**AGENDA**

**ECCO Board Meeting**

**October 10, 2013 7:00 p.m.**

**Newman Parish Warren Methodist Church Library**

**Call to Order**

President Ann Bleed called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**Board Members Present**

Ann Bleed, Rebecca Carr, Mary Eisenhart, Gary Gerkin, Roy Maurer, Patti Pearson, Sally Ruggia-Haden, Danielle Shea, and Brian Striman

**Agenda was approved as submitted**

**Minutes**

R. Maurer made a motion that the Minutes be approved as submitted. B. Striman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously – Minutes approved and filed.

**Treasurers Report**

Treasurer R. Maurer submitted the Treasurer’s Report in electronic and paper form for Board’s review. Note: Fiscal year runs October 1 - September 30. Highlights of the report include:

* We were positive $2,771.86 on the Re-tree project – we have been reimbursed by NeighborWorks for several items
* Already this year, we have received a $100 donation, $260 in memberships (13 paid since 10/1)
* We’ve paid out $4,000 for trees – we will have some reimbursement per the grant, from Re-Tree Nebraska

Treasurer’s Report approved as submitted and filed.

R. Carr asked whether or not last year’s information could be included for comparative purposes – R. Maurer indicated that he could easily do this, and will provide a comparative report to the Board (last year to this year).

**President’s Report**

President A. Bleed submitted an electronic copy for all Board members to review. Highlights of the report included:

* Idylwild ParkUpdate
* Naming the park – after meeting with Valentino’s owners, who were a bit hurt that the questionnaire results indicated that most did not the park name changed, A. Bleed was able to come to an agreement that the park would be named “Valentino’s Idylwild Park”.
* This naming may even provide an incentive to Valentino’s to continue the park’s upkeep beyond the 15-year escrow requirement.
* The Sign by the Trolley Car will read “Valentino’s Idylwild Stop”
* Discussion included:
* A question as to whether the maintenance includes the Idylwild Boulevards? Or only the Park? A. Bleed will double-check.
* Can residents plant flowers? The problem with that is whether or not we (ECCO Board) can guarantee that they will be maintained into the future.
* Farmhouse fraternity update
* No progress at this point. They are considering all options including expanding the current building; moving to the downtown campus; etc. There is no real urgency – but they have reached out to A. Bleed, who forwarded the e-mail to M. Eisenhart, who will meet with the Farmhouse in the coming weeks. Primarily an introduction – and retaining contact.

***Committee Reports***

**Communications –** S. DeWitt

No report

**Website –** B. Striman

* Added neighborhood news tab – if you see something happening in the neighborhood, let him know, especially items in the Lincoln Journal
* Note: The Lincoln Journal wants us to ask permission each time we want to use one of their articles. It is easier for them to track these requests on a case-by-case basis.
* Webmaster B. Striman indicated that he will provide a link to articles if he is pressed for time; otherwise, he will obtain appropriate permission to include an article on our website from another news source.
* R. Maurer requested logo for letterhead. Discussion points included:
* Suggestion that tree logo already designed be incorporated for use in a photo-ready format for all to use as needed, when sending letters. Creates “instant letterhead” whenever it’s needed.
* A need for consistency.
* A motion was made by P. Pearson and seconded by M. Eisenhart that we develop/finalize a tree letterhead logo, including the Board address (PO Box 4193); that it be superimposed to be used in Word to create letterhead as needed by any Board member. The motion passed unanimously.
* R. Carr will complete the logo by November 15.

**Membership –** M. Eisenhart

* Proposed Bylaws changes were included in email sent 10/2 to all Board members. Highlights included:
* Need for change is the obstacle we have encountered from insurance providers for Directors & Officers coverage – some carriers are unwilling to provide coverage, if business owners are allowed to be members, particularly if they live outside of the neighborhood.
* There is also an advantage to businesses to donate to ECCO, rather than to be members; donations are tax-deductible; memberships are not.
* We need to remove the business membership from our Bylaws, which will require a vote by the Membership at the Annual Meeting.
* We have only 5 current Business members – and only 2 of them live outside of ECCO.
* Two sections of the Bylaws would be affected:
* Article II – Membership

Any person or organization residing, owning residential real property, within an area bounded by Vine Street, 33rd Street, Holdrege Street, and 48th Street shall be eligible for membership in the Corporation.  Others may be admitted to membership on approval of the Board of Directors.  Membership of the East Campus Community Organization shall be comprised of those individuals, families, organizations, and residential real property owners that pay the annual dues.

* Article IV – Voting Rights

Each individual member shall be entitled to one vote.

A family membership entitles every member of a family who has reached the age of majority and who resides within the same household to one vote each.

Each residential real property owner member shall be entitled to one vote regardless of the number of properties owned within the neighborhood; or the number of officers/partners in the entity owning the property.

