

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

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, Marya Morstad, Mary Sabatke, David Tompkins, Jenny Walter and Joe Wehri.

Board members absent: Ralph Knox and Lee Todd.

ECCO resident guests: Heather and Eric Wulfsberg.

Guests: Jono Cowgill, President and District 4 Commissioner, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and Arlene Fried, Bryn Mawr resident.

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

Announcements

- The Minneapolis Police published ECCO's crime statistics for 2019. A link to the statistics can be found on our website: eastcalhoun.org/news-action-items.
- The Planning Commission is holding a public hearing for amendments to revise regulations governing the height of accessory structures. The main amendment would increase the allowed garage height and accessory dwelling unit height (ADU) as a right, regardless of the height of the principal structure. Additional changes are proposed to definitions and authorizing variance height to exceed the height of the principal structure. The hearing is Monday, February 10, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is beginning its Long-Term Comprehensive Plan for the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. The purpose of the plan is to anticipate future needs of the airport for the next 20 years and to analyze impacts on the community (such as airplane noise). For more information and to sign up to receive communication about the process, go to mspairport.com and search "long-term planning."

Jono Cowgill, President and District 4 Commissioner, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Commissioner Cowgill was recently elected to serve as the President of the Park Board. He said he is personally committed to having the board function collegially.

Commissioner Cowgill outlined his vision for the Park Board as being two pillars:

1. Investment in youth to create positive experiences for youth with programming, mentorship and jobs.
2. Dealing with climate change. The City of Minneapolis has declared a climate emergency. The Park Board is the steward of the city's public land so what does this mean for them? Climate change will be a consideration in all decisions the Park Board makes.

Other updates:

- The master planning process for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake is beginning.

- The master plans for the Southwest area neighborhood parks will be published soon to begin a 45-day comment period.
- The refectory at Bde Maka Ska is expected to be rebuilt in 2021.

Commissioner Cowgill encouraged the ECCO Board and residents to provide input on projects and ideas.

Coordinator’s Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhoods 2020: The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) will present the Neighborhoods 2020 Racial Equity Analysis to the City Council, Committee of the Whole, on Wednesday, February 12, 1:30 p.m. at City Hall. The Neighborhoods 2020 program guidelines will be released for public comment on February 24, kicking off a 45-day comment period.
- Annual Report: The City requires neighborhood associations to submit an annual report, which is due by March 15. The report asks organizations to describe two major highlights from the year. The board would like to feature the neighborhood name change process and working with a developer on the parkway project. The annual report will be written, and a draft will be sent to board members in advance of the March board meeting.
- Super Sale: The resident who volunteered to coordinate the Super Sale in 2020 has some family commitments that conflict with serving in that role. Since participation has been declining over recent years, the ECCO Board decided to take a year off from holding the Super Sale and re-evaluate next year.
- Personal Safety Workshop: ECCO will partner with South Uptown to host a workshop in May.
- Proposed School Changes: The Minneapolis Board of Education has published the Comprehensive District Design that proposed changes to school boundaries to better serve underserved populations. The School Board is expected to vote on major parts of the design in April 2020 for implementation in the 2021-22 school year. The ECCO Board is interested in helping facilitate a conversation for residents.

Committee Reports

ECCO Name Change Implementation

Dane Stimart will lead the process to kick off a new team to implement the name change process.

Livability Committee

The January Livability Committee meeting included a presentation about an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) being proposed for 1445 W 35th St. The ADU would be built over a new garage. To accommodate the required set-backs from the property line, the homeowner is seeking a variance for the required distance of the garage/ADU to the house to be reduced from 20 feet to just over nine (9) feet. The board was not asked to take any action at this time.

Social Committee, Marya Morstad

The next ECCO Happy Hour is Monday, February 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving Restaurant, 1513 W Lake St. The board discussed ideas to increase participation at the Happy Hour events.

Friends of the Walker Library, Mary Sabatke

The library is accepting donations of used books for the book cart (fundraiser).

Green Team, Dane Stimart

The Green Team staffed a tent at the Luminary Loppet to recruit volunteers for the Earth Day Clean-Up to be held on April 18, 9:30 a.m. – Noon at Bde Maka Ska.

Dane Stimart sent the Loppet Foundation a follow-up report with concerns about trash left on the lake after the Luminary Loppet and suggestions for a zero-waste event in the future.

The Green Team will meet on Tuesday, February 18, 7:00-8:30 (location to be determined).

Renter Committee, Nick Muellerleile

Nothing to report. A meeting will be scheduled in March. The goal for 2020 is to reach out to new residents of the Sons of Norway development.

NRP, Judy Shields

Nothing to report until the guidelines for Neighborhoods 2020 have been released and we can see what is being proposed for future funding.

President's Report

Dane Stimart attended South Uptown's January meeting to hear from Northpond Partners, the new owners of Calhoun Square. Northpond was looking for feedback from residents as they make plans for the property. The ECCO Board will invite Northpond to an upcoming meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.