

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 5, 2021 via video conference.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: Vice President Deb Jessen, Treasurer Judy Shields, Ryan Brown, Sarah Buchlaw, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Paul Lussenhop, Kim Urig, Joe Wehri.

Board member absent: President Lee Todd, Secretary David Tompkins, Louis Schulz-Welo, Eric Wulfsberg.

ECCO resident guest: Susie Goldstein.

Vice President Deb Jessen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Announcements:

- Ward 10: Council President Bender has been holding bi-weekly meetings with the staff from Ward 10 neighborhoods. Let Monica Smith know if you have agenda items to bring forward.
- COVID-19: Face coverings are now required for all indoor spaces operated by the City of Minneapolis, Park Board, Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennepin County.
- Drought: Minneapolis has implemented even-odd water sprinkling restrictions until further notice.
 - o Sprinkling lawns is NOT allowed from noon to 6:00 p.m. on any day.
 - o On calendar days that are even numbers, the even side of the street CAN sprinkle lawns outside of the noon to 6:00 p.m. time window.
 - o On calendar days that are odd numbers, the odd side of the street CAN sprinkle lawns outside of the noon to 6:00 p.m. time window.
- Listening sessions: Minneapolis residents are invited to a listening session about the City's response to the protests in May and June 2020 as part of an after-action review conducted by a consultant team contracted by the City.

During the session, the consultants will give an overview of the project's objectives and anticipated outcome. Facilitators will host breakout participation groups to hear the perspectives of all residents in attendance.

- Thursday, August 12, 5:30 p.m. [Register for the Zoom meeting here.](#)
- Friday, August 13, 1:30 p.m. [Register for the Zoom meeting here.](#)

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhoods 2020: The application for 2022 Neighborhood Network Fund is due October 15 for the funding cycle beginning January 1, 2022. Our neighborhood is estimated to receive \$15,000. See the Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee report for the update on the draft of the Equitable Engagement Plan.
- Jack Whitehurst, our Neighborhood Specialist with Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) has retired. Steve Gallagher will be the interim Specialist.

Forums for Charter Amendments and Elections, Jane Connelly

Charter Amendments: Jane Connelly is serving on a committee with other neighborhood association organizations to plan an educational forum for City Charter Amendments. There are currently four proposed amendments. The wording for the amendments will be finalized later this month.

Two hybrid meeting are being proposed in October.

Ward 10, City Council: The Uptown Association and Lake Street Council are planning a Ward 10 forum and are looking for neighborhood associations to partner on the event. Judy Shields will contact the Uptown Association on behalf of our neighborhood.

District 4, Park Board: A District 4 forum is being proposed to be held at our annual meeting. See below for details.

The board unanimously approved a motion to allocate \$500 from our Community Participation Program (CPP) funds for three forums.

Annual Meeting Planning

The annual meeting will be held Thursday, October 7.

The board unanimously approved a motion to hold a virtual-only event.

The board unanimously approved a motion to have the meeting agenda include:

- District 4 Park Board candidate forum (information from At-Large candidates will also be available in writing)
- Committee chair reports (chairs will submit content for Power Point presentation to Coordinator by deadline provided)
- President report
- Financial report
- Coordinator report
- Candidates for open board seats

It was also suggested that there be a presentation from the Crime Prevention Specialist.

Coordinator Search Committee, Deb Jessen

The Search Committee met to approve the job description and to post the Coordinator position. We have already received some applications and the committee will move forward with interviews.

Lee Todd approved an expense of \$50 to place an ad with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

Ryan Brown reported that the City will be requiring neighborhood organizations that apply for City funding in 2022 to have an accountant that is “qualified” and to use accounting software (we currently use Excel which does not meet the requirement).

The board unanimously approved a motion to contract with an accountant to handle the financials.

Committee Reports

Public Safety, Paul Lussenhop

The board approved the committee’s recommendation to host a neighborhood meeting that would allow residents a chance to express their concerns and observations regarding safety issues in the neighborhood. Guest speakers would be 5th Precinct Inspector Blackwell and our Crime Prevention Specialist (vote count: 7 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain). The meeting will be scheduled at a time convenient for the guest speakers.

Representatives from the Public Safety Committee and the board met with representatives from Seven Points to discuss concerns about the private security guards at the mall/parking garage.

Bylaws, Ryan Brown

The City will be requiring neighborhood organizations that apply for City funding in 2022 to have various policies in place by January 1. The policies are based on template provided by a law firm that the City hired to work with neighborhood organizations.

Drafts of the following policies were available for comment by our residents and provided to the board for review in advance of the meeting.

The policies identify the board’s Vice President as the person to manage compliance with the policies.

The board unanimously approved a motion to adopt the following policies:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and Affirmative Action Plan
- Expense Reimbursement Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Whistleblower Policy

The organization’s name will be updated on these policies once the name change is official.

Social and Communications Committee, Judy Shields

The committee discussed holding a Labor Day Celebration but there were not enough volunteers from board members to successfully host the event.

The committee will look for another opportunity to host an event with the Tin Fish food truck.

Name Implementation Committee, Deb Jessen and Ryan Brown

The City Council approved the request to change the neighborhood name from ECCO to East Bde Maka Ska.

The board unanimously approved the following recommendations from the Name Implementation Committee:

- Change the name of our organization to East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association.
- Approve the expense of \$355 (of CPP funds) for the lawyer to finalize the name change in the Articles of Incorporation and with the state and federal government.
- Secure the domain name of eastbdemakaska.org, if available.
- Authorize up to \$100 to secure the domain name.

Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The board unanimously approved a draft of the Equitable Engagement Plan. The plan will focus on tenants as the under-engaged group in the neighborhood.

Timeline: The draft plan is due to NCR by September 1. The formal application is due by October 15 and the funding cycle will begin on January 1. The application will need to be electronically approved by the board since the October meeting is the annual meeting.

Green Team, Jane Connelly

- A new sign was installed at the 32nd St Beach to remind people not to feed the waterfowl.
- The Green Team is looking for volunteers to help spread woodchips at the Loon Lake Trolley Path.

NRP Committee, Judy Shields

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

Livability Committee

The Park Board's budget for rebuilding the Bde Maka Ska Refectory shows all of the remaining Park Dedication Fees for our neighborhood (\$440,674) being used for the project. In 2020, \$185,557 of the neighborhood's fees were used for the construction of a water fountain on the site.

A survey was sent out in our July e-newsletter asking for feedback on the uses for Park Dedication Fees in the neighborhood. The majority of the respondents requested that at least half of the available funds be directed to improvements at the Loon Lake Trolley Path.

The board unanimously approved a draft of a letter to the Park Board asking them to reconsider directing all of the remaining Park Dedication Fees to the refectory project and indicating that the neighborhood would like to have the Park Board move forward on the Loon Lake Trolley Path project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. NOTE: this meeting is one week later than the usual meeting date.