* M. Eisenhart made a motion and R. Carr seconded the motion to accept the proposed Bylaws change, and to present the recommendation for change to the Membership at the Annual Meeting October 24. The motion was passed unanimously.
* Mary will provide wording for the Annual Meeting for the changes as indicated in the Minutes – showing changes only + a clean copy of the new Bylaws. A. Bleed will include these in handouts to the Membership.
* Treasurer R. Maurer – research as to fiscal year and corporate status
* Establishing the fiscal year has been a challenge. R. Maurer has gone through all documents contained in 4 boxes; he has also scanned all of these items and shredded the documents as appropriate. Remaining paper documents will be forwarded to A. Bleed to have neighborhood historians review/retain as appropriate.
* The scanned ECCO documents will be placed on the website by Webmaster B. Striman, to be accessible to all.
* Roy has determined that ECCO is a 501(c)(4) corporation (not-for-profit, but not “charitable”). The last time anything was filed with the IRS was 1984. While former Treasurers may have filed, there is no supporting documentation. Our original fiscal year is unknown.
* R. Maurer indicated that it is simplest, especially with the timing of the Annual Meeting, to re-establish our fiscal year as October 1 – September 30.
* Treasurer R. Maurer has sent 96 letters out per Patti’s most recent Membership spreadsheet (10/9).
* There has been ongoing confusion as to when dues should be paid – the Membership Committee would like to have as many memberships as possible, paid in advance of the Annual Meeting each year. This will expedite check-in at the Annual Meeting; help us to increase membership participation in ECCO, by tracking memberships more closely, and providing reminders for payment; and aid in the budgeting process.
* This makes October (prior to our Annual Meeting) as the best time to send renewal letters to members.
* M. Eisenhart will be writing acknowledgment/thank-you notes to all members who pay their dues.
* Membership Dues
* The question of raising dues has been brought up. R. Maurer pointed out that we would need to plan a year in advance, in order to change the dues, because of our fiscal year. Most members will have just paid for 2013/2014 fiscal year dues. Any change would need to be effective for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.
* We may not need to raise the dues, if we are able to generate enough business donations, increase membership, and add new members.
* S. Ruggia-Haden made a motion and R. Maurer seconded, that we bring a motion before the Membership to set dues for the 2014/2015 fiscal year not to exceed $25; dues would be increased only if needed. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Tree Grant –** R. Maurer, D. Shea, M. Eisenhart

* R. Maurer indicated that 33 trees were physically planted on Sunday October 5; five trees are at Roy’s home, available for planting – this will be mentioned at the Annual Meeting.
* B. Striman will reference the project on the website – if interested in a tree, submit a request
* The project went well – 7 Farmhouse fraternity members helped + ECCO volunteers and friends from outside ECCO
* ECCO members Richard & Lisa Sutton watered the past 2 nights; mulching and staking will take place on Sunday October 12.
* All credited Richard and Lisa for putting in so much time and effort into the project.
* A. Bleed requested a write-up with task list, policy, etc., so that others can follow it in the future. R. Maurer will provide it.

**Annual Meeting October 24**

Agenda for Annual Meeting

* 5:30 PM @ Valentino’s – Check-in + Dinner – 1 hour
* Dinner provided by Valentino’s + check-in and social time
* Ballots provided to members; membership dues accepted as appropriate
* Note: Warren Methodist had asked for a $50 cleaning deposit – A. Bleed donated the deposit to the Church, since we changed our reservation, especially as they allow us to use the Board room for free each month.
* 6:30 PM – Business Meeting – 15 minutes
* Brief Treasurer’s Report
* Report on last year’s activities (per newsletter)
* Bylaws changes (written out on ballots)
* Dues for 2014/2015
* Election of Board Members (new + current Board Members seeking new term)
* Including nominations from the floor
* Track number to vote for – to fill up Board to maximum of 15.
* Note: G. Gerkin, B. Striman and S. DeWitt are leaving the Board. We will also need to find a new Webmaster, as B. Striman is moving out of the ECCO neighborhood.
* 11 Board members remaining – we can add a total of 4 additional Board members
* 6:45 PM – Ed Zimmer’s presentation on the Wylers (original owners of Valentino’s) and the Trolley Car Line
* 7:00 – 7:15 – Tony Messineo & Mike Alesio to present photos/posters of the old Val’s
* A. Bleed would like neighbors to give 1-minute “Val’s Memories”
* Tony & Mike will also talk about the new restaurant (they currently have a beer license – would like support to serve wine as well
* 7:40 – Valentino’s Idylwild Park presentation
* A. Bleed has contacted PAL (Preservation Association of Lincoln) – they will not be doing a video
* Cindy Lange-Kubick of the Lincoln Journal/Star will not be in town, but will alert someone at LJS about the meeting
* B. Striman will take photos during the meeting

**AGR Project Completed**

* Open House held for AGR members, parents, and neighbors on Sunday October 5. Roger Wehrbein and Keith Carlson recognized the ECCO neighborhood during their presentations.

**New Business**

None

**Next Board Meeting – Thursday November 14, 2013 @ Warren Methodist Church**

Pending Business

* Historical Records review and retention
* Rental Committee

Respectfully submitted

Mary Eisenhart