

**ECCO Board Minutes**  
**March 8, 2012**  
**Warren Methodist Church – 7 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Ann Bleed, Rebecca Carr, Mary Eisenhart, Rich Leiter, Roy Maurer, Patti Pierson, Danielle Shea, Brian Striman, Cindy Stueffer-Powell, and Richard Voeltz,

Guests: Prospective Board member Marcus Plouzek; NeighborWorks representative Shawn Ryba; Wesleyan representatives Abby Mitchell, Mike Satterly, Allyson Barnes

Ann Bleed brought the meeting to order. She asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There being none, she further suggested that our guests make their presentation in advance of our business meeting.

Potential new Board member, Marcus Plouzek, was introduced. Marcus works at NBC bank as a Loan officer. He lives at 1300 Idylwild St. and is soon to be married.

**Presentation of NeighborWorks Questionnaire Project led by Guest Shawn Ryba of NeighborWorks**

NeighborWorks focuses on home ownership and revitalization projects. This current project is a survey intended to help the neighborhood organization with planning in their community. They are working with schools, Wesleyan, in this case, to provide the survey and the analysis. Abby Mitchell's class will be working four neighborhood surveys, students: Mike Satterly and Allyson Barnes are working on the ECCO survey. The survey will be distributed either by mail or door to door. Shawn has previous experience with these types of surveys and recommended our organization. A facsimile of the survey was provided. M. Eisenhart inquired about results of survey. Ms. Mitchell said that we would receive the students' analysis. Shawn mentioned that a similar survey of the Woods Park Neighborhood yielded 45% feedback. A. Bleed asked how we would be able to keep track of where ideas are coming from in the neighborhood. M. Eisenhart suggested colored paper and R. Carr suggested that the survey be coded, as long as it is private. R. Leiter noted that the differences would be helpful.

ECCO Board will provide a map for the students. Also Board members suggested additional questions be included in the survey, for instance:

- Do you own residence and how long have you been here?
- Do you know (aware) of ECCO?
- Are you aware of the events that we sponsor?
- Would you be willing to get more involved?

Shawn Ryba also discussed another project with Community Engagement Initiative (CEI). It is entitled "Building Leaders, Building Communities". The CEI will provide tools and techniques to develop and /or enhance the leadership skills of anyone interested in building a stronger neighborhood community. There are 13 sessions and at the conclusion of the CEI training the participants will create an action plan tailored to meet the needs and interests of the community. Participating neighborhood associations will receive a grant up to \$3,000 to implement the plan.

Several board members showed interest in participating.

**New Board Member**

M. Eisenhart made a motion to accept Marcus Plouzek as a new Board member and R. Leiter seconded. The motion carried unanimously. M. Plouzek mentioned that he had a friend who may also be interested in joining, Cory Ryder.

### **Minutes – C. Stuefer-Powell**

Some small changes/corrections were made to the February 9, 2012 Board meeting. Minutes were approved as corrected.

### **Treasurer's Report – R. Maurer**

- Checking and Savings account balances combined are just shy of \$6200.
- R. Maurer distributed a draft budget for 2011/2012.
- B. Striman mentioned that the cost for website, annually \$130, should be included.
- The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

### **Presidents Report – A. Bleed**

#### ***Change in zoning code related to parking lot requirements for fraternities and sororities.***

ECCO sent a letter to the City Council expressing our support for the language in the zoning code stating that fraternities and sororities will be required to have .75 parking places per resident, but special exceptions can be granted by the city.

#### ***Valentino's Block***

She talked with Mayor Chris Beutler urging him to give serious consideration to the WRK proposal. She told him that the neighborhood was in favor of the general concepts of the development, although we would not commit to endorsing the proposal at this point in time. She stated that we were concerned with what could happen in the area of the block that is already zoned as commercial. She also suggested that closing off 35<sup>th</sup> Street for one block might enable a more creative design for the block and would probably not be a major problem for the neighborhood, again stating that closing the street at this point was still just a concept.

She also had a phone conversation with Kent Seacrest, the attorney who is representing WRK on this project. He told her that the Mayor wanted a greater commitment of money for the median and the park before he would release TIF funds. Mr. Seacrest said they are also hoping that someone, perhaps the fraternity, would agree to take care of the park and the median.

WRK is hoping to have the blight study completed within 30 days and they are hoping to finish up the architectural drawing within two or three weeks. Mr. Seacrest told her they are planning to keep and fix up the historic building (2-story white house) on the block. We agreed to have an all neighborhood meeting to learn more about the project sometime in March.

### **Valentino's Block Meeting**

- The Board decided that the date for neighborhood meeting would be Thursday, March 29 @ 7PM. Meeting will be at Valentino's, with WRK and Kent Seacrest, in addition to ECCO neighbors.
- Flyers should go out to residents living close to the affected area.

### **Communications Report – B. Striman**

#### ***Newsletter***

- C. Stuefer-Powell suggested other items that should be in the newsletter, indicating that a flyer type of newsletter may be too small.
- M. Eisenhart mentioned that the membership committee may want to add to the newsletter as well.

