

East Campus Community Organization (ECCO) Board Meeting Notes

Date: 23 February 2023

Location: New Hope United Methodist Church

Meeting commenced at 1830 CST and finished at 2003 CST.

Members present: Richard, Janet, Ken, Frank, Chuck, Vicki, Roy, Teri, Eric.

Guests: Officer Bucher from LPD

The meeting began with a question of who were the committee chairs of the Yard Waste signs and Neighborhood Perimeter signs in the previous meeting minutes. This was resolved later.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report given. There was discussion at various points during the meeting by Roy, the previous Treasurer, in the meeting regarding money that is being spent and promised for 2023. The total spending in a typical year has been \$3500 and Roy was concerned that we may be promising too much spending this year. We have a combined \$10,000 between savings and checking but Roy pointed out that it wouldn't take too long to drain that if there wasn't a committed effort to fundraising. There was agreement that we need to figure out how to increase our revenue and it may be time to look at increasing fees for membership dues. Roy reminded the group that he sent out the budget table of the last five years a month prior to the last annual meeting, which was held on 20 October 2022.

LPD Report: Officer Bucher gave an update. The new precinct headquarters at 52nd and R is close to completion and they hope to be in March 1. But he acknowledged that there were a number of items in the that needed to be fixed before that can happen. They have been deploying from downtown since the old northeast station closed in January. He gave an update on crime in our region of town. Biggest issue remain larcenies from unlocked vehicles. Auto thefts hit a record in 2022. Over 70 percent were cars running unattended. Also of interest were the arrest of a Joshua Hill, who is responsible for several recent felonies and auto thefts, and news of a mid 30's female committing thefts around Nebraska Wesleyan and area hospitals. Vicki asked about traffic enforcement and Officer Bucher responded that enforcement has generally declined in recent years due to staffing issues but that two new sergeants assigned to our area have been going above and beyond recently.

Committee Report Update:

A. Newsletter: Eric will oversee content of newsletter and give to Mary. There is a \$300 annual budget for the newsletter.

B. Neighborhood Clean Up: Eric will take care of the grant for the neighborhood clean-up, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. We are planning to have one hour of shredding service. The last time we had the service in 2021 the cost was roughly \$250 for the hour. Will get with Tom to schedule the dumpster roll-offs.

C. Website: Amanda and Rachel are on the website committee. Neither were in attendance.

D. Membership: The next time both Paul and Mary are here there will be discussion on fundraising activities. Chuck and Vicki will get an idea of how much membership flyers would cost. See Treasurer's report for other monetary updates.

E. Yard of the Month: No discussion of note

G. Rental/Property: No update. Teri noted that Amanda could offer a unique perspective on this issue as she has been both a renter and an owner in the neighborhood.

H. 4th of July parade: Chuck volunteered to help Mary and Paul.

Neighborhood Perimeter and Pick Up After Your Pet: Teri suggested that the Yard Waste pickup sign group and the neighborhood perimeter group sign groups be combined. This suggestion was accepted. The group may be renamed to “Signage” or “Messaging”. Richard and Frank are the leaders. Paul, Eric, and Janet are also involved. The goal is to have a report on costs and possible locations at the next meeting.

Clinton/Hartley Parent Teacher Conferences: Teri said that we had committed to \$400 of spending for the cost of meals for teachers at Clinton Elementary on March 8th. Teri also reminded the board that we provided meals for conferences at Hartley back in October at a cost of \$400 and that Hartley had inquired if we were thinking of doing that this semester. Chuck motioned that we provide a meal for this semester too. Janet and Ken seconded Chuck’s motion. The motion passed unanimously after some discussion.

Pilot Parking: We held off on this at Mary’s request, as she was unable to attend the meeting. We will discuss at the March meeting.

UNL ASUN Big Event: Teri brought up the Big Event, which is scheduled for Saturday, 15 April. Teri will check on the cutoff time for the groups, which typically are broken into morning and afternoon. In the past the students have helped pick up litter along the Mopac Trail or helped spread mulch along the old trolley path. But the students can come for a few hours to assist with neighborhood projects. Related to litter in the neighborhood, Janet suggested that we do more to collect rubbish more regularly. Teri asked Janet if she would explore heading up a volunteer clean-up in the area.

Hartley Community Advisory Group: Eric and Teri gave the board a bit of background about the group, which meets the first Thursday of every month during the school year. The goal is to try and increase community participation in Hartley and to bring in new perspectives. The board agreed this was a worthwhile meeting. Richard asked if meeting attendees are representing ECCO or simply representing themselves. Eric said that individuals represent themselves. Ken mentioned his wife would likely be able to attend the one on March 2nd. There was also a broader discussion about issues facing schools like Hartley and Clinton, which draw kids from predominantly lower income families and often have parents who are unable to be involved in a PTO or donate money for extra-curricular activities. Vicki said ECCO can help do little things and anything helps but some of the costs to meet needs of a school may be out of scope for an organization like ours.

The meeting concluded with Teri wanting to resolve why some members of the group have not been receiving her emails. Roy said he only knew about the new meeting time (changed back in January) because of Mary and had not received emails. Teri requested that we respond in affirmative when we receive a test email over the weekend.