

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Judy Shields, Vice President Dane Stimart, Treasurer Gary Farland, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Jane Connelly, Daré Magnus-Lawson, Marya Morstad, Nick Muellerleile, Rhoda Reighard and Lee Todd.

Board members absent: Ralph Knox, Mary Sabatke and Jenny/Jonas Walter.

Guests: Council President Lisa Bender, Arlene Fried, John Dolejsi and Geri Wolf.

President Judy Shields called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Geri Wolf, Consultant, Black Walnut Bakery

Black Walnut Bakery has been in the wholesale bakery business and will be opening their first store at 3157 Hennepin Ave. Business hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. daily (however they may stay open until midnight for special events). They will serve baked goods, savory entrees, coffee, wine and strong beer. The bakery will have indoor seating for 40 and outdoor seating for 20. They expect to be opening to the public in May-June.

Council President Lisa Bender, Ward 10

City updates:

- The council is considering shifting from an annual budget to a bi-annual budget.
- Housing:
 - Displacement and rising rents continue to be an issue.
 - The temporary Navigation Center is closing in June. The city is working to help find stable housing for people who remain at the center.
 - Renter First Policy to look at rental housing as an asset to maintain vs. a problem to be mitigated. The city is looking at a number of items, some of which will require a change to state law.
 - An interim Inclusionary Zoning Policy is currently in place, but the city is working on a permanent policy.
- Implementing Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan:
 - Transportation Action Plan: A Ward 10 meeting will take place in late April.
 - Zoning code updates: The city will start making changes to the zoning code over the next couple of years. One of the first items is to move forward with allowing up to three units on residential lots.
 - Minneapolis 2040 planning: The city is moving away from Small Area Plans and going toward planning around corridors.
- Snow:
 - A lack of towing resources in the city has added to the problem with snow on the streets.
 - Winter parking restrictions are currently in place.
- Hennepin Ave (downtown) will be reconstructed.

Neighborhood updates:

- Calhoun Square is for sale.
- Two development projects in ECCO:

- East Calhoun Pkwy. The developers are revising the plan from a 4-story building to a 3-story building. President Bender has not yet seen the plans but will likely support the revised project.
- James and Lake: The developer is proposing a 10-story building. The proposal includes affordable housing for 20% of the units. Council President did not say no out of hand and hasn't made any promises. ECCO board members raised concerns about the Shoreland Overlay, precedent, current zoning, Uptown Small Area Plan, etc.

Announcements

- ECCO and South Uptown are hosting a Personal Safety Workshop on Thursday, March 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's. We were not able to deliver flyers due to problems scheduling with the delivery crew and the weather.
- The city will hold community meetings beginning in April for the Transportation Action Plan.
- The Met Council received federal funds for transportation projects in the metro area, including adding Bus Rapid Transit lines to Hennepin Ave (E Line) and Lake St (B Line).
- I-35 W construction – sections of the Midtown Greenway will be closed from March 13-15. In late March, I-35 will be closed in both directions between Hwy 62 and I-94 for several nights.
- Minneapolis has changed its recycling program: No. 6 plastics and black plastics (any number) are no longer accepted.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is offering a workshop, "Effective Planning for Community Engagement," on Wednesday, March 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 319.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- The board approved a draft of ECCO's 2018 Community Participation Program (CPP) annual report to be submitted to the City.
- ECCO's subcommittee is working on comments in response to the Neighborhoods 2020 Recommendation that will be presented to the ECCO Board for an electronic vote before the March 31 deadline.
- A volunteer has not emerged to coordinate the Super Sale; we will take a one-year hiatus and see if a volunteer comes forward next year.
- The Street Party will not be held the first Saturday in June this year; we are looking for an alternate date.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Lee Todd

See the updates on two development projects under Council President Bender's report.

East Calhoun Pkwy development (3017, 3021, and 3025 East Calhoun Pkwy): Thanks to the subcommittee working with the developers to revise the proposal, which is expected to go to the Planning Commission in April. The team has not yet seen the revised plans.

Lake & James: The developer attended the February 18, 2019 Livability Committee meeting and presented the same proposal that they gave to the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole on January 31, 2019. Residents raised concerns about parking, traffic, Shoreland Overlay and the size/height of the building. The developers expect to go back to the Planning Commission in April or May. The Livability Committee formed a subcommittee to work with the developers. The proposal is on the Livability Committee webpage: eastcalhoun.org/livability-committee.

Concerns were raised about small area plans being eliminated in the Minneapolis 2040 process.

The next Livability Committee meeting is Monday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

NRP, Gary Farland

The committee did not meet in February.

Social Committee, Marya Morstad

The next ECCO Happy Hour is Monday, March 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving Restaurant.

Friends of the Walker Library

No report.

Green Team, Dane Stimart

The Earth Day Clean Up will be Saturday, April 20 (morning).

Possible projects: Community Solar event and Clean Sweep event.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Jane Connelly

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is planning gardening projects and a statue of famed bicycle racer Major Taylor.

Neighborhood Name Review Committee

The committee is planning three community meetings in May to have community conversations around the name of the neighborhood.

The committee requested \$1,600 for two mailings to go to all residents of the neighborhood. A motion was made to approve the funds but was not seconded.

The board asked the committee to return to the next board meeting with more information/details about the process.

Renter Committee, Nick Muellerleile

The committee held their first meeting and discussed planning an event in late summer.

They will hold their next meeting in early April.

Communications, Judy Shields

No report.

President's Report, Judy Shields

Reminder to committee chairs to submit meeting minutes (in a Word document) to be posted on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, April 4, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.