

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2015 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Board members present: Susie Goldstein, President; Harry Savage, Vice-President; Anja Curiskis; Paul Harstad; Chris Iverson; Klaus Obergfell; David Tompkins; and Caroline Vaaler.

Board members absent: Abby Armstrong, Treasurer; Ben Jilek, Secretary; Kate Davenport; Steve Latham; and Mark Rosenfeld.

Guests: Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10 and Brian Trinh, Calhoun Square.

President Susie Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Ben Somogyi, Senior Policy Aide to Council Member Lisa Bender, Ward 10**

- 1800 Lake: A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance and must stop by March 31, 2015.
- East Calhoun Parkway is closed from 33<sup>rd</sup> St to 36<sup>th</sup> St for sewer repair through February 13. Hennepin Ave is the detour route. Contact Sean Oberg 612-366-5275 with questions.
- The city is monitoring a request from a resident for a no left turn signs onto Holmes Ave from eastbound 36<sup>th</sup> St.
- The city is finalizing the application process for businesses to apply for parklets.
- Update on the 2015 city budget: the budget includes fully funding the Clean Energy Partnership and organics composting and a 3% increase for neighborhood funding.
- Next Ten Talk: 2015 Ward 10 Priorities, Wednesday, January 28, 5:30-7:00 pm at Black Sheep Pizza (25<sup>th</sup> and Nicollet).

### **Brian Trinh, Marketing Manager, Calhoun Square**

- Calhoun Square is now locally owned and operated by Ackerberg.
- Improvements are underway with more art, way-finding signs, new furniture and lighting, and a new AV system.
- The winter market has been a big success.
- A farmers market is being planned for every Friday from May-October (3-7 pm) with fresh produce and handcrafted items.
- Store update: Bay Street Shoes closed. Peoples Organic will be opening soon. Calhoun Square is in negotiations for a restaurant to least the former Figlio's space.
- Calhoun Square has budgeted to host the Wine Tasting fundraiser this summer.
- The vacant lot on Lake Street will be used for a variety of event but plans are to eventually build a hotel on the site.
- Brian can be reached at 612-465-0283 or [briantrinh@Ackerberg.com](mailto:briantrinh@Ackerberg.com)

### **Staff Report, Monica Smith**

- The annual report for the 2014 Community Participation Program (CPP) is due March 16.
- The City of Lakes Loppet is looking for volunteers to staff stations on January 31 and February 1. Contact Monica Smith at [nrp@eastcalhoun.org](mailto:nrp@eastcalhoun.org). They are also offering 10 tickets to ECCO for the Luminary Loppet.

- The board approved a gift card to be sent to Judy and Michael Shields for hosting the Holiday Caroling after party and donating food/drinks.
- An overview of ECCO's funding sources was reviewed: ECCO unrestricted (money generated by fundraising), Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding, and CPP funding (yearly funding for community engagement and administration).
- The Uptown Association annual meeting is Tuesday, January 27. ECCO will host a table for the Expo and purchase tickets for board members who will help staff the table.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is hosting the annual Community Connections Conference, Saturday, March 21. More information will be available next month.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Susie Goldstein provided an overview of the financial transactions since last month.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Communications, Anja Curiskis**

The Uptown Neighborhood News continues to produce the monthly newspaper.

#### **Midtown Greenway Coalition, Paul Harstad**

The coalition board did not meet last month.

#### **Livability Committee**

The committee met in December and gave an overview of their work to new committee members.

The next meeting is Monday, January 19, 7 pm at St. Mary's. Wells Fargo will discuss their tentative plans to build a new bank branch at 1505 W Lake St (current location of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage office and bank drive through). CPM will present designs for a new 4-story building on W Lake St (to replace the homes located at 1708 W Lake St and 1714 W Lake St).

The February committee meeting will be Monday, February 16 and include a review of an application from the owner of 3448 Hennepin to rezone the property from a duplex to a triplex.

The letter was sent to the Park Board requesting extending the cross-country ski trail grooming on Lake Calhoun. No formal response has been received.

#### **Green Team, David Tompkins**

- The next Green Team meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. at Dunn Bros.
- ECCO has received orders for 37 cherry trees.
- The Green Team will offer to help with organics recycling at the Uptown Association annual meeting.
- The East Isles Green Team asked ECCO to help support a 4-part speaker series on the subject of food. The first event is called "Eating Consciously... healthy food choices for the planet and us" on January 26, 7-8:30 at Grace-Trinity

Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> St. The event is free to participants, please RSVP to [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org). The ECCO Green Team will discuss their capacity to support the event and get more information about the specific costs associated with supporting the series.

### **Social**

Susie Goldstein shared an idea from Mark Rosenfeld about organizing an East Calhoun happy hour. The ECCO Board authorized \$60 to provide snacks (drinks will be cash bar) and suggested holding the event at Lake & Irving on a Monday or Tuesday in February at 7:30 pm.

### **President's Report, Susie Goldstein**

The Task Force met on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Committee members volunteered to research various ideas for neighborhood funding to determine costs and feasibility. The next meeting is Monday, February 2, 7 pm at St. Mary's.

### **Announcements**

Chris Iverson reported that he is moving out of the neighborhood and is resigning from the ECCO Board. Thanks to Chris for his service to the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7 pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.