

**ECCO Annual Meeting - Minutes
Thursday October 12, 2017**

**Held at New Hope Methodist Church (formerly Warren Methodist Church
45th & Orchard Street – Good Shepherd Hall**

5:30 Dinner

- ✓ Pizza/dinner provided by ECCO
- ✓ Sodas provided by Tom Madsen and Madsen's Bowling & Billiards

6:15 Call to Order – Annual Meeting of ECCO Members – President P. Johnson

Due to additional commitments for speakers, started with Councilwoman Cyndi Lamm and LPD Captain Martin Fehringer

- **Lincoln City Councilwoman Cyndi Lamm – representing NE Lincoln District till 2019**

- ✓ clamm@lincoln.ne.gov
- ✓ Parking – continued work with UNL Vice Chancellor Christine Jackson to put a pilot program into place to help control parking issues in ECCO – more information as things progress. Working w/M. Belka on ECCO Board.
- ✓ Dead Man's Run project to be completed 2019
- ✓ 33rd & Cornhusker project update – 2 alternatives considered – interacting w/surrounding area land use – does not want to cut off future development – wants to encourage investors/development for the area. She serves on sub-area study committee – and encouraged interested parties to serve on Advisory Committee to give feedback – 4 meetings per year – to help develop final plan. Watch for news on 1st public meeting.
- ✓ 48th & Holdrege apartment complex – already leasing – finished early
- ✓ 48th & Leighton – some progress – should be in front of Council soon. Similar to 48th & Holdrege, but a “city unto itself” w/1 building on south end (retail + 4 floors of apartments). Another 5-story building as well – and “their own little Main Street between the buildings – trying to create a community experience for residents.
- ✓ Question – Will there be adequate funding for getting the jump on replacing trees that will be destroyed by Emerald Ash Borer? Are trees planned for these projects? City plan is only to replace 1 tree for every 2 destroyed. This is especially devastating to older neighborhoods, whose character is very tied to old-growth trees. We have never recovered from street widening and Dutch Elm disease over the past 40 years. Cools environment, increases property values – this benefits the City.
- ✓ Answer – May need tax funding to address – need to review City Parks plan – when and where is replacement scheduled? Challenges – City trees were originally planted too close to streets, etc., and same number cannot be planted to replace them. Looking like 2 for 3, or 1 for 2 as regards replacement – pushing for 2 for 3. **Note: ECCO needs to continue plan to replace trees ourselves, and not depend upon the City to do it.**
- ✓ 48th & Leighton – Retail update. Grocery store issue – developer cannot put in a grocery store due to Hy-Vee restriction. Question – Exactly how long does lease require that no grocery store replacement for Hy-Vee go in? Answer – 15 years(!). Dollar General planned. Perhaps a grocery store at former Green's Furnace site or other site. Ms. Lamm gave a nod to Kelly's Produce and the Farmer's Market, urging participation.
- ✓ Youth Center Development potential
- ✓ Turning Lane by Lancaster Event Center (84th & Havelock)
- ✓ Question – What about trees for green spaces – Haymarket seems a bit of a concrete wasteland. Answer – there is a ratio RE green space regulation – Planning Department is supposed to address it – sometimes it includes trees. Again, the concern is w/the trees that will be lost to disease – and making certain development addresses their tree removal as well. No jurisdiction RE Haymarket – decided during Planning process long ago. Also mentioned issue of parking on game/event days – nowhere for shoppers/restaurant-goers to park to actually help retailers/restaurants.
- ✓ Question/comment – A lot of congestion from Holdrege to “O” Street on 48th. Turning light at 48th & Vine is at the end of the blinking yellow cycle, instead of at the beginning. Creates more risk, as oncoming traffic tries to “beat the red” as the light is transitioning to turning West onto Vine from 48th.

- ✓ Question/comment – “Hot mess – too much progress” with new pedestrian crossing light at Idylwild & Holdrege – confusion w/yellow flashing light (believe this is required by Feds for some reason, as regards funding) – red is “stop”/ yellow is “slow down” – people don’t get it. Answer – Lincoln looking at green light synchronization – contact is lburland@lincoln.ne.gov
- **LPD – New Team Captain Martin Fehringer**
 - ✓ 28-year veteran/11 years as High School officer liaison/8 years in Crime Investigation
 - ✓ Question – Motorcycle races on Holdrege in early morning hours. Answer – this is unfortunately common on many arterials – keep contacting non-emergency number – they are trying to catch folks when it’s happening – can be complicated.
 - ✓ Question – Still having problems with party house on Idylwild – repeat offenders should have more consequences – sometimes difficult if different officers are called @ different times. Answer – contact Captain Fehringer personally if he can be of additional help.
 - ✓ Report – in the past month, “part 1” crimes incidents (9) were very low for ECCO (robbery/burglary/assault). Unfortunately, MoPac provides quick access
 - Dog walker noted father/son on motor scooter @ 2AM – call non-emergency # 402-441-6000 – when you see things happening that shouldn’t
 - Daylight robbery @ 34th & Dudley – 2 people arrested
 - ✓ New radio system
 - ✓ Question/comment – It would be great to have LPD officers on bikes on MoPac – this helped in the past. Answer – will consider ways to do this – currently also walking down alleys and streets, talking to people – trying to have more of a presence – but small # of officers.
 - ✓ Comment from LPD – colder weather – don’t leave your cars running!! Majority of stolen vehicles result from unlocked cars w/keys in them; and running. ***Guns are stolen from about 1 out of 40 or 50 of these types of thefts – big problem!
 - ✓ Comment – Thanks for the LPD coffee/donuts event @ Riley Elementary – great community outreach.
 - ✓ Comment – Kudos to LPD for their attempt to be sensitive RE diversity – recent arrest of armed person w/o harming anyone, cited.

