

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, July 9, 2020 via video conferencing.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Dane Stimart, Treasurer Judy Shields, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Jane Connelly, Deb Jessen, Ralph Knox, Mary Sabatke, David Tompkins, Jenny/Jonas Walter, Joe Wehri.

Board members absent: Vice President Nick Muellerleile, Marya Morstad, Lee Todd.

ECCO resident guests: Keith Heiberg, Rathin Kacham.

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

### **Announcements**

- City's Revised 2020 Budget: The City faces a significant revenue shortfall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and needs to make cuts to the City's roughly \$1.5 billion budget. Two online public hearings will be held:
  - Tuesday, July 14, 6:05 p.m.
  - Wednesday, July 22, 10:00 a.m.
- Public hearing on public safety: The Minneapolis Charter Commission is seeking public comments on a proposed amendment to the City Charter related to the future of public safety. People can submit their comments online or in person at a public hearing on Wednesday, July 15, 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 304.
- Southwest Minneapolis Parks: The master plans for the Southwest area neighborhood parks were published and the public comment period will close on August 1. The only ECCO park included in the master plan is the Loon Lake Trolley Path. For more information and to comment, go to [minneapolisparcs.org/sw](https://minneapolisparcs.org/sw).
- The Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan: The first two meetings of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) are scheduled for Monday, July 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Monday, August 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m. via Zoom. For more information, go to [minneapolisparcs.org/cedar-isles](https://minneapolisparcs.org/cedar-isles).
- Lower speed limits: Minneapolis and Saint Paul are in the process of implementing lower speed limits. The new speed limit starting this fall will be 20 mph in both cities unless otherwise signed. Many busier streets already have new 25 mph speed limit signs installed. You can pick up your "20 is Plenty" yard sign at any Minneapolis fire station. Signs will be available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. through July 24 while supplies last.
- National Night Out: The event has been postponed until Tuesday, September 15.
- Census 2020: Reminder to complete your Census 2020 form.

### **Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith**

- Neighborhoods 2020 draft guidelines: Minneapolis has extended the comment period until September 30.
- The ECCO Board approved a one-year subscription (\$120, CPP allowable expense) to Dropbox for data storage of ECCO electronic files.

**The ECCO Board electronically approved the following since the last board meeting:**

- NRP Plan Modification (after the required 21-day notice)
  - A Plan Modification to bring the following NRP Phase I strategy into our NRP Phase II Action Plan: Traffic Study/Implementation Plan.
  - A Plan Modification to reallocate \$5,000 from Boulevard Gardens in Phase II into the new Phase II strategy for Traffic Study/Implementation Plan (rolled over from Phase I) and add \$5,000 to an existing contract.
  - Provide \$1,500 from the new Traffic Study/Implementation Plan strategy and contract the funds to support the speed bumps on the 3500 block of Humboldt Ave S.
- The formation of the new Public Safety Committee.
- Copy for the e-blast to go out on June 26 with the next steps for the neighborhood name implementation process (see more under committee reports below).
- Board statement:

The ECCO Neighborhood Association Board members express our deep sorrow and anger at the brutal murder of George Floyd and so many others who have been killed and dehumanized by members of the police force and by the systems of white supremacy that characterize our nation's history. We also express our support for our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) neighbors who are suffering while also being subjected to state violence and threats against them, in the midst of a pandemic that has disproportionately affected BIPOC, low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized communities in our city and our country.

We live in a city that has long discriminated against communities of color. We therefore recognize a particular responsibility to work to overcome our long history of discrimination and racism. Our neighborhood, until recently, bore the name of one of our nation's most prominent racists, John C. Calhoun. The neighborhood decided to change that name to no longer reflect that racist history; Calhoun is not part of our neighborhood name.

To further our neighborhood's obligations to work to overcome discrimination, the ECCO Neighborhood Association Board has made an initial contribution to the City's fund designed to "support the commercial rehabilitation of neighborhood businesses along Lake Street and West Broadway Avenue that were damaged during the protests following the murder of George Floyd." We are also exploring further contributions to other organizations. As individuals, many of us have donated to other organizations, and we encourage ECCO residents to do so as well.

This is the first of many steps to come. Going forward, we seek not only to build upon efforts to rebuild Minneapolis, but to work against racial inequities and make our neighborhood more open and welcoming to all people. We live in a society ingrained with institutionalized racism. Therefore, we must learn how, and work hard to be, more inclusive and equitable. We welcome the participation of ECCO residents and others in these efforts.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Public Safety, Dane Stimart**

The ECCO Board electronically approved the formation of a Public Safety Committee after the unrest and shootings in Uptown the weekend of June 19-21.

The committee hosted a Zoom meeting on June 22 that was attended by approximately 70 residents. The meeting provided attendees with an overview of a virtual meeting that Dane Stimart attended earlier that day with City officials, Uptown Association representatives and bar/restaurant owners to discuss safety in Uptown.

The Public Safety Committee had its first formal meeting on July 8 and discussed dividing into two sub-teams:

1. ECCO/Uptown focus
2. ECCO/broader city focus

The committee will meet on Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 p.m., to agree on a charter for the committee that will be presented to the ECCO Board.

### **Livability Committee**

No update on the Zen Center project.

There are three development proposals in South Uptown:

- 3500 block of Hennepin
- Lake St (in the vacant lot between Girard and Fremont) – 15-story mixed-use
- Joyce Church redevelopment

The next committee meeting is Monday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.

### **ECCO Name Change Implementation, Dane Stimart**

The new legal name of ECCO Neighborhood Association was approved by the MN Secretary of State.

We are working on the new website/URL/email addresses that will go live soon.

An e-blast was sent to our distribution list about the next steps in the name implementation process and asking for feedback on what residents want people to think and feel when they see our neighborhood name and logo. The e-blast included a call for artists to design a new logo.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.

### **Social & Communication Committee**

No report.

**Green Team, Jane Connelly**

Jane Connelly is the new chair of the Green Team.

A meeting will be planned in the next month.

**Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Joe Wehri**

The committee is planning a forum on Race in America on Tuesday, July 21, 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. Attendees will watch a 17-minute video in advance of the forum to prepare for the discussion.

**NRP Committee, Judy Shields**

See above for information on NRP funding initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.