

ECCO Annual Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2019
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Attendance

Approximately 40 residents attended the Annual Meeting including 2018-19 Board members: President Judy Shields, Vice President Dane Stimart, Treasurer Gary Farland, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Jane Connelly, Marya Morstad, Nick Muellerleile, Rhoda Reighard, Mary Sabatke and Lee Todd.

2018-18 Board members absent: Ralph Knox and Jenny/Jonas Walter

The event began with pizza and a social hour.

ECCO Board President Judy Shields called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Jono Cowgill, District 4 Commissioner, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- Southwest Service Area Master Plan is the process to create master plans for all of the neighborhood parks in SW Minneapolis (south of I394 and west of I35). Conceptual designs were created for each park to be implemented over the next 20 years. The Loon Lake Trolley Path is included in the process. A 45-day comment period will open in November. For more information, minneapolisparcs.org/sw.
- The refectory building at Bde Maka Ska burned down earlier this summer. The insurance money is not enough to rebuild the building. The intention is to rebuild as a restaurant (Lola has a five-year lease). The Park Board submitted a bonding request to the state for \$5 million.
- The Park Board is focused on sustainability and preparing for climate change. The Park Board is embarking on a comprehensive plan for the whole park system that will set overarching goals for resiliency and sustainability. Preserving the tree canopy is key. The Park Board is planting 10,000 new trees per year.

Lisa Bender, President Minneapolis City Council, Ward 10

- Homelessness is up 10% statewide. The City is balancing compassion for individuals and the need for affordable housing.
- The 5th Precinct is working on issues with Uptown bars, robberies and break-ins. Younger people are committing crimes and the police are working to implement programs to get younger people out of jail and back on track.
- Minneapolis 2040 was passed by the City last December and is expected to be approved by the Met Council the week of October 7. The City will move forward with implementing changes that will be phased in over time. In Ward 10, some areas will be downsized but some corridors will allow for higher buildings. Affordable housing will be required in each development. The City is trying to strike a balance to not cause a stop in development.
- Vision Zero is an initiative to eliminate traffic deaths in the City by 2027. The City is considering lowering speed limits on city streets. Comment on the draft plan by October 16 at visionzerompls.com.

- Mayor Frey introduced his proposed 2020 budget in August. There will be three public hearings in November/December before the budget is adopted in December.
- Ward 10 is hosting an open house on Tuesday, October 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m., to share information and hear feedback about the future of the city-owned parking lot located between Garfield and Lyndale Ave north of Lake St.

Scott Dibble, MN State Senator, District 61

- The goal of the 2019 session was to establish the state's \$48.5 billion biennial budget.
- Senator Dibble reported on successes:
 - Repealed the scheduled sunset for the medical provider tax that funds the Health Care Access Fund for low-income Minnesotans, meaning that 1.2 million people will continue to receive health care, disability supports and mental health services.
 - Provided funding for prevention of opioid epidemic.
 - Adopted protections against elder abuse in care settings.
 - Adopted a strong wage theft law.
 - Passed a hands-free cell phone bill.
 - Secured \$78 million in new housing investments for emergency shelters, renter assistance, preservation and new production.
- Senator Dibble shared his disappointments:
 - No new transportation funding.
 - No new gun legislation.

Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, District 6 Commissioner, Met Council

- Met Council oversees regional planning, Metro Transit, Metro Mobility, Housing Choice Voucher program, stormwater management and regional parks/trails.
- Atlas-Ingebretson was appointed earlier this year via a nominating committee process.
- Her committee assignments are: Community Development, Transportation, Parks and Open Space, Blue Line Extension and Southwest LRT Places.
- Atlas-Ingebretson believes in increased access to public bodies (transparency on how the groups work) and increased equity.
- Projects in the area: B Line Bus Rapid Transit planned for Lake St, E Line Bus Rapid Transit planned for Hennepin Ave, storm water improvements and Southwest LRT.