President’s Report – P. Johnson

- Introduction of current Board members – Robert Bienhoff, Mary Belka, Aaron Bowen, Rebecca Carr, John Hitt, Paul Johnson, Tom Madsen, Roy Maurer, Patti Pierson, Sally Ruggia-Haden, Pat Schock, Danielle Shea, Donnette Thayer, Richard Voeltz + 1 vacant seat
- Thanks to many volunteers who helped w/projects – Danielle Shea who handles our website – and other Board members
- Spring Clean-up – P. Pierson
 - ✓ 1820 lbs. metal recycled
 - ✓ Goodwill Neighborhood Challenge – 1277 lbs. goods recycled
 - ✓ Fraternities helped – most appreciated
- 4th of July Parade
 - ✓ Many thanks to volunteers – good press coverage – newspaper and television
- Idylwild Boulevard renovations completed
- FarmHouse Fraternity project underway
- Friends of FarmHouse Award to ECCO (on day of Spring Clean-up)
- Problem Properties – renovation by Rokebys of Dudley Street property well underway
- New Neighborhood residents
 - ✓ James Benes – 35th & Orchard
 - ✓ Bertha ??? – 35th & X
 - ✓ Anthony Kennedy & Susie Johnson – 35th & X – just purchased rental property
- Neighborhood pamphlet completed – marketing – Rental Committee project
- ECCO on FaceBook – thanks to volunteers who put this together
- UNL East Campus Homecoming Concert – R. Carr – much quieter this year w/better placement and sound checks prior to event – better planning and parking enforcement – easier on the neighborhood w/more cooperation from UNL this year
- Holdrege Street crosswalks & light – A. Morfeld
 - ✓ Comments RE more confusion created w/sign in the street, flashing yellow lights, etc.
 - ✓ Info from P. Johnson RE Neighborhood Roundtable – 300+ traffic lights in Lincoln – higher percentage than other cities our size. Since 1976, no sensor updates, changes needed

Treasurer’s Report – R. Maurer

- Annual Dues – Currently \$25 annually – after discussion, no motion to change – will remain the same.

Election of Board Members

- Slate of those whose 3-year terms are up + nomination from the floor – Roy Maurer, Patti Pierson, Mary Belka, Danielle Shea
 - ✓ Nomination from the floor to fill vacant seat – Cec Brady
- **Motion/seconded/passed to accept slate and nomination from the floor**

Old Business – None

New Business

- Neighborhood Perimeter Signs project – R. Carr
 - ✓ Lisa Sutton, Richard Leiter, Gale Warren also helping w/ideas
 - ✓ Discussion points
 - Where would they be placed? Main points of entry – also depends upon cost
 - City may have regulations – research needed
 - Historic District already has some sign in place – this is for greater ECCO area
 - Contacted several other neighborhoods
 - Good advertising for families moving to neighborhood – a sense that they are entering a real community, where people do things together – a certain cache
 - Attracts people here for other than Real Estate investment
 - More information needed – get research, design, cost information finalized – submit to residents for review/comments – make decision at that time. Good to continue to gather info to make informed decision soon.
- Zoning Discussion – 33rd, along area where Hyland Bros. old property was located.
 - ✓ Planning Dept. considering rezoning in order to keep zoning consistent w/current neighborhood/surrounding zoning. Need feedback from the neighborhood.
 - ✓ Question – What is the next step? Public meetings coming up next month.
 - ✓ **Motion made (Gale Warren) and seconded (Lynne Schroeder), that ECCO Representative attend the meeting and ask that the area be properly down-zoned to remove Industrial zoning (I-1) to appropriate Residential/Commercial zoning. Motion passed.**

Q&A with State Representative Martin Hanson – District 26 NE State Legislature (in his 3rd year)

- Has done a lot of work w/UPCO (Uni Place Community Organization)
- Corrections/jail system issues discussed at length
 - ✓ County jail population increasing – many people not yet sentenced – unable to pay bail, so sitting in jail – losing Medicaid benefits, jobs, etc., in the process. County must then handle medical issues – at an additional cost.
 - ✓ Question – What percentage are non-violent drug arrests? Answer – not as many as one would think – trying to make it an infraction for fines/fees. If sentence is >1 year, they are put in prison; otherwise, kept in overcrowded County jail.
 - ✓ LB 605 coming up – significant shift from state to counties as regards expense. Huge tax burden for counties. For instance, brand-new Lancaster County jail already nearly full as a result of this shift. Many components to the issue – many more crimes /not limiting judges as regards sentencing. This will be important to watch and weigh in on.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted
Secretary M. Belka