

## **ECCO Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 4, 2021 via video conference.**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Monica Smith.

Board members present: President Lee Todd, Secretary David Tompkins, Treasurer Judy Shields, Ryan Brown, Sarah Buchlaw, Jane Connelly, Anja Curiskis, Paul Lussenhop, Jonas Walter, Joe Wehri, Eric Wulfsberg.

Board members absent: Vice President Deb Jessen, Louis Schulz-Welo.

ECCO resident guests: Tim Fontaine, Bobbie Keller, Kate Van Slyck.

Guests: Charlie Rybak, Elizabeth Shaffer

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

### **Guest speaker: Charlie Rybak**

Charlie Rybak and Andrew Haeg are working on a news source for Southwest Minneapolis in the absence of the *Southwest Journal*. A survey is currently open to solicit feedback from residents: <https://swmplsnews.typeform.com/to/P8S4PfA9>. The team is planning on offering a free, online service that would be a mix of local news and local connections and go live in spring/summer 2021.

### **Board Member Update**

Amy Rutherford resigned from the board. The board unanimously approved a motion to elevate Ryan Brown from an alternate to a board member.

### **Announcements:**

- The City is in the planning phase for reconstructing Hennepin Ave between Douglas Ave and Lake St. Virtual open houses were held on March 2 and 4. Comment on the concept designs through April 16 at [minneapolismn.gov/projects/HennepinSouth](http://minneapolismn.gov/projects/HennepinSouth).
- Metro Transit is in the planning phase for METRO B Line, a bus rapid transit line for Route 21. Metro Transit is seeking feedback on station locations through March 22. To comment, go to [metrotransit.org/b-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/b-line-project).
- Minneapolis property owners can purchase trees for \$25 to plant on private property. For all the details, go to [mpls-tree-sale.myshopify.com](http://mpls-tree-sale.myshopify.com).

### **Parliamentarian's Report, Judy Shields**

The following procedures will be followed when motions are made to the board:

- The President will repeat the motion that has been moved and seconded before voting.
- The person who makes the motion has the privilege of speaking first in discussion.
- When possible, motions should be sent out in advance of the meeting, so board members have time to consider the motion.

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

- The Community Participation Program (CPP) will end on July 1, 2021. Any unspent funds will be transferred to the Equitable Engagement Fund contract (part of Neighborhoods 2020).

- Neighborhoods 2020: Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is working on drafting the new program. Applications are expected to be available in mid-April with the program beginning July 1.
- Proposed changes to the neighborhood plan modification approval process is open for public comment through noon on April 6.
- As part of the planning for the upcoming trial of former MPD officer Derek Chauvin, the State of Minnesota has established a Joint Information Center (JIC). The JIC is a unified command structure between MPD and partnering law enforcement agencies that will manage public safety information development and message distribution. In cooperation with this, the City of Minneapolis has established a Joint Information System (JIS). The JIS will develop other trial-related information and communication not covered by the JIC (i.e., trial updates and transit changes). NCR will hold weekly meetings with neighborhood organizations. Monica Smith will attend these meetings on behalf of ECCO.
- ECCO's mailing address will be changing this summer because the UPS Store that houses our mailbox is moving.

**The ECCO Board electronically approved the following since the last board meeting on February 4, 2021:**

- Louis Schulz-Welo crafted an email that was sent to neighborhood organization along the Lake St corridor to connect on sharing information and offering support.

**Donation Request**

ECCO received an application for a grant from the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra. The board unanimously approved a motion to approve the donation of \$500.

**Committee Reports**

**Green Team, Jane Connelly**

The team is meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. to discuss possible projects such as Earth Day clean-up and buckthorn removal.

**NRP Committee, Judy Shields**

The committee met on February 16 and held a brainstorming session on ideas for spending our NRP funds. The ideas are being reviewed for further action.

**Naming Committee, Sarah Buchlaw and David Tompkins**

- NCR approved the committee's Engagement Plan that outlines the process to reengage residents regarding the neighborhood name.
- The committee has met twice in the past few weeks. Plans for engagement include a mailer to residents followed by an Information Session on Monday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom) and a second mailer that will include a ballot on voting on the name.
- A pdf of the first mailer was sent to board members for review in advance of the meeting. The ECCO Board approved a motion to approve the mailer for the naming process (vote: 9 approve/2 abstain)
- The second mailer will be drafted and sent to the board for electronic approval. That mailer will include some brief background information and ask residents to vote on two questions: 1. Would you like to change the neighborhood name from ECCO? 2. Please choose one of the following options: East Bde Maka Ska, Uptown Lakeside or East Lakeside. If more than 50% say yes to question 1, then we will count the votes for the

name options.

The ECCO Board approved a motion that the voting process for a new name will be first-past-the-post, also known as simple plurality (vote: 7 approve/4 oppose).

- A page on ECCO's website will be dedicated to information about the process.

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

- *Let's Get Uncomfortable* is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and is at capacity with a waiting list.
- Copies of *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* by Sun Yung Shin, have been purchased and will be placed in Little Free Libraries around the neighborhood.  
The ECCO Board unanimously approved copy for a bookmark to be printed and inserted into the books inviting people to an author facilitated discussion on Thursday, June 11.

#### **Public Safety, Paul Lussenhop**

- Communication has gone out via our e-newsletter and NextDoor encouraging people to join a communication chain on their home block.
- A resource list has been posted on the committee's webpage: [ecconeighborhood.org/safety](http://ecconeighborhood.org/safety).
- An eblast will go out to our distribution list about the trail of the former police officer charged with killing George Floyd.
- The committee is working on plans to bring back to the ECCO Board regarding organizing neighborhood walking groups for the purpose of having more people on the street and to connect with neighbors.

#### **Social & Communications**

- Super Sale: The board will wait another year before deciding to future of the Super Sale.
- Wine Tasting: We are waiting to hear from Hennepin-Lake Liquors if they want to move forward with an event in 2021 and if so, neighborhood organizations will be asked to participate.

#### **Livability Committee, Lee Todd and David Tompkins**

- The committee started a subcommittee focused on growing our email distribution list.
- The City of Minneapolis has launched the [Just Deeds Project](#), a new initiative providing Minneapolis homeowners with the opportunity to learn about, acknowledge and discharge racial covenants recorded against their properties.
- The next meeting is Monday, March 15, 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include a representative from the Park Board regarding the rebuilding of the refectory at Bde Maka Ska.

The board will be researching options to offer hybrid meeting options once we are able to safely resume meeting in person.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.