

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 3, 2021 via video conference.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Lee Todd, Vice President Deb Jessen, Secretary David Tompkins, Treasurer Judy Shields, Ryan Brown, Sarah Buchlaw, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Paul Lussenhop, Joe Wehri, Eric Wulfsberg.

Board member absent: Louis Schulz-Welo.

ECCO resident guest: Kim Urig.

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

Announcements:

- Law enforcement fatally shot of a person in the Seven Points parking ramp this afternoon. Details are still emerging.
- Tina Erasmus from the Ward 10 City Council office has left the position. A temporary employee is filling in until a replacement can be hired.
- Organizers in North Minneapolis implemented 21 Days of Peace in response to recent gun violence. They may be seeking support from neighborhood organizations. We are waiting for more information.

Board Vacancy

The vacant board position was offered to candidates from the October 2020 board election, but the two candidates declined due to other obligations. The position remains open.

July Board Meeting

The date for the July board meeting has been changed to the second Thursday (July 8) to avoid conflicts with the July 4 holiday.

Annual Report

The ECCO Board unanimously approved the annual report to be submitted to the Minnesota Attorney General.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Community Participation Program (CPP): the current CPP contract has been extended through the end of the year and \$15k was added to the contract. The balance of the CPP budget was presented.
- Personal Safety Workshop: South Uptown is planning a workshop for Saturday, June 12, 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Bryant Square Park Amphitheater and asked if ECCO would like to co-host. The ECCO Board unanimously approved a motion to provide refreshments (up to \$50) for the event. Thanks to Paul Lussenhop for volunteering to organize the refreshments on ECCO's behalf.
- Focused News Source: Staff from the Kingfield and Wedge neighborhoods are exploring options to provide an online replacement for the Southwest Journal that would focus on neighborhood organizations and diverse voices within our communities. More information is forthcoming.
- Charter Amendment and Candidate Forums: Neighborhood organizations are starting to plan for forums for proposed Charter Amendments and Candidate Forums. Jane

Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Judy Shields and Lee Todd volunteered to help organize a forum (or forums) in coordination with other neighborhoods.

Committee Reports

Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Joe Wehri

- An author facilitated discussion for *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* by Sun Yung Shin, will be held Thursday, June 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m. To register, go to ecconeighborhood.org/events. Copies of the book were purchased and placed in Little Free Libraries around the neighborhood. Flyers for the event were distributed by committee volunteers.
- Joe Wehri and Monica Smith attended an NCR meeting to learn more about the Equitable Engagement Fund. A draft of ECCO's proposal for the funds is due September 1 with the application due October 15.
- The next committee meeting is Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m. Contact info@ecconeighborhood.org for the Zoom link.

Green Team, Jane Connelly

The Green Team is planning on organizing adding wood chips to the Loon Lake Trolley Path and a late summer clean-up event.

The ECCO Board unanimously approved a motion to approve up to \$75 to purchase trash grabbers to aid volunteers in trash pick-up.

Public Safety, Paul Lussenhop

An eblast went out last month to promote the Walking Program and 16 people have signed up to participate.

The ECCO Board unanimously approved a motion to authorize funds of up to \$250 for the purchase of hats or t-shirts for Neighborhood Walkers to use that identify them as neighborhood volunteer walkers.

Livability Committee, Lee Todd and David Tompkins

- Bde Maka Ska Refectory rebuild project: The Park Board revoted on the concept plan and approved the project to move forward. Park Board staff was directed to pursue a memorandum of understanding with the Bde Maka Ska Sailing School, which would jointly seek opportunities for relocating boat launches and sailing school/club facilities away from the NE corner, as recommended in the master plan to ease congestion.
- The Livability Committee will work on proposals for alternative uses for the Park Dedication Fee dollars generated in ECCO.
- The committee is also working on adding a feature to the monthly newsletter with human interest stories about our neighbors.
- The next committee meeting is Monday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.

NRP Committee, Judy Shields

Judy is working with Joe and the Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee on the draft of the Equitable Engagement Fund proposal.

Social and Communications Committee, Judy Shields

The committee proposed hosting a social event for a night that the Tin Fish food truck is in the neighborhood at 34th St and Irving Ave. ECCO will promote a social event for ECCO residents on Thursday, June 24, 5:00-6:00 p.m. ECCO will provide free appetizers (funds are already in the 2021 budget for socials). Eric Wulfsberg offered to be the ECCO host for the event.

Bylaws, Ryan Brown

The committee will present draft versions of proposed policies to the community for comment then bring them to the ECCO Board for approval.

Neighborhood Name Vote Results, Sarah Buchlaw, David Tompkins, Lee Todd and Monica Smith

Lee Todd, Sarah Buchlaw and Monica Smith were the three-person panel assigned to count the votes. David Tompkins provided support by doing statistical analysis on non-confidential data.

The process and timeline for the neighborhood vote were reviewed. The voting period ended April 30. The team noticed suspicious voting activity in the online voting.

The team did considerable work to validate votes and confirm that the pattern of suspicious votes was both fraudulent and easily segmented out. Among other things this involved directly contacting building owners and managers to determine if the named person on the ballot was a resident and if the address listed on the ballot even existed. The team was able to empirically verify 50% of the suspicious ballots. In every case the named person did not reside at the listed address.

After consulting with Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR), City elections officials and Council Member Bender, the team presented two options to the ECCO Board:

Option 1: Working with existing votes, and declaring a winner based on them. Someone cast fraudulent votes, but did so in a clumsy and obvious manner, and we were able to remove those clearly fraudulent votes with an extremely high level of confidence.

Option 2: Declare the election invalid, and undertake a more secure re-vote. The preference to undertake a more secure re-vote instead of discarding fraudulent votes.

The ECCO Board approved a motion to proceed with Option 1 (vote was 9-2).

The final results of valid votes on Question 1:

(Do you wish to change our current neighborhood name, ECCO?)

Yes	410	75%
No	134	24.5%
No preference recorded	3	.5%
Total Valid Votes	547	100%

Total valid votes cast: 547

Vote yes to change the name: 410 (75%)

The final results of valid votes on Question 2:
(Please vote on an alternate neighborhood name:)

East Bde Maka Ska	239	43.7%
Uptown Lakeside	205	37.5%
East Lakeside	77	14.1%
No preference recorded	26	4.7%
Total Valid Votes	547	100%

Next steps:

- Draft an e-blast communication to announce the results.
- Initiate an official name change process for City Council approval.
- Form an Implementation Committee to change our organizational documents and branding.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, July 8, 2021* at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

*Note: meeting will be held one week later than usual to avoid conflicts with the July 4 holiday.