

ECCO Board Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2012

7:00 Warren Methodist Church Library

Present: Ann Bleed, Roy Maurer, Rebecca Carr, Patti Pierson, Danielle Shea, and Marcus Plouzek.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda

Review and Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes distributed by Cindy Stueffer-Powell. Rebecca moved to approve the minutes as written. Patti seconded. The motion passed by those in attendance and by Gary Gerkin and Brian Striman electronically a day later.

Review and Approval of the Treasurers Report

Roy reported that he has completed a registry of recent deposits and checks and that he will repeat this process each month. Currently we have \$3922.86 in checking and \$2147.73 in savings. Since the fiscal year began, we have a net increase of \$350 in resources. Roy will update the budget in time for the Board to review before the annual meeting. Marcus moved to approve the report. Danielle seconded. The motion passed by those in attendance and by Gary Gerkin and Brian Striman electronically a day later.

President's Report

Ann summarized the President's report that she distributed by email. The topics and discussion included the latest on the Valentino's Block development and NeighborWorks Leadership Training. Some specific comments during the discussion were as follows:

- Valentino's received the TIF funds that were necessary for the project to move ahead as planned. Both the Planning Commission and the City Council were involved in the approvals.
- Marcus asked whether there are implications for the blight designation. Ann answered that there will not be for neighbors since only the businesses, street and park were so designated.
- Some of the ideas about how to use the grant from NeighborWorks included:
 - Developing a neighborhood garden
 - Street tree planting (which is a priority for the Historic Committee)
 - Garden and/or home tour as a fundraiser, potentially done in conjunction with other North Lincoln neighborhoods
 - A 5K run similar to that organized by the Country Club neighborhood
 - A series of gardening classes for neighbors (e.g., xeriscaping, rain barrels, gardening)
- *Trees for Nebraska Towns* is providing grant funding for tree planting. The proposal is due by October 1. Roy and Mary will look into applying for the grant.
- We need to find time to brainstorm ideas about what to include in our grant proposal.
- The next and final NeighborWorks session is August 11 from 8:30-11:30 AM.

Yard of the Month Committee Reports

Rebecca reported that the YOTM for August is Elizabeth Katt's house at 38th and Dudley and that she has nominations for both September and October in different parts of the neighborhood.

Old Business

The old business agenda items were covered in the president's report discussion.

New Business

Annual Meeting

The ECCO annual meeting will be held on Tuesday October 30th. Ann and Patti will plan the annual meeting and suggest an agenda by the next meeting. Some of the discussion during this meeting included:

- Use the video from Savannah GA shown at one of the NeighborWorks sessions.
- Have small groups brainstorm (1) their concerns about the neighborhood, (2) what is good about the neighborhood, and (3) what they want the board to focus on. We would they post the results.
- Continue this discussion as a large group to get a sense of the entire room.
- Standard business meeting.
- Have board members identified visually, include name and address on their name tags.

Nominations Committee

Cindy Steuffer-Powell and Rebecca Carr terms expire 2012. Cindy has decided to step off the board. Rebecca Carr has agreed to remain for one more term but we are looking for additional board members. Patti, Mary, Roy and Ann will serve as a nominations committee. Suggestions are welcome.

By-Laws Review Committee

Mary Eisenhart and Rebecca Carr agreed to review the current by-laws and make suggestions for changes, hopefully by the next board meeting.

Newsletter Ads

Ann received a request about advertising in our newsletter and suggested that we develop a policy and pricing to allow this to happen. The prices listed below are those used by Clinton in their newsletter and adopted them.

4 by 7 inch	\$225.00 per issue (two column)
4 by 3 ½ inch	\$125.00 per issue (one column)
2 by 2 ½ inch	\$35.00 per issue or (business card) or \$100.00 prepaid for 3 issues

In addition, the board discussed the necessity of having policies about both website and email blast content. The Bylaws Committee will add this to their list of items to discuss.

Patti moved that we accept the Clinton rates. Rebecca seconded. Those present decided to allow ads in the newsletter. To make it an official vote, both Brian Striman and Gary Gerkin voted electronically following the meeting.

Rental Property

Mary, Ann and TJ met once to discuss the growing concern about rental properties in our neighborhood. The specific concerns are about properties that are not kept up and inconsistency in who is living in the neighborhood. Their next step will be to send an email to neighbors seeking membership for the committee.

Candidates' Forum

We also voted to be a neighborhood sponsor of a candidates' forum being sponsored by the NAACP at the Malone Center in September. The participants would be both legislative and congressional candidates. Our involvement would be nominal only; there would be no money or work involved. The dates are tentatively set for September 20 and another date TBD. Danielle moved that we become an official sponsor; Marcus seconded. All present supported the recommendation that we co-sponsor the events and to make it an official vote, both Brian Striman and Gary Gerkin voted electronically following the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is September 13, 2012.