

MINUTES
ECCO Board Meeting
April 13 @ 6:30 PM
New Hope Methodist Church

Call to Order – President T. Ourada-Hubka

Board Members Present: Mary Belka, Janet Buck, Richard Firebaugh, Chuck Hassebrook, Eric Hunt, Paul Johnson, Janelle Lamb, Stephanie Kuvetakis, Roy Maurer, Frank Newell, Ken Nickerson, Teri Ourada-Hubka, Vicki Rokeby

Quorum present (8 = quorum)

Additional Attendees: LPD Northeast Team Captain Bucher; Lincoln Parks & Recreation Director Maggie Stuckey-Ross

Introduction of new Board member by T. Ourada-Hubka – Stephanie Kuvetakis of 3929 Dudley Street. Grew up in neighborhood; ECCO resident the past 5 years. Replacing former Board member Rachel Ayalon.

LPD Report – Captain Bucher

- Capt. Bucher indicated that LPD Chief Teresa Ewins wants to hold “town hall” meetings. LPD wants to use our meeting facility and invite other neighborhood association Board members w/in the Northeast Team area. He mentioned that the ECCO Association is considered the “strongest”, and felt it might help strengthen community ties with LPD to meet together in this forum.
- Agenda is not known – open for Q&A – eliciting questions from participants about any concerns or ways in which LPD and neighborhoods can work together for optimum results.
 - ✓ It was suggested that we survey attendees for questions in advance to provide to the Chief. T. Ourada-Hubka asked that ECCO Board members forward any questions/concerns to her. She will also put e-mail together for Capt. Bucher to send to other association Board member attendees.
- Suggested time – May 11 @ 6:30 PM (ECCO’s May Board meeting date/time)
 - Q – Has LPD talked to other organizations yet?
 - A – Yes, UPCO, Clinton, Meadowlane, Woods, Eastridge, and Witherbee. There is currently no formal Havelock organization, although City Council member James Michael Bowers meets regularly with a group near there.
- Capt. Bucher mentioned that mental health “welfare check” calls now represent 20% of LPD calls. He expressