

ECCO Board meeting minutes

November 13, 2014

In attendance: Mary Eisenhart, Roy Maurer, Ryan Drvol (Farmhouse), Darren Wright (AGS), Callen Ledall (AGR), Michael Lierman (AGS), Ann Bleed, Rebecca Carr, Richard Voeltz, Adam Morfeld, Danielle Shea

September minutes approved.

Treasurer's report approved. Discussion of accounting for membership payments received before/after the fiscal year; it is important that the membership lists are accurate for the current year, not whether membership payments are accounted in the current fiscal year.

Communications – Ann suggested that it makes more sense to email business owners the pdf of our newsletter than to deliver it to the business location where we don't know if it gets to the owner. The fraternity representatives agree this is a good way to get the newsletter to them as well.

Membership – We're getting more visibility, and have had a good return of members from last year. We need to get email addresses of business owners. There are pockets of the neighborhood that are not represented on the Board, mostly south of the trail. Communicating with this group might work better door-to-door; this could be coordinated with visiting people about the Re-tree project. We should have a list of "our focus is on" to discuss, and ask if it is in line with their interests or if they have other ideas.

YOTM – We have a November yard! And are taking nominations for holiday decorations.

FarmHouse – We received notification from Paul Barnes that Jeff Monzu informed the planning commission that the FarmHouse Association is putting their project on hold.

FarmHouse is continuing their community and social events. Today was the 'Rake and Bake' event held together with AGR. The group raked leaves, mostly along Idylwild, and held their dinner at AGR.

Farmhouse has been suspended by the university, but not by the national organization. ECCO would like to work with Farmhouse in support of their reinstatement with the university (motion by Ann; second by Rebecca; no dissenting comments).

Ryan will talk with the FarmHouse association to let them know and learn how they will move forward.

Lincoln Policy Network - Lisa Warren and Ann Bleed are planning to attend these meetings. This is the group involved in crafting the neglected properties policy.

Problems we've seen that can be addressed by enforcing ordinances: parking on lawns; more than 3 unrelated residents. Getting information about ordinances out to residents is a good initial step (via email blast?).

Rental committee – We're seeing single family homes being purchased for dorm houses, as families are seeing the real estate as an investment versus spending \$650-900/month for 'on campus' housing for UNL students.

Ways forward? We need to learn where the rentals are; this may require picking a block or two at a time and going door-to-door. We need to know when homeowners are planning to sell; we can help with marketing. We need to interact with landowners of problem rentals (beginning with a letter to the owner); and provide positive feedback to good rentals.

Lincoln Police Department invitation to board meetings – NeighborWorks indicated that other neighborhood organizations have LPD officers attending meetings. This will be a good way to communicate about and learn what's going on in the area.

We will have a new police captain in January.