

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 7, 2021 via video conferencing.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Lee Todd, Vice President Deb Jessen, Secretary David Tompkins, Treasurer Judy Shields, Sarah Buchlaw, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Paul Lussenhop, Amy Rutherford, Louis Schulz-Welo, Jonas Walter, Joe Wehri, Eric Wulfsberg.

More than 20 residents and guests were also in attendance.

President Lee Todd called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Announcements:

- January is Radon Action Month. ECCO has free test kits for residents. Contact info@ecconeighborhood.org to request a kit.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist will be transitioning from the police department to become employees of the Neighborhood and Community Relations department. A transition process is being developed.
- The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding eliminating the owner-occupancy requirement for certain accessory dwelling units. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 4:30 p.m. The public may submit comments or participate by phone in the meeting by using the following website: minneapolismn.gov/meetings/index.htm.

Committee Reports

Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Joe Wehri

The purpose of the committee is to create a sense of greater belonging by building connections and fostering meaningful conversations among neighbors.

The ECCO Board unanimously approved the following committee recommendations:

- Book club followed by a discussion with the author. Fifty copies of the book, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* by Sun Yung Shin, will be purchased (cost of \$667) and placed in Little Free Libraries around the neighborhood. An author facilitated discussion will be planned (\$500 for one hour).
- Host facilitate event: *Let's Get Uncomfortable*. Hosted by five facilitators from Danger Boat Productions for a 90 minute session: up to 25 neighbors per session (to allow for small group facilitated discussion of 5-6 people. Cost: \$500.

Public Safety

Committee member Susie Goldstein shared a report of 2021 committee goals that was prepared by the chair for the December 2020 meeting (committee reports were tabled until the January meeting because the December meeting was running long).

- Top priority: The safety of neighbors and the neighborhood.
- Outreach to other neighborhoods to learn from others

- Expand effort of block leaders and block texting groups
- Disseminate crime prevention information to residents
- Neighborhood watch signs

The committee chair recently resigned. The committee will regroup to select a new chair and reestablish the goals. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 6:00 p.m.

Green Team, Jane Connelly

The mission is to strive to promote awareness and engagement for land, air, water and wildlife in its neighborhood and its wider communities.

Initiatives being considered include:

- Land: Trash pick-up (Earth Day and Litter-be-Gone), recycling and composting
- Air: Solar power, Adopt-a-Tree, car idling education
- Water: Adopt-a-Drain, rain gardens, buckthorn removal
- Wildlife: Education and pollinating plants

Livability Committee, Lee Todd

Recent meeting have included discussion with neighborhood restaurants. A common theme was concern about the perception of safety in Uptown and the impact on businesses.

The December meeting included a meeting with a representative from Northpond Partners, the new owners of Seven Points (formerly Calhoun Square). COVID had caused delays to Northpond's plan for the property and they expect to make improvements in phases in 2021-22.

The Park Board is in the planning phase for rebuilding the Refectory at Bde Maka Ska. For more information, go to minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/bde-maka-ska-refectory-rebuild.

The next committee meeting is Monday, January 11. The agenda will include:

- Review of proposed changes to Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance (see Announcements above).
- A Park Board representative will be invited to share information about the Bde Maka Ska Refectory project.

NRP Committee, Judy Shields

The committee has been on hold pending the City approving neighborhood funding for 2021. The committee will determine priorities now that the budget has been approved.

ECCO Name Change Implementation

No report.

Social & Communications

No report. A committee chair is needed.

Coordinator's Report, Monica Smith

- Park Board update:
 - Parks for All – the new comprehensive plan that will set Park Board priorities and policy direction for the next decade is open for public comment until January 18. There is a Community Open House on Tuesday, January 12, 5:00-6:00 p.m. For more information, go to minneapolisparcs.org/parksforall.
- Neighborhoods 2020: The City Council approved the budget for 2021 neighborhood organization funding. The council approved \$25k base funding for all organizations for 2021. Yearly funding is projected to be reduced starting in 2022. Our current Community Participation Program contract has been extended until July 1, 2021 and funding will need to be spent down. The applications for the new program will be available by April 1 and the new program will begin in July.
- A draft of ECCO's 2021 budget was reviewed. Committee chairs to send any budget requests to Monica Smith to include in the final version of the budget that will be adopted at the February meeting.

ECCO Neighborhood Name Discussion

A motion was made to rescind the board decision (from the December 2020 meeting) to change the neighborhood name from ECCO to East Bde Maka Ska. Board and community members shared opinions both for and against the motion. The motion was approved (vote: 8/5).

A motion was made to create a new name committee that will create an engagement with the condition that ECCO not be allowed as an option. The committee would draft an email communication that would frame the discussion and include a town hall meeting and a forum for online public comment. Board and community members shared opinions both for and against the motion. The motion did not pass (vote: 6/7).

A motion was made to create a new name committee that will would draft an email communication that would frame the discussion and include a town hall meeting and a forum for online public comment. The motion was approved (vote: 10/3).

David Tompkins, Ryan Brown and Bobbie Keller volunteered to draft the communication piece that will be sent to the neighborhood. The piece will be sent to the board for electronic approval prior to publication.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.