

ECCO Annual Meeting Minutes  
October 1, 2020  
Via video conferencing

## **Attendance**

Approximately 50 residents attended the Annual Meeting (held via Zoom) including 2019-20 Board members: President Dane Stimart, Treasurer Judy Shields, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Deb Jessen, Marya Morstad, Mary Sabatke, Lee Todd, David Tompkins, Joe Wehri.

2019-20 Board members absent: Vice President Nick Muellerleile, Jane Connelly, Ralph Knox, Jenny/Jonas Walter.

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

The meeting began with special thanks to the 2019-20 ECCO Board members.

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

Thank you to Judy Shields, ECCO Treasurer.

Funding sources include:

- City funding: Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Community Participation Program (CPP). CPP funding is ending at the end of 2020 and the City is in the process of determining the next round of funding for neighborhood organizations through a process called Neighborhoods 2020. We expect to have some answers about next year's funding in the next month or two.
- Fundraisers: The Wine Tasting is our biggest fundraiser. Funds go to ECCO's unrestricted account to pay for community events and grants to other nonprofits. The 2020 Wine Tasting event was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Park Dedication Fees: Money that developers pay to the Park Board to expand and enhance parkland within the neighborhood in which the project was developed. The current balance for ECCO is \$439K.

For the time period of October 2019-September 2020, ECCO's expenses were \$36K and income was nearly \$45K.

ECCO has \$44K in the bank. The balance at this time last year was \$36K.

## **Reports of ECCO Committees**

### **Livability Committee, Lee Todd**

The committee has two sub-teams.

Development and Zoning led by David Tompkins:

- East Bde Maka Ska Parkway (3000 block) – negotiated acceptable solution.
- Lake and James – proposed 10-story development now on hold.

- Zen Center remodel - variance request active, public meeting today.
- Looking forward – 2040 plan codification happening in the next year, Lake and Girard project.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety led by Linda Unsworth:

- Traffic survey sent to city – working with City Vision Zero program.
- Helped fund speed bumps on Humboldt with local 3500 block neighbors.
- Safety and Traffic impact from Sons of Norway project – monitoring activity as building populates.
- Looking Forward – planning process for the reconstruction of Hennepin Ave from Lake St north to Douglas Ave. Parking, Traffic and Safety all on the table in 2021.

### **Green Team**

Thanks to chair Jane Connelly.

Initiatives include:

- Adopt-a-Tree – water boulevard trees on your block, information at [brewingabetterforest.com/adopt-a-tree.html](http://brewingabetterforest.com/adopt-a-tree.html).
- Adopt-a-Drain – keep a storm drain free of debris, information at [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org).
- Buckthorn Removal beginning this fall.
- Litter-Be-Gone - October 1-10. Pick up trash and recycling in our neighborhood and at the lake.

Neighborhood Reminders:

- Compost and Organics – No plastic please.
- Recycling – No plastic bags/No black plastic.
- Idling is Illegal in Minneapolis – per ordinance please limit car idling to three minutes.

### **Public Safety, Dane Stimart and George Saad**

The committee was formed in July 2020.

Currently seven active committee members covering the corners of the neighborhood.

Updates since Inception

- Outreach with Uptown Association – Learning from Local Businesses.
- Takeaways from outreach to 5th Precinct (Insp. Huffman & Jessica Kawas):
  - Expand effort of 'Block Leaders' and 'Block Texts' – to get alerts and the word out when there is trouble.
  - Neighborhood Walks (different groups at different times).
  - Getting crime prevention material to the residents of ECCO.
  - Neighborhood Watch signs.

## **Social Committee, Marya Morstad**

Prior to the pandemic hindering meeting in person, ECCO hosted annual social events that included the ECCO Super Sale followed by a street party, monthly Happy Hour gatherings, the Labor Day Celebration and holiday caroling.

Each fall, we've held a Wine Tasting Fundraiser, organized by six neighborhood associations. At the October 2019 fundraiser, ECCO raised over \$4,700. Thanks to the Premier Sponsors: Ackerberg, Yellow Tree, Lake and Irving and Hennepin Lake Liquors.

After George Floyd was murdered on Memorial Day, a neighborhood Facebook group was created to keep neighbors aware of safety issues during the unrest.

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

Goals:

- Create a sense of greater belonging by building connections and fostering conversations among neighbors.
- Identify and share educational and neighborhood engagement opportunities.

Recent initiatives:

- Discussion on Race (July)
- Neighborhood survey (August)
- Event postings (monthly)

## **Name Implementation, Bobbie Keller**

- January 2020 — based on a neighborhood-wide vote, East Calhoun Community Organization becomes simply ECCO.
- May 2020 — ECCO Board approves the legal name of ECCO Neighborhood Association.

Summary of implementation:

- ECCO Board approves new Articles of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State.
- Legal name changed with government agencies, bank and vendors.
- New website and e-mail addresses become active.
- Neighbors vote on new logo design.

New logo design process:

- E-blast asks neighbors how they want others to think of ECCO.
- Based on feedback, three local volunteer artists submit designs.
- Committee and ECCO Board narrow the choices to two for a neighborhood-wide vote.
- Neighbors vote online and in person (September 2020).

Logo vote results:

- A total of 218 valid votes were cast and 66% of the votes were for the sailboat logo designed by resident Jen Brower.

## **NRP Committee, Judy Shields**

Recent NRP expenditures:

- Funding to City for COVID-19 fund.
- Funding for rebuilding of Lake St and Broadway Ave after the riots.
- Helped fund speed bumps on the 3500 block of Humboldt to supplement funds raised by residents.

ECCO programs for residents:

- Home Security Grants of up to \$100 per household for allowable security upgrades.
- Rain Barrel, Compost Bin and Raingarden Grants of up to \$100 per property.
- Radon program – testing and mitigation grants.
- Lead in drinking water testing program.
- Details for these programs can be found at [eastcalhoun.org/programs](http://eastcalhoun.org/programs).

Neighborhoods 2020:

- ECCO has Task Force to track and respond to the City's plans (so called Neighborhoods 2020) for future funding for neighborhood organizations.
- The public comment period for Neighborhoods 2020 closed on September 30 and is working the way through the City process for projected approval process this fall.

Residents are encouraged to participate in any of the committees listed above.

**Thanks to the following board members who fulfilled full or partial terms in 2019/20:** Bobbie Keller, Ralph Knox, Marya Morstad, Nick Muellerleile, Mary Sabatke, Dane Stimart.

## **Board Elections**

In September 2020, the ECCO Board electronically approved a resolution that outlined a plan for holding the annual meeting via Zoom and the contingency plan to hold an electronic election if there were more candidates than open seats on the board.

We had 11 candidates for seven board member seats and two alternate seats on the 2020-21 ECCO board so we implemented the electronic election process:

- An e-blast was sent out to the distribution list with a Voter Guide and electronic ballot and the information was available on ECCO's website. The voting period was from October 2 through the end of day October 5.
- The votes were tabulated by the ECCO President and ECCO Coordinator to confirm that each voter was eligible to vote and cast only one vote.
- Votes were cast by 93 eligible voters.

- Seven new ECCO Board Members (in alphabetical order):
  - Sarah Buchlaw
  - Anja Curiskis
  - Carol Dines
  - Paul Lussenhop
  - Amy Rutherford
  - Lee Todd (second term)
  - Eric Wulfsberg
- ECCO Board Alternates:
  - Alternate #1 - Louis Schulz-Welo
  - Alternate #2 - Ryan Brown

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next ECCO Board meeting is Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.