside consultant has been hired by the City of Minneapolis to evaluate the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department and its programs (CPP and NPR). The final report is due March 7.
- The annual report for the Community Participation Program is due April 29. The ECCO Board will review the report in March or April.
- The Community Connections Conference is April 2, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. The event is free and open to all.
- ECCO resident Bill Remmers recently turned 101. Bill is a World War II vet and was awarded the Bronze Star.
- A guest speaker from Save Our Minneapolis Parks will attend next month's meeting to discuss the Park Board referendum efforts.

Treasurer's Report, Klaus Obergfell

The ECCO Board approved the proposed budget of \$4,035 for ECCO's 2016 unrestricted expenses.

Committee Reports

Communications

The Communications Committee met and will begin working on a postcard mailing. Rachel Hoben updated the Facebook page. All are encourage to "like" the page: East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO).

Midtown Greenway Coalition

The ECCO Board appointed Roger Messner to serve as ECCO's representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition board (replacing Paul Harstad). Special thanks to Paul for his service on behalf of ECCO.

Greater Uptown Community Partnership

Rachel Hoben reported that a coordinator was recently hired to work with the group. The next meeting will focus on traffic issues.

Livability Committee

The January 18th meeting included a discussion about replacing the bus shelter that was removed on Lagoon at East Calhoun Pkwy. The shelter was removed because it was in need of repair. The shelter will not be replaced because the location does not meet the threshold of 40 riders per day to warrant a shelter.

The board is not taking a position on the Graves Hotel project on Lake and Emerson because it does not immediately border ECCO and the CARAG Board has not asked for ECCO's support.

Green Team

The Green Team's Energy Reduction Workshop planned for February 2nd was postponed due to a snowstorm. The new date is Tuesday, March 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.

Social

The next Happy Hour event is Monday, February 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving.

President's Report, Susie Goldstein

The Organic Apple Tree Workshop is Tuesday, February 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. The ECCO Board electronically approved the speaker fee of \$150 for the event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is the Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.