Treasurer's Report, Monica Smith

Thank you to Gary Farland, ECCO Treasurer.

ECCO has nearly \$36K in the bank. The balance for this time last year was \$32K.

Funding sources include:

- 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.
- City funding: Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Community Participation Program (CPP). CPP funding is expected for the year 2020. The future of neighborhood funding beyond 2020 is uncertain.

- 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 is \$622K.

ECCO programs for residents, Monica Smith

- 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.

Reports of ECCO Committees, Judy Shields

Livability Committee

Thanks to committee chair Lee Todd.

The committee works on zoning issues, traffic, safety and public event matters relevant to the neighborhood.

The work in the past year included:

- Sons of Norway development
- Proposal for a development on East Bde Maka Ska Parkway (formerly East Calhoun Parkway). Construction is expected to begin later this fall.
- Proposal for a development on Lake St and James Ave (currently on hold)
- Noise and parking issues on East Bde Maka Ska Parkway
- Traffic and safety issues: Hennepin Ave construction and long-range pedestrian safety

The committee meets the third Monday of each month. The next meeting is Monday, October 21, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

Neighborhood Name Review Committee

Thanks to committee chair Ralph Knox.

Process:

- Three community meetings were held in May 2019.
- A vote to ask residents whether or not to change the neighborhood name was held in June/July. The result was 63.7% of votes cast were to change the name.
- Residents were asked to submit name ideas in August.
- Ten names were selected and offered to residents to vote on the top three choices in September/October.
- A final vote will be held in November/December.

NRP Committee

Thanks to committee chair Gary Farland.

Recent NRP expenditures:

- Added \$32k to the existing loan for a total loan of \$67k for affordable housing in Minneapolis.
- Used NRP funds to pay some expenses for the coordinator and communications.

Green Team

Thanks to chair Dane Stimart.

The mission of the Green Team is to promote awareness and engagement for Land, Air, Water and Wildlife in its neighborhood and wider communities.

Renter Committee

Thanks to chair Nick Muellerleile.

The Renter Committee is a new committee in the past year. The committee hosted a social event to engage renters in July.

Social Committee

Thanks to committee chair Marya Morstad.

Social activities in the past 12 months:

- Monthly Happy Hour at Lake & Irving Restaurant, 2nd Monday of the month, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- Holiday Caroling, December 2018
- 47th Annual Super Sale on June 1. Special thanks to long-time organizer Sylvia Kafkas, who is retiring from this volunteer position. Linda Unsworth has volunteered to coordinate this event in 2020.
- Labor Day Celebration. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with procuring bingo prizes and helped the day of the event. A big thanks to all of the businesses that donated prizes.

Upcoming event:

- Wine Tasting Fundraiser, Thursday, October 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. Tickets are \$25/advance and \$35/door. ECCO keeps 100% of proceeds from tickets we sell. Thanks to the premiere sponsors: Ackerberg, Yellow Tree, Hennepin Lake Liquor and Lake & Irving Restaurant.
- ECCO sponsors a monthly Happy Hour at Lake & Irving Restaurant, 2nd Monday of the month, 5:00-6:30 p.m. The next event is Monday, October 14.

Communications Committee

Thanks to committee chair Judy Shields.

Communication in the past 12 months:

- Mailers
- Monthly e-newsletter
- Website (eastcalhoun.org) and Facebook page

Advocacy

ECCO representatives serve on the following:

- Friends of Walker Library, Mary Sabatke is ECCO's representative.
- Midtown Greenway Coalition, Jane Connelly is ECCO's representative.

Thanks to the following who fulfilled full or partial terms in 2018/19:

Gary Farland, Tim Haas, Dare Magnus-Lawson and Rhoda Reighard.

Board Elections

The following individuals were elected (or reelected) to the ECCO Board: Judy Shields (2nd term), Jenny/Jonas Walter (2nd term), Deb Jessen (1st term) and Joe Wehri (1st term).

Elected as Alternate to the ECCO Board: Carol Dines.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.