

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 2, 2020 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Minutes recorded and submitted by Bobbie Keller.

Board members present: President Dane Stimart, Vice President Nick Muellerleile, Treasurer Judy Shields, Secretary Bobbie Keller, Ralph Knox, Marya Morstad, Mary Sabatke, Lee Todd, David Tompkins.

Board members absent: Jane Connelly, Deb Jessen, Jenny/Jonas Walter, Joe Wehri.

Guests: Cliff Swenson, MPRB Planning; Alice Geglio and Heather Wulfsberg, ECCO residents; and Arlene Fried, Bryn Mawr resident.

Dane Stimart called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He thanked Vice President Nick Muellerleile for leading the meeting last month in his absence and announced that the board was going paperless on agendas this month: Board members had received the agenda online as usual.

Proposed Drinking Fountain, Cliff Swenson, Director of Design and Project Management, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

ECCO has accumulated \$622,957.86 in Park Dedication Fees. The Park Board would like to use \$169,900 of those funds to install a drinking fountain at the site of the former refectory at Bde Maka Ska. The fountain will be ADA compliant and include a pet bowl. At the December 2019 meeting, board members had many questions about the cost and scope of the project. Cliff Swenson, who is taking over lead on the project, was at the meeting to answer those questions.

Installation of the drinking fountain is planned for Spring 2020. Work will begin when the frost is out; goal is to have the fountain ready for use by Memorial Day. Plans are underway for a replacement of the refectory, but the building will likely not be available until Spring 2022.

The board approved a motion to support the project.

Announcements

- Two public hearings of interest will take place at 4:30 p.m. January 13 in Room 317 City Hall:
 - to consider an application for a variance that would allow for balconies that exceed the maximum size in the rear yard on the property located at 3017, 3021 and 3025 East Bde Maka Ska Parkway.
 - to consider amending the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances to update parkland dedication definitions related to affordable housing.

- An amendment to the 2017-20 Community Participation Program Contract extending the contract between the neighborhood and the City of Minneapolis to include 2020 and increase the contract amount to include an allocation for 2020 is in progress.
- The Community Connections Conference will take place Saturday, February 1, at the Convention Center downtown. There is still time to register.

Committee Reports

Livability Committee

The committee did not meet in December. Lee Todd has been assured that the balconies in question on East Bde Maka Ska Parkway are the same size as those quoted in the proposal the developer presented to the committee earlier in 2019. Details on a six-story building proposed for the block between 35th and 36th Streets on the east side of Hennepin Avenue, including a variance, will be presented at the South Uptown Board meeting January 14.

Neighborhood Name Review Committee

Ralph Knox announced that after the final neighborhood vote, the new neighborhood name will be simply ECCO, not the acronym. He said the vote drew a good turnout. The committee has finished its work. Ralph Knox thanked committee members for their work, and the board applauded its agreement.

The next steps are to update documents and branding, including logo design. A new committee to handle these projects will form later.

The board unanimously approved a post card to be sent to residents announcing the name-change vote results.

Social Committee

The next ECCO Happy Hour is Monday, January 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Lake & Irving Restaurant, 1513 W Lake St.

Friends of the Walker Library

No Report.

Green Team

The Green Team is considering a possible partnership with the group that organizes the Loppet, possibly having a booth at this year's event promoting an Earth Day activity. The team will meet in coming weeks.

Midtown Greenway Coalition

No Report.

Renter Committee

No meeting has been scheduled yet; perhaps one will happen in late January, early February.

NRP Committee

No Report.

Communications Committee

No Report.

President's Report

Dane Stimart asked for and received suggestions for guest speakers at upcoming monthly meetings and new initiatives/engagements the board should take on.

The meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 6, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.