- Items to be included in the newsletter should be sent to B. Striman by March 19, as the suggested delivery dates are March 24-26.
- C. Stuefer-Powell will email list of volunteers to B. Striman.
- B. Striman would like a few people to proof the newsletter before it is copied.
- A. Bleed would like Discover ECCO Day to be in the newsletter as an upcoming event.

#### ***Yard Signs promoting ECCO & website***

- A suggestion was made that we create yard signs made for the neighborhood reminding people of the ECCO neighborhood website.
- R. Carr suggested we contact sign company Screen Ink to inquire about making these signs.
- B. Striman will research the cost of the signs, and report at our next meeting.
- R. Mauer suggested using Email blasts to communicate with members whose email addresses that we do have.

#### **Membership Report – M. Eisenhart**

- M. Eisenhart reported that the committee would promote membership at upcoming Val's Block meeting; and at the Clean-up event.
- Committee is working on workshops as a benefit for members, for instance dog training, remodeling and home repair, etc.

#### **Yard of the Month – R. Carr**

R. Carr, because of the season, indicated that no yards have been nominated as of yet.

#### **Historic Preservation Committee – M. Eisenhart**

M. Eisenhart indicated that street trees and parking remain the primary focus of the Committee at this point in time. No other items to report.

#### **Old Business**

##### ***Neighborhood clean-up***

C. Stuefer-Powell has contacted the American Lutheran Church, (our request is being considered), called Bruce Roggenkamp and scheduled the rollofs. The grants were written and sent to Laurel Erickson of Keep Lincoln and Lancaster Beautiful. The owner of Mo Java has said that he will donate coffee for the event. The Child Resistant Packaging, Inc. group has been contacted to set up the fund raiser at the event as well.

- Point person will be Rich Leiter – what will the volunteers actually do?
  - ✓ The grant has been written and sent in already
  - ✓ Richard Schroeder will coordinate 2 trucks to pick up items residents can't bring to us
  - ✓ There will be 3 rollofs – trash; metal/appliances; and brush
  - ✓ Brush coupons will be provided for those who can't come
  - ✓ Cindy has a list of information, including permission sign-ups (hold harmless agreements)
  - ✓ Gloves and boots should be worn by all volunteers
  - ✓ Hold harmless agreements need to be signed by all volunteers and all residents bringing items to be disposed of
  - ✓ Need 30-cup coffee makers (several individuals mentioned they had them – Rich can coordinate
  - ✓ Need a banner near the street

- ✓ Need to take many pictures and forward them to Webmaster Brian Striman for the website and newsletter. We especially need pictures of the Big Event volunteers picking up litter, working, etc., as this is part of the requirement of showing they helped, to be awarded credit for participating.
- ✓ Membership Committee members M. Eisenhart and P. Pierson will have the Membership list, and provide an opportunity for residents to join ECCO. Note: There is a \$50 fee for non-ECCO members for removal of some items – the fee is waived for members – great reason to join.

**Valentino's Block** – Covered in the President's Report.

#### **Historical Records**

- Cindy Loope and Ann Bleed will take charge of records, and paper forms. They will set up a way to keep them, as well as historical photos. M. Eisenhart will retrieve 2 boxes from A. Bleed.
- Another person to help will be Andy Peterson.
- M. Eisenhart and B. Striman will work on a cloud scanning approach.
- R. Carr pointed out that we have record keeping protocols in our by-laws to will with the recommendation of what to keep.
- All financial information should go to R. Mauer.
- R. Leiter will take the historical items the Board does not want to keep.
- R. Voeltz mentioned that Love library may have some items as well.

#### **New business**

##### **Discover ECCO**

- An event in which the neighbors are encouraged to display their interests and arts.
- Peter Bleed, John Hits, Ann Tyler, Cindy Loope, Linda Pickett, Lisa Warren, Andi Peterson and A. Bleed are working to bring this together.
- The date is set on Sunday, June 3, from 1-4PM @ McAdams Park @ 45<sup>th</sup> & Y Streets. No rain location.
- C. Loope is sponsoring an Old Timers Table, R. Leiter is sponsoring a "Story Core" type booth, whereas stories are recorded and put on the website. Other possible booths include quilting, Rich Sutton - Art, Robert Hillestad – Textiles, Rich Graham – Comics, Tom Madison – Pool Cues, R. Carr – Print Making.
- As a new budget expense, it will cost approximately \$100 to reserve McAdams Park
- The booths can't advertise but they can personally sell items.
- Next planning meeting is March 15.
- The Board would like to develop a flyer to show a list of committed people for the event.

**Church Basement Items.** There are paper plates or coffee items in the Church basement. R. Voeltz suggested contacting the secretary to enquire if they are ECCO's or the Church's.

**Native American Health Effort:** Should be mentioned in the newsletter, if only one or two lines, on the possibility that it could benefit any of our neighbors.

**Support Easter Egg Hunt:** M. Eisenhart requested \$50 for the Annual Starr's Easter Egg Hunt (the Board has given \$35 in the past). D. Shea made a motion and R. Voeltz seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and ECCO will make a donation of \$50 to the East Campus Starrs for this event.

***ECCO Insurance:*** The purchase of General Liability and/or Directors & Officers Insurance to protect ECCO and its Board members from litigation at an estimated cost of \$650 was tabled for further review.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.