

## **ECCO minutes September 8, 2011**

President Elizabeth Katt called the meeting to order.

**Board Members present:** Elizabeth Katt, Lisa Sutton, Cindy Stuefer Powell, Gary Gerkin, Rebecca Carr, Kirsten Licht, and Matt Fuller

**Visitors:** Mary Eisenhart and Lisa Warren, representing the Committee for Preservation of the East Campus Historic District

**Minutes:** Minutes for the August meeting were approved with the amendments made by Rebecca Carr. It was agreed that Cindy Loope would send the minutes via email to the board members for approval/ corrections shortly after each meeting, so that they can be posted on the website in a more timely fashion.

### **Reports:**

- No treasurer's report
- Yard of the Month: Rebecca Carr put the sign up at 3940 Orchard. It was ironic that the owners had killed the grass and were reseeding it, so the front was a mud yard. Elizabeth urged us to be on the look out for interesting winter yards.

### **Newsletter:**

Will be delivered the weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup> (according to by-laws we need to get the announcement out at least 7 days prior to the meeting).

Printing will be on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of the cheaper rates at the campus copy center.

All information to Cindy S.P. by October 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Items to include in the newsletter:

- Update on mini-golf course (Matt Fuller will check with Tom Madsen for the status of the mini-golf course).
- Annual meeting announcement on October 20<sup>th</sup>
- Report on AGR fraternity building project
- By-laws and information on changes
- Proposed dues (any changes would not take affect until 2012 meeting, so that dues can be collected at the annual meeting as people enter.) Membership is from October to October. It was felt that the dues should just cover our operating expenses. (Future projects that need financial support would be covered by future fundraisers, past examples - McAdams Park and the Historic District)
- Call for nominees
- Winterization article
- Lincoln Policy Network (representative attended June meeting with some good information – article is being supplied by LPN)

## **Old Business**

### **By-laws:**

The changes made by Ann Bleed and Rich Leiter were sent to everyone via email prior to the meeting. Rebecca Carr had a number of questions and suggestions, which resulted in the following conclusions:

- Vice-President versus President-elect: retain President-elect this would add more continuity to the board, which would reinforce the three-year cycling of board members.
- Past president: does not need to serve more than one year as past president (if the President stays on for second year).
- The Nominations Committee will be appointed by the President.
- Remove paragraph explaining the change of board members during the next three years.
- Removal of the phrase “The members of the Corporation shall not be liable for any debts of the Corporation beyond the dues paid by a member.” This statement should be included in a Treasurer’s policy that should be written in the next couple months.
- In Article VIII: Should the language include when or why Corporation members can call upon the President for additional Corporation meetings beyond the annual meeting?

Elizabeth and Rebecca will clean up the by-laws and make the final changes. It will be sent to all board members for a final review. The changes will be posted online and included in the newsletter and then voted on by the Corporation at the annual meeting.

**Mini-golf Course:** Matt Fuller will talk to Tom Madsen for an update on the mini-golf course and send information to Cindy S.P. for inclusion in the newsletter.

## **New Business**

**Annual meeting:** Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00:

- Booths: Instead of a speaker Elizabeth suggested have a series of booths for neighbors to visit and get information. Booths would include:
  - Weatherization
  - SWAP: Storm Water Awareness Program
  - Painting curbs (this is a business, so need to charge)
  - Perhaps Two Twins Cafe (they might provide cookies in exchange for free booth)
  - Paint-a-thon – NeighborWorks
  - Representative of the UNL Big Event
  - Other booth ideas are welcome
- Membership: We need three laptop computers and three people (Kristin, Matt, and Cindy S.P. using Elizabeth’s computer) taking names/addresses/emails and enter them into an excel program to be merged after the meeting.  
Question: Why should you be a member? Should we try to market ourselves? Use bumper stickers? Remind neighbors of the things their dues have helped to sponsor in the past? (Sidewalks, gazebo in the Sunken Garden, parking, etc.)
- Food: Expect 200 people. Ask Jimmy Johns (Matt) and Valentino’s (Cindy S.P.) for discounted food. If Valentino’s does not help, then check with de Leons. Mojava will help with coffee
- Need a big thank you sign for businesses that supported us with food discounts.
- Elizabeth has metal yard signs that she will paint with chalkboard paint that could be set up around the neighborhood advertising the meeting and the website.

- Agenda: Brief update on events of past year. Explain the fact that things are changing in the neighborhood and the board needs help in order to address the future needs. We want to establish committees that would take on different issues and have one person from each committee report to the board each month on any updates from their committee. Example committees include:
    - Communication: UNL liaison, newsletter, website, fraternity liaison
    - Membership: social, business liaison
    - Preservation and City Relations
- Elizabeth suggested white easel board pages for ideas or names of interested people. Perhaps have people list their top five concerns so the board might get a better feel of where to put their resources and energy, or have a discussion about top neighborhood concerns. Perhaps have Ann and Elizabeth mention some of the visions that they see for the future of the neighborhood.
- Vote on by-laws and membership dues
  - Suggested that the above committees be introduced in the newsletter prior to the meeting.
  - Advertise the meeting free on TV and radio
  - Kristin has a projector
  - Provide name tags
  - Board members assemble at 5:30 to help set up room

### **Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR)**

Upcoming meetings:

- Kappa Foundation meets with the neighborhood Preservation Committee at Mary Eisenhart's home on Wednesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Cindy Loope and Lisa Sutton will represent ECCO at this meeting.
- Historic Preservation Commission meeting, Thursday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 1:30 room 214, County City Building
- Planning Commission, Wednesday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>
- City Council, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Mary Eisenhart reported:

- Kappa Foundation has responded positively to the neighbor's suggestions: lowering the grade by two feet, putting up a wall to provide noise protection from the increase in vehicle traffic. (The Foundation wants to work with the neighborhood.)
- The two properties on the west side of Idylwild will probably be sold, as the Foundation will not need them.
- The big issue that has not been addressed is the rezoning of the Holdrege property directly east of the current AGR structure. The Foundation had originally wanted it to be rezoned as R6 because they need a couple feet of that property. They were going to request the whole thing be rezoned. The neighbors suggested they rezone (or replat) a portion of the lot, but not all of the lot. They might be able to do a contract or conditional zoning in order to provide assurance to the neighbors that there will not be future development on that lot.
- Mary reported that it appears to the Foundation and their lawyer that the neighborhood is divided on this issue. Mary asked that the board and the committee present a united front. The board is supportive of the committee's results to date, but until the updated proposal is complete, we won't take an official position. Elizabeth will request the board's vote as an extension of this

meeting before the Historic Preservation meeting if the updated proposal has been presented. This will be short notice and may have to be done by email. The results of that vote and the board's position will be an attachment to these minutes.

Submitted by Cindy Loope