

ECCO Annual Meeting October 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Approximately 65 members attended.

Visitors:

President Elizabeth Katt introduced the visitors who had booths with information to share with neighbors.

- Patty Kreifels owner of Picture This – A Digital Inventory Service. She takes photos of items in your home that are important for insurance claims.
- Bryce Morgan, a student from Farm House, was promoting UNL's Big Event – April 21, 2012. They now include residential homes in their volunteer efforts: helping with yard work, painting etc. If you know someone who could benefit from this service contact the ECCO board.
- Mary Stillwell from Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties. They provide home weatherization for low-income residents.
- Keith Carlson and Doyle Hulme from the Kappa Foundation and Jordan Berger the contractor who will be building the new structure for AGR at Idylwild and Holdrege. Photos of the three homes that need new locations were available. The homes need to be moved before May 1st, 2012 when construction begins. At the suggestion of neighbors, the Kappa Foundation has set up a separate account for donations to support landscaping the property after construction.

Board members were introduced and the five members leaving the board were recognized:

- Kirsten Licht
- Cindy Loope
- Marie Rustemeir
- Richard Schroeder
- Lisa Sutton

Year in Review:

A review of the board's activities for the past year included:

- Continued to provide guidance for the establishment of parking restrictions on streets where neighbors asked for help (Dudley from 33rd to 34th). A protocol is now established and can be implemented in the future.
- Discovered the bylaws, recognized that they were outdated, and rewrote the bylaws.
- Established the option of paying membership dues online through PayPal.
- Worked with Parks and Rec, concerned neighbors, and Tom Madsen on the mini-golf proposal that Madsen suggested for the green space at 48th and Holdrege. ECCO's role has been to gather information and input from neighbors, provide an opportunity for neighbors to share concerns and thoughts on the project, and to provide feedback to Mr. Madsen. The board has not voted on this proposal as critical new information came to light in one of the meetings. This project is on hold at this time.
- Coordinated and worked the Neighborhood Clean Up in May.
- Wrote grants to help cover the cost of the neighborhood clean up.
- Organized the Fourth of July parade and talent show, which started at McAdams Park. The parade and talent show may alternate each year between Idylwild Park and McAdams Park.
- Submitted paperwork and fees for continued incorporation with state with a non-profit status and tax ID number obtained.
- Worked with UNL Big Event volunteers who cleaned up the trolley trail between 37th and Varner Hall.
- Acted on website request for parking restrictions on both sides of 40th and 42nd Streets where the MoPac trail crosses the road. When cars are parked near the trail it is difficult for drivers to see bikers. The city will be installing signs restricting parking.
- Addressed concern about 40th and X St. intersection, where there was a roll over accident this summer. The city will be placing yield signs on X St.
- Addressed neighbors' concerns about high-speed traffic during the repaving of Holdrege to the city, which resulted in the placement of flashing signs announcing the speed of the approaching vehicle.
- AGR Proposed Building: Provided opportunities for neighbors to meet and discuss concerns with the Kappa Foundation, which resulted in the amendments made to the project being formalized in a written agreement with the city. Presented the Board's position of support for the project at the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council meetings. Will continue to work with the Kappa Foundation to try to relocate the three homes that need to be removed before construction can begin in May, 2012.

Treasurer's report:

Checking: \$3289.08

Savings: \$2145.93

By-Laws discussion:

The bylaws committee proposed the following major changes to the previous by-laws:

- Rearranged the wording in order to put membership, voting, and dues into separate articles. Added references to email communications and the website where appropriate.

