

## NNRC May 1, 2019 7-9pm Minutes

**Attendees:** Ralph Knox, Monica Smith, Ryan Brown, Anne Chase, Nathan Campeau, Debra Jessen, Harvey Zuckman, Anja Curiskis, Nick Muellerliele, Marya Morstad, Lara Norkus-Crampton

### Welcome / Introductions

- Attendees, see above

### Approve agenda

- Approved

### Approve previous NNRC minutes

- Approved, with fix to list of attendees

### Court ruling on lake name discussion

- Ralph provided background on the lawsuit and the April 29 MN Court Appeals decision. House has approved a change.
- MPR reported that the federal agency in charge of name change will not change the name back and MNDNR is appealing to MN State Supreme Court
- Ryan stated that various MPRB officials have gone on record that they will not change the signage around the lake and they still plan to pursue changing the name of the parkways

### Slide show presentation for community meetings

- Minor changes slide 11 ("on" to "of")
- Ralph will check with members listed to confirm they want to be listed
- Slides approved
- Script:
  - Slide 1 approved as is
  - Slide 2:
    - Change to: "We have an identical scripted presentation prepared for each meeting, but we are reserving the majority of our time together to hear from you. The committee has developed a short slide show that covers a brief history of the ECCO neighborhood and the process around the lake changing names from Lake Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska. This is an overview of hundreds of years of history, so it is by no means comprehensive. Then we will talk about next steps in this name review process. At the conclusion of the slides, you will have an opportunity to share and listen."
    - Approved
  - Slide 3:
    - Change: "Before we go any further we'd like to express our gratitude to many neighbors who have helped make these community meetings possible. First, the committee, whose names are shown here and have been meeting almost weekly for the past few months, collectively donating hundreds of hours. Also, we'd like to express our thanks to the ECCO Board for creating this committee

and providing counsel and funding along the way. A shout out to Caroline Vaaler who created the wonderful post cards and fliers that likely helped bring you all here. Thank you to St. Mary's for hosting us, as they so often do. And finally, we appreciate that you are taking time for this conversation."

- Approved

- Slide 4:

- Change to: "So why are we here? At the December 2018 meeting, the Board authorized this committee to look into whether or not our neighborhood name should change. One reason for this question arising is the simple fact that the lake that our neighborhood is named after recently changed names, although as we'll mention in a few minutes, that lake name is now in question. We want to find out how you feel about our current neighborhood name."

- Approved

- Slide 5:

- Change to:

- We thought it would be important to provide neighborhood context, so we consulted our history books and longtime neighbors and came up with a short history lesson about our neighborhood.
- Prior to European settlement, the east side of the lake contained Cloud Man Village as this map shows. This was a Dakota settlement, and the Dakota referred to the lake as Bde Maka Ska or Mde Maka Ska. Around 1830, the lake was renamed by the settlers at Ft. Snelling after John C. Calhoun, a prominent politician and slaveholder from South Carolina. In 1834, the Pond brothers built a cabin in ECCO close to where we're sitting today, which was the first European home on the lake. The Pond brothers were missionaries who wanted to convert the Dakota. Later in the 1830s the Dakota left Cloud Man Village, and after the 1862 war, were expelled from the state.
- Early European settlers like Charles M Loring commented on the food available in winter in 1860, quote: "The only fruit we had for winter use was dried apples, wild plums, wild crab apples and cranberries. In the season we had wild berries which were very plentiful. There was a cranberry marsh a half a mile west of lake Calhoun on what is now Lake Street where we used to go to gather berries."
- In 1861, Henry David Thoreau lived in a rooming house on the east shore of the lake. He cataloged the plants and animals indigenous to the area and his field notes are still used today by the state DNR for prairie restoration efforts. His traveling companion documented eating fish out of the lake most every day, drinking the lake water, and the abundance of great big mosquitoes.

- Approved

- Slide 6:

- Change to:

- Minneapolis expanded, as this map shows. Our neighborhood held a hotel and pavilion. Around the turn of the last century the neighborhood was platted and homes were constructed. The streetcar arrived and provided access to Saint Paul and also to the quote “cottage city” in Linden Hills through the Como-Harriet line. As the Linden Hills Historical Society has noted, quote “The land between Lakes Calhoun and Harriet was an attractive retreat from the often-grimy urban Minneapolis at the turn of the century.” Remnants of this streetcar can be seen throughout the neighborhood, including behind the church on the present-day Loon Lake Trail.
  - Approved
- Slide 7:
  - Change to: By the 1950s our neighborhood was largely built out and formed the “East Calhoun Homeowners Organization”, or ECHO. In the 1970s the neighborhood, as shown in this photo, got together and decided that we should be more inclusive of all residents, and became the East Calhoun Community Organization, also ECCO. For many years, ECCO supported a succession of neighborhood newspapers including ECCO News, East Calhoun News, and the Uptown Neighborhood News, which documented important happenings in the area. While our mission has evolved, ECCO still serves this community in many important ways as the neighborhood’s elected board. Activities include hosting popular neighborhood events throughout all seasons, facilitating dialogue on proposed changes to our neighborhood, advocating for our needs at City Hall, and keeping residents informed through our regular e-newsletter. Side note, if you’d like to sign up for the e-newsletter, talk to Monica.
  - Approved
- Slide 8:
  - Change to: Before we talk too much about whether or not to change our name, let’s discuss what our name is. The official name of the neighborhood organization is “East Calhoun Community Organization.” The neighborhood is often referred to as East Calhoun or ECCO.
  - Approved
- Slide 9:
  - Change to: And now, at these 3 community meetings, we are here as residents to discuss whether or not to change the neighborhood name. While other name changes have prompted discussions in our neighborhood, we want to make clear that ECCO’s name review and possible name change discussions are completely separate from other name change processes around the lake and businesses. We want to emphasize that no other entities’ decision or non-decision requires us to make a change or not, and our decision does not require any other entity to change their name or not. This is our choice, and it’s up to all of us as residents to decide if we want to keep our current name or change it.
  - Approved
- Slide 10:

- Change to:
  - That being said, we think it's important to provide a brief description of the lake name change process since that is much of the reason for this discussion today. We are not going to provide a lot of background as no one on the committee is an expert, and only a couple people on the committee had any involvement in the lake name change process. For more background, we encourage you to read the Bde Maka Ska/Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board recently published. We're only providing a brief summary here.
  - The recent push to change the lake name resulted from advocacy work by members of the Native American community. As a result of that process, which happened while the Master Plan was being developed, the Park Board added "Bde Maka Ska" to the lake signage in 2015.

- Approved

- Slide 11:

- Change to:

- Then in 2017, the Park Board officially voted to change the name of the lake, which kicked off a multi-agency process as this slide shows. Later in 2017 Hennepin County voted to change the name, which then sent the decision to the Minnesota DNR, and ultimately to the federal level, where the US Board on Geographic Names approved the change in June 2018, with Google and other map makers following suit, as this map shows. On April 29, 2019, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that the DNR commissioner did not have the authority to change the lake name and as a result the authority rests with the legislature. The Minnesota DNR is appealing the ruling to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Additionally, as a result of the court decision, the Minnesota legislature is taking up the issue.

- The Park Board has stated there is no plan to change the current signage and will be proceeding with a plan to rename the parkways around the lake. The federal government will continue to recognize Bde Maka Ska until it receives and approves a request to change it at the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

- Approved

- Slide 12:

- Change to:

- We want to reiterate that whether or not to change our name is our decision alone. Since the issue was raised in 2015, some businesses and neighborhood organizations have changed their name, started a process to change their name, or decided not to change their name.

- Approved

- Slide 13:

- Change to:

- So, what's next? Well, first we want to hear from you, and then we will hold a vote in the early summer about whether or not to change the name of the neighborhood. We will be providing information on when and how to vote very soon. We will be communicating the process through email, social media, and post cards, similar to how we advertised these community meetings. We want all neighborhood residents to have an opportunity to express their opinion.
- If the vote is to keep our current name, this process will conclude. If the vote is to change the name, then we'll be soliciting ideas on possible names for the neighborhood and have further voting.
- If we vote to change the neighborhood name, at a minimum we will develop new branding, obtain a new web address, and develop new signage to be installed at entry points to the neighborhood.
- Approved
- Slide 14:
  - Change to:
    - All right, we're here! It's time to get your thoughts on this important topic. We want to hear from you, and, more importantly, we want you to hear from each other. The members of the committee come with a wide degree of perspectives on this topic, and through many meetings and conversations, we can state on behalf of the committee members that we have learned a great deal by listening to each other and truly trying to understand what is important to each member and why. We encourage you to listen closely to your neighbors. So we ask you to respond to the following questions.
    - What do you think about our neighborhood's current name?
    - Should the neighborhood change its name?
    - We, the members of the committee, are here to listen too, and we won't respond or answer questions, unless it's related to information we've provided in this presentation. We may even try to direct you to other sources of information.
  - Approved
- Slide 15:
  - Finally, we want to provide some ground rules for discussion. I'll read these right now and then we will leave these on the screen for the duration of the discussion.
  - Speak, listen, and disagree respectfully
  - Discussion should be about our neighborhood name
  - Please weigh in either verbally or on a comment card, not both
  - Each speaker will have up to 90 seconds
  - The order of speakers and comment cards will be:
  - Residents will speak first
  - Then residents' cards will be read
  - Then residents will be allowed to speak a second time, if time allows

- Then guests will be allowed to speak, if time allows
- Finally, guest cards will be read, if time allows
- Comments will be summarized on a flip chart and published online
- Approved

#### **Facilitation Strategy for Community Meetings**

- **Meeting No. 1: Thursday, May 9**
  - Most can attend
- **Meeting No. 2: Saturday, May 12**
  - Most can attend
- **Meeting No. 3: Tuesday, May 14**
  - Most can attend
- Discussion of roles (Monica took notes on that)

#### **Next NNRC Meeting**

- May 14, Calhoun Square (?), 7-9pm

#### **Adjourn**