

ECCO Minutes March 10th, 2011

Board members present: Ann Bleed, Gary Gerkin, Rich Leiter, Dick Voltz, Matt Fuller, Marie Rustermeir, Cindy Stuefer-Powell, Wes Trout, Elizabeth Katt, Lisa Sutton, and Cindy Loope

Neighbors and visitors present: Doug Emery (City Council member), Mary Eisenhart, Roy Mauer, Don Tilley, Tamara Cass

Madsen's Mini Golf Course

Mary Eisenhart (37th St.): Is opposed to golf course.

- Business encroaching in the neighborhood.
- People investing in their homes across the street from the current park, this will devalue their homes. (Others at the meeting thought it would increase the value of their homes.) Ann B. asked the city if it would decrease or increase and the city didn't know.
- We should be supporting people who are trying to improve their homes and investing in the neighborhood. Their efforts will attract other families to the neighborhood. (Golf course will discourage people.)
- Concern over zoning changes. (Rich Leiter: can stipulate that no other business could go in this location.)
- Alcohol? (This is targeted for families no alcohol will be available.)

Roy Mauer(37th St.): Is opposed.

- He is investing in his home and others in the neighborhood trying to keep the 'slum lords' at bay. This does not support the homeowners living on Holdrege who are trying to improve their home.
- Possibly use the Richmond Gordman site instead of our green space.

Don Tilley (45th and Starr): **Opposed** if entire site is used for the course
For it if there is an area set aside for community use with play equipment

- Feels park is under used. Blamed city for the removal of the play equipment, it was actually ECCO that vacated the park and had the equipment removed. ECCO decided to invest in McAdams Park, as it was more centrally located. (ECCO Park was and is difficult to maintain.)

Doug Emery:

- Is working for a win-win situation.
- If ECCO says it is against the project then Doug will not support it.
- This is a low level park – it will not get much maintenance from the city.

Lisa Sutton:

- Pointed out that all but two of the pine trees would be removed (for the creation of the parking lot) and they currently block the view of the businesses on the other side of 48th St. It would not be good to lose those trees.
- Richard (Sutton via Lisa) suggested that maybe the park and Madsen's Bowling could be considered part of a community plan (need an acre or more) where visitors to the golf course could use bowling alley parking lot and we would not have to lose the trees. The peak season for bowling is the winter months when the golf would be closed.
- What does it look like during the winter months when no one is using the course? IF it is landscaped with shrubs etc, it could look very nice.
- Does it need to be a wooden privacy fence? (Doug Emery said that it was put in as a way of reducing noise for the neighbors.)

Wes Trout:

- Originally leery about parkland becoming private property. But if it is leased and not sold that would be better.
- How long will it be a viable business and then what happens?

Ann will set up a meeting to address some of the questions and concerns. Include:

- Tom Madsen (and architects)
- Lynn Johnson (Parks and Rec)
- Lisa and Richard Sutton
- Neighbors who live near ECCO Park (Richie Graham and Tracy)
- Board members who would like to attend.
- A few additional neighbors.

Ann and Lisa will pull together questions for the meeting. Some potential questions to be addressed at the meeting:

- Is it possible to take the money paid to the city for leasing the land and put it into an escrow account that would be used to return the golf course to a green space if the business fails?

- What is the perpetuation plan for the Madsen family?
- Feasibility of a community plan, which result in fewer parking spots and might save the pine trees.

Ann will compose an email that can be sent out to all the neighbors in the ECCO list. She will get that to Matt. It will explain what the board is doing and ask neighbors to submit questions and comments via the website. Doug Emery cautioned – the group needs to focus on questions that are deal breakers. Too many demands will kill the project.

What are the benefits to the community? We should be able to point out the pros and the cons when sending information out to neighbors.

- It is an under-utilized area
- More oversight by Madsen if it were a business, the parks are not able to maintain it very well.
- An opportunity for fun entertainment

SWAP (Sewer Water Awareness Program):

Maybe do a water day along with painting the entrance to the sewers with the warning about the water leading to streams:

- Rent the Uni Pool for the evening and invite neighbors to attend.
- Speaker talk about rain gardens.
- Saturday is best day for this event: Aug. 6th, 7th, or 13th

Spring Clean Up:

- Saturday, May 21st – which is Hazardous Waste Day
- Cindy S.P. will contact the church about using their parking lot and call about roll-offs.
- Mini grant will cover the MoPac trail clean up. We will get bags need people to help clean it up and take photos to submit for grant.

Newsletter:

- Deliver: the weekend of April 17th (Early in order to give neighbors time to clean up and to advertise the Easter Egg Hunt.)
- Send information to Cindy by April 5th

Big Event:

Deadline was extended. Elizabeth suggested we ask them to mulch the trail between 38th and 37th and 37th and Idylwild. (The mulch would come from the Christmas tree recycling program.)

Meadowlark Music Festival:

- Tamara Cass invited ECCO to participate in any way we would like: a booth, volunteers to help, advertise through the neighborhood.
- They are collaborating with East Campus. Participants include: Tractor museum, the quilt museum, dental college, law college, dairy store (may grill hamburgers, meadowlark ice cream)
- Family friendly event
- Concert at 7:00 in arboretum
- Music spaced throughout campus
- Shuttles provided
- Incentives to encourage people to move through campus
- Advertising information will be available soon: we can put in next newsletter and on the website.
- Cartooning is the theme

Resurfacing Holdrege St.:

Tamara Cass mentioned a meeting relating to the closing of Holdrege this summer. The meeting was to be on Tuesday, March 15th, possibly at Harden Hall. No board members had heard anything about it.

Mini grant \$1500:

Elizabeth asked Matt and Wes to talk to their neighbor about a possible metal sculpture of the ECCO tree. The question: If the artist had \$1500 what could he do with that? We want to know if this is feasible or not. Too late for this year, but we want to be ready for next year. If it doesn't work we would have time to come up with other ideas for next year.

Easter Egg Hunt:

The East Campus Starrs are sponsoring the Hunt again this year. (It will be on the Saturday before Easter). Cindy S.P. made a motion that we contribute \$35 to support the hunt. The motion was seconded and approved.

ECCO non-profit status:

Rich reported:

- Paper work has been submitted.
- Secretary, Cindy Loope, is the registered agent.
- Board members are recorded and official.
- Rich will get tax ID number to Matt Fuller

Next meeting, Thursday, April 14th, be prepared to discuss the by-laws.