- Article I: Changed the phrasing of the purpose of ECCO from “shall be accomplished by” to “The focus of the efforts of the Corporation shall be:”. Added historic preservation to the list. Rearranged the list slightly.
- Article II:
 - Eliminated the two classes of membership Active and Associate member class. Formerly active members were those who paid their dues and they had voting rights. Associate members were “those persons or organizations residing, owning real property, or operating a business within the boundaries of the Corporation who request their name to be placed on the Corporations mailing list.” The by-laws committee saw no reason to keep the associate member category as they did not see a reason to restrict anyone from being on the corporation’s mailing list.
 - Each business member shall be entitled to one vote regardless of the number of business properties within the neighborhood or the number of officers/partners in the business.
- Article IV: Changed the number of board members from 9 – 13 to 9 -12.
- Article V:
 - Took out paragraph about how transition will happen over the next three years.
 - For each of the first three years after these new by-laws are enacted, the terms of one-third of the current Board members will expire. The number of years of service on the board will be used to determine which Board members’ terms will end each year, with the longest serving Board members expiring first. At the end of the three-year period, there shall be staggered three-year terms for membership on the Board.
 - Removed “The members of the Corporation shall not be liable for any debts of the Corporation beyond the dues paid by a member.”
- Article VI: Took out Vice President position per board discussion. Changed person to preside over meetings in President’s absence to President-Elect.
- Article VII: Put in a Communications Chairperson, per our discussion at the executive board meeting. Language regarding the duties of the communication chairs was also added.
- Article VII: The presence of 50 members of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at the corporation meeting.

The proposed changes to the bylaws were posted on the website and copies were available for neighbors attending the annual meeting. Several amendments were suggested during the meeting and approved including:

- Amendments to Article II
- Amendments to Article IV
- Amendments to Article V (Changed the number of members on the board to read 9 to 15.)
- Amendments to Article VIII (changed 50 members to 20% of the members).

The question “Should members be able to vote electronically or must the member be present to vote?”, will be taken up again at the next annual meeting.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the new by-laws, which included the amendments approved during the annual meeting. The motion was approved.

Dues for 2012/2013:

Individual and Family: \$20

Businesses: \$25

The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Election of new Board Members:

Elizabeth said that the board is making an effort to recruit neighbors who live south of the MoPac Trail as we have little representation from that part of the neighborhood. Nominations were welcomed from the floor, but none were proposed. The nominations committee of Lisa Sutton, Rebecca Carr and Matt Fuller were thanked for their efforts. There were 6 nominations made prior to the meeting:

Leland Jacobs
Roy Maurer
Patti Pierson
Brian Striman
Mary Eisenhart
Gwen Tilley

Members were instructed to vote for five.

The new members to the board are:

- Leland Jacobs
- Roy Maurer
- Patti Pierson
- Brian Striman
- Mary Eisenhart

Elizabeth Katt
Oct 24, 11:22 AM
Added: Space

Committees:

Elizabeth outlined the idea of having different committees as a way to increase neighbor participation and allow the board to accomplish more. The committees included:

- Communication – (UNL liaison, newsletter, website)
- Membership and Social (Business liaison, neighbor involvement)
- Preservation: (Zoning, parking, proposed building projects)

Some discussion ensued, but no one volunteered to be on a committee.

Two suggestions for the future:

- Invite Cecil Stuart to speak to the board about beautification and preservation of the neighborhood.
- Have speed boards posted on 40th and 42nd St. to slow down drivers. Contact the police department to ask for increased enforcement of speed limits on these streets.

Donations for the annual meeting:

Thanks to the following businesses for donating door prizes. Nancy Armstrong Johnson took the lead on soliciting door prizes to give away at the annual meeting with help from Elizabeth Katt & Matt Fuller.

- omt! Divine Women's Resale
- Raising Cane
- Super Savor
- Nails by Lynn
- Perkins
- Madsen's Bowling & Billards
- Hallow Candle
- Picture This!

The following businesses provided free or discounted food for the annual meeting. Thank you to Matt Fuller, Cindy Stuefer-Powell & Elizabeth Katt for making these requests:

- Jimmy John's (three free trays of sandwiches)
- Valentino's (25% discount)
- P.J. Baby cakes (discount)
- Mojave – coffee (free)
- Madsen's Bowling & Billards - sodas