

ECCO Minutes
August 12, 2010

Board members present: Rich Leiter, Marie Rustermeir, Elizabeth Katt, Cindy Loope, Ann Bleed, Cindy Stuefer-Powell, Dean Phelps, and Richard Schroeder

Neighbors attending: Nancy Armstrong Johnson, Nancy Sahs Sinclair

Cindy S.P. started the meeting at 7:04 pm.

ECCO guidelines and mission:

Since Rebecca Carr was not able to attend we decided to postpone the discussion of the ECCO guidelines and mission until a later date.

Farm House Concerns:

Alan Donsig responded to our query about Farm House issues just before this meeting. Because of the late response, Farm House members were not invited to the meeting. Instead it was suggested that we send two board members to a Farm House meeting and address our concerns with them. Cindy S.P. will contact Farm House to find out what nights might be good for our representative to visit. Elizabeth Katt and Rich Leiter volunteered to talk to the students. If one or both of them cannot attend, then we will solicit other board members to attend.

Some of the issues that Alan Donsig mentioned:

- ~noise (shouting and honking) late at night
- ~drinking in cars
- ~not enough parking
- ~trash scattered from their dumpster
- ~thank them for filling in the pillar so beer can't be stashed in there

Cindy S.P. will forward the email list to Elizabeth and Rich L.

Board Members:

Cindy Loope suggested that we start thinking about new board members, trying to concentrate our search to areas beyond the core streets (37th and 38th). According to the by-laws, board members will serve two years and find a replacement for themselves, before leaving the board. Cindy S.P. said we would also need to think about officers for the next year.

- ~Cindy L. will contact Rebecca Carr and Matt Fuller to see if they have any suggestions of potential members from their part of the neighborhood.
- ~Cindy S.P. will check with the owner of Madsen's Bowling, who lives in the neighborhood and has expressed interest. It would be nice to have another business owner.
- ~Elizabeth Katt knew of two people that she thought might be interested.

Letters to the Board:

Dean Phelps received two letters (probably from the same person), one dated 6/10 and one dated 7/10. The writer expressed dismay and frustration with the division or invisible dividing line (40th St.) that is in the neighborhood. The writer pointed out several things:

- ~flags in the core of the neighborhood on the Fourth of July (Lynne Schroeder does this on her own, not sponsored by the board).
- ~Fourth of July parade – valid point, maybe we should start at McAdams Park next year and go north a couple blocks and then back down to the park. Possibly alternate the routes each year.

~Parking focused on Apple St., but other streets need help too. (Apple St. was our test project, we hope to do more streets, but also need neighbors to step up and help with their street.)

~Garage sales (this is not sponsored by ECCO, but someone who lives on Apple St.)

The writer did not sign his name, so we have no way of contacting him/her to address these issues. Cindy L. will call Matt Fuller to see if he might know something about it.

Annual Meeting:

We cannot hold the annual meeting on a Thursday night because the building is in use. It was suggested that we try for Oct. 19th or 20th. Cindy S.P. will contact the church to see if those nights are available.

~It was pointed out that we used to have approximately 100 people at the annual meetings when we served omelets in the past. How can we generate that interest again?

~Nancy Sinclair suggested we advertise the annual meeting as “A Taste of ECCO” and solicit various businesses to contribute food for free or reduced rates. Businesses mentioned: DeLeons, Valentino’s, Jimmy Johns, Taco Johns. Dean Phelps said we have money in our account and suggested we spend it on the annual dinner. That this might be a way to bring in more neighbors. It was decided to try to provide food for 50 to 60 people. Nancy Johnson and Elizabeth Katt both offered to call a couple businesses.

~Speaker: Do we need one? Maybe we should do a mixer so people get to meet one another. Some people might not like to do this. Maybe we should ask about neighborhood issues that concern ECCO residents. No conclusion was reached.

Newsletter:

Articles and information need to be to Cindy S.P. by the end of Sept. The newsletter will go out the first week in October. Articles to include:

~address who sponsors the various activities in the neighborhood.

~update on parking

~Nancy Johnson will interview Martha Rivett who has lived in the neighborhood her whole life. She is 85 years old. Nancy will also interview Carrie and TJ new neighbors on 37th and Apple. This interview may go in the next newsletter.

~Ads are \$30. Elizabeth is going to contact other realtors in the neighborhood to see if they want to go in on an annual ad.

Yard of the Month:

Elizabeth Katt suggested the house on Orchard between 43rd and 44th. She said it is well kept and has petrified wood in the front. The motion passed. Rich Schroeder will put the sign up.

Website Update:

Elizabeth reported that Cindy, Rich Leiter, Elizabeth and Matt Fuller met to go over the workings of the website.

~Elizabeth is developing an excel spreadsheet of member names and addresses and include paid dues information.

~Elizabeth will have up to ten yard signs made to advertise the website. These signs will move around the neighborhood. We must ask permission to put it in someone’s yard. This would be a good way to meet people, advertise the website and recruit possible board members.

Historic Walk:

Dan and Vera Mae Lutz contacted Cindy L. to see if ECCO would be willing to host a neighborhood walk. The Preservation Association of Lincoln (PAL) was interested in learning more about our area. The board response to the email query that Cindy L. sent out during July was positive. So she contacted Ed Zimmer the city historian and set up a date, Sunday Sept. 19th at 2:00 for the walk. The walk will be about 1.5 hours. We will provide cookies and drinks. It was set up to start in Idylwild Park and end at Cindy S.P.'s house. In light of the two letters concerning the invisible line in the neighborhood it was suggested that we start and end in McAdams Park and that Ed add some information on areas outside the landmark historic district including the trolley line.

Parking:

Nancy Sinclair said she called the chancellor in frustration about parking. She spoke to the vice chancellor Chris Jackson and Dan Carpenter and they responded by setting up a meeting with Mary Eisenhart, Nancy Johnson and Nancy Sinclair. There is a meeting on Friday afternoon (8/13/10) at 2:00 at Mary Eisenhart's that will include the city, university, fraternities, and ECCO board representatives. A tentative solution has been proposed which involves mandatory parking fees for students allowing them to park on campus in any of the lots and permit parking for residents in the neighborhood.

Rich L. voiced concerns about this solution pointing out that the cost of the program would fall on the residents in the neighborhood, that we bought our houses knowing that students would be in our neighborhood, that he enjoyed seeing the students and talking with them and that additional fees put financial stress on students.

It was decided that no action would be taken as far as the board position on this proposal until we had more information. Two representatives, Cindy S.P. and Cindy L. will attend the meeting and report back.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Cindy Loope