

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 8, 2021 via video conference.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Lee Todd, Secretary David Tompkins, Ryan Brown, Sarah Buchlaw, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Paul Lussenhop, Louis Schulz-Welo, Joe Wehri.

Board members absent: Vice President Deb Jessen, Treasurer Judy Shields, Eric Wulfsberg.

ECCO resident guests: Grant Brakob, Susie Goldstein, Tim Fontaine, Bill Regan.

Guests: Jill Osiecki, Uptown Association; John Edwards, Wedge Live; Kim Urig.

President Lee Todd called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Guest speaker: Jill Osiecki, Executive Director, Uptown Association

The City is in the planning phase for reconstructing Hennepin Ave between Douglas Ave and Lake St. The project team has narrowed the design plans to two options. Public comments are being accepted through April 16. The current timeline is that a design will be approved by the City Council in August 2021. Street construction is expected to begin in 2024.

The Uptown Association has organized a petition asking the City Council vote to be delayed until after the November City Council election and to allow for design changes that better incorporate the needs of the business on the corridor.

Comment on the concept designs through April 16 at minneapolismn.gov/projects/HennepinSouth.

Announcements:

- The City has a webpage with information and updates around the trial of former MPD officer Derek Chauvin: minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/trial-support-safety/. Police and National Guard presence will increase with closing arguments.
- The Minneapolis Police Department has established a new tip line. Call **612-673-5335** to provide tips to MPD about suspicious activity not requiring an immediate response, such as vehicles driving without license plates, etc. If someone's safety is at risk and an immediate response from police, fire or medics is required, call 911.
- The Minnesota State Fairgrounds will be a site of a COVID-19 Community Vaccination Clinic beginning April 14 for residents of specific zip codes (including 55408). The site will be by appointment only, sign up for the Vaccine Connector to be selected for an appointment: vaccineconnector.mn.gov.
- The overall number of traffic crashes decreased in Minneapolis in 2020 but the number of fatal crashes increased by 30 percent. Excessive speeding was a factor in 75% of traffic deaths last year.
- Street sweeping begins April 19.
- Yard waste pickup has begun for the season.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhoods 2020: Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) will be asking the City Council to extend the current Community Participation Program (CPP) contracts and funding through the end of the year and postpone the start of the new program until January 1. If this is approved, there would be no change to our 2021 funding.
- NCR is hosting weekly meetings with neighborhood organizations during the Chauvin trial. Minutes from the meetings are available at 2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/neighborhood-programs/citywide-neighborhood-meetings/

The ECCO Board electronically approved the following since the last board meeting on March 4, 2021:

- Mailer with ballot for the neighborhood name vote.

Welcome letter, Lee Todd

The ECCO Board unanimously approved copy for a welcome letter that could be electronically distributed to residents in Daymark and other larger apartment buildings in the neighborhood.

Committee Reports

Social & Communications

- Wine Tasting: The event will not be held this fall. A spring event is being considered.
- A volunteer is needed to chair this committee. Please contact info@ecconeighborhood.org for more information.

Livability Committee, Lee Todd and David Tompkins

The March meeting included:

- A presentation by the Park Board about the Bde Maka Ska Refectory rebuild project. The Park Board is looking at using Park Dedication Fee funds on the project and wants feedback from the neighborhood. A meeting will be schedule with a Park Board representative who manages the Park Dedication program. For more information about the rebuilt project, go to minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/bde-maka-ska-refectory-rebuild.
- A presentation by Elliot Capital Group to replace a single family home at 3025 James Ave S with a nine-unit residential building.

A developer emailed ECCO to notify us about a proposal redevelop 3331 Hennepin (in South Uptown) as a mixed-use project with 11 residential units.

The next committee meeting is Monday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Public Safety, Paul Lussenhop

The committee has been working on plans for a neighborhood walking group for the purpose of engaging with neighbors. The committee developed rules, a waiver and included a flyer about implicit bias.

The board approved a motion to support development of the walking program with rules provided and development of an implicit bias process to be submitted to the board for an electronic vote (vote: 6 approve/2 oppose).

Naming Committee, Sarah Buchlaw and David Tompkins

- The committee is implementing the Engagement Plan that outlines the process to reengage residents regarding the neighborhood name.
- The information mailer went out mid-March and a webpage was added to our website.
- The committee held an Information Session on March 29.
- The board electronically approved the second mailer that included a ballot, and the mailer is being received by residents this week.
- An eblast also went out announcing that the voting period is open until April 30.
- The ECCO Board unanimously approved a motion to appoint Lee Todd (or Judy Shields if Lee is not available), Sarah Buchlaw and Monica Smith as the three-person panel to count the vote.
- Results will be presented at the May 6 board meeting.

Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Joe Wehri

- *Let's Get Uncomfortable* was a successful event held on March 11. A follow up session is being considered.
- Copies of *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* by Sun Yung Shin, have been purchased and placed in Little Free Libraries around the neighborhood. An author facilitated discussion will be held Thursday, June 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m. To register, go to ecconeighborhood.org/events.

Green Team, Jane Connelly

Earth Day clean-up is Saturday, April 24, 9:00-Noon. Supplies will be delivered to the homes of people who register for the event at ecconeighborhood.org/events.

NRP Committee

No report.

New Neighbor Campaign, Anja Curiskis

Anja wants to implement a new neighbor section on our website and engaging with businesses. She will bring more information to a future meeting.

Electronic Voting Process, Lee Todd

The ECCO Board unanimously approved a motion for electronic voting: in addition to the options to vote "yes," "no" or "abstain," board members can vote "needs discussion". If there is at least one "needs discussion" vote, the following would occur: the board member and the board president would meet in person or on the phone and arrive at one of two outcomes -- either the vote goes forward with the "needs discussion" being counted as "abstain" or the vote is suspended until a full board discussion can be held.

Bylaws Committee

ECCO's bylaws will need to be revised to comply with new requirements from the City.

The ECCO Board unanimously approved a motion to form a bylaws committee with the goal of presenting the new bylaws for a community vote at the Annual Meeting in October.

Ryan Brown volunteered to chair the committee.

Board Vacancy

Jenny and Jonas Walter have resigned their shared board position.

The ECCO Board approved a motion to offer the open position to the candidate on the ballot from last October with the next highest number of votes (vote count included one vote to "abstain").

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.