

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 5, 2020 via video conferencing.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: Sarah Buchlaw, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Deb Jessen, Paul Lussenhop, Amy Rutherford, Louis Schulz-Welo, Judy Shields, Lee Todd, David Tompkins, Jenny Walter, Joe Wehri, Eric Wulfsberg.

ECCO resident guests: Outgoing ECCO President Dane Stimart, ECCO Board Alternate Ryan Brown, Jill England, Bobbie Keller.

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

Announcements:

- Public hearings are being held by the City and the Park Board for their 2021 budgets with the final hearing and budget adoption on Wednesday, December 9.
- A new online City resource presents more than 40 different dashboards of continuously updated data sets on many aspects of the City's work and services including elections, housing, health, community safety, and vacant and condemned properties. To view the dashboards, go to minneapolismn.gov/government/government-data/datasource.
- The Park Board approved the master plans for the Southwest area neighborhood parks. Go to minneapolisparcs.org/sw.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhoods 2020: A public hearing on the Neighborhoods 2020 draft program guidelines was held on November 5. The City Council will vote on the guidelines November 13. The funding for the program will be discussed at the City Council's Budget Committee on November 12.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) published the 2019 Neighborhood Programs Annual Report and featured ECCO for its work with a developer. View the report at 2.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/WCMS1P-106892-top.
- ECCO, along with other neighborhoods, contributed funds to Neighborhoods Respond to COVID-19. Fund expenditures were reviewed.

The ECCO Board electronically approved the following since the last board meeting on September 3, 2020:

- Signed on to a multi-neighborhood response to Neighborhoods 2020 that asks for additional funding for all neighborhood organizations. Quoting a portion of the letter: "As a strong collection of neighborhood organizations leading the way into the future of organizing around equity, we are urging the City Council to allocate \$3 million additional dollars into the proposed racial equity formula for Neighborhoods for a total of a \$7.1 million investment to address racial disparities at the neighborhood level."
- Passed a resolution to change the Annual Meeting procedures to hold the meeting and board election virtually during the coronavirus pandemic.

- Approved a letter to be submitted to the City for the public hearing for the Zen Center's variance requests. Quoting a portion of the letter: "ECCO is supportive of the Zen Center requests for variances for parking relief and the remodeled front entrance. The neighborhood concurs with the Zen Center reasoning that replacing a meditative green space with a large parking lot is quite undesirable. However, discussions with neighbors and the Zen Center have revealed some longstanding issues of safety in the alley behind the center. So our full support comes with some caveats to be resolved."
- Certified the results of 218 valid votes by residents to choose a new neighborhood logo. The sailboat logo was the winner with 66 percent of the vote.
- Elevated Louis Schulz-Welo from Alternate #1 to fill the board vacancy created by the resignation of Carol Dines.
- Approved a letter to be submitted to the City in advance of the public hearing for codifying the built form regulations in the Minneapolis 2040 plan (see Livability for details).

Committee Reports

Livability Committee, Lee Todd and David Tompkins

The October committee meeting included discussion about the Minneapolis 2040 built form and the new reconstruction project for Hennepin Ave (from Lake St to Douglas Ave).

Minneapolis 2040 built form: The Minneapolis 2040 was approved by the City Council in January 2020. The City is in the process of codifying the built form regulations that are contained in the 2040 Plan. The Livability Committee drafted, and the ECCO Board electronically approved, a letter to be submitted for the public hearing. ECCO's letter asks that the "premium" system that would allow developers to build above the heights outlined in the 2040 Plan be more robust and specific and that the process for applications of the Shoreland Overlay District and other overlays need to be spelled out clearly.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the built form regulations on Monday, November 9, 4:30 p.m.

The next Livability Committee meeting is Monday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The agenda will include plans from Northpond Partners for the redevelopment of Seven Points, the site formerly known as Calhoun Square.

NRP Committee, Judy Shields

Affordable housing loan:

ECCO has a loan to Propel Nonprofits that then loans the funds to organizations working on affordable housing in Minneapolis. The loan amount is \$67,258 (NRP Funds) and the contract is set to expire on 12-31-20. The funds are currently being used by YouthLink Downtown View that provides housing for people age 18-24.

The committee proposes extending the contract by one year as long as ECCO has sufficient funding to get through 2021.

ECCO Board approves extending the loan to Propel Nonprofits until 12/31/21 pending the City Council's approval of \$22,500 in funding for ECCO in 2021.

ECCO's 2021 funding:

The city is in the process of redesigning funding for neighborhood organizations (Neighborhoods 2020).

We will not have a final answer on funding until the City Council approves the 2021 budget on Wednesday, December 9.

The NRP Committee recommended the following Plan Modifications to move funds to where they will be needed to be used in 2021. Plan Modifications require giving the board 21-day notice before voting. The board will be asked for electronic approval of the following Plan Modification on 11/27/20:

- Move \$4,000 in funds reserved for a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) into CPP community engagement for staff expenses. The CPP contract will be amended accordingly.
- Move \$14,000.86 of NRP funds to the staff/administration line item in NRP Phase II as follows (the NRP contract will be amended accordingly):
 - \$0.86 from Revolving Loan Program
 - \$1,400 from Neighborhood Events
 - \$3,000 from Neighborhood Boundary Signs
 - \$9,600 from Park Improvements

Public Safety, Amy Rutherford

The committee is exploring options for a neighborhood crime watch and working on establishing communications systems on neighborhood blocks as it relates to public safety.

ECCO Name Change Implementation, Bobbie Keller

The committee recommended a motion to approve moving forward with designing, printing and posting neighborhood boundary signs with the new logo, at a cost not to exceed \$2,600 and using existing Community Participation Program (CPP) funds. The motion did not pass.

The board passed a motion to table the sign discussion until the next month.

Social & Communication Committee

No report.

Green Team, Jane Connelly

More than 20 people participated in Litter Be Gone.

The Green Team is working on planning for Earth Day 2021 and is working with Metro Blooms to consider a rain garden project in the neighborhood.

Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Joe Wehri

Committee members previewed an event called “Let’s Get Uncomfortable,” which offers a space to talk about race and being anti-racist. The board is interested in hosting an event if the facilitators are people of color. More information next month.

Officer Elections

The following ECCO Board officers were elected: Lee Todd, President; Deb Jessen, Vice President; Judy Shields, Treasurer and David Tompkins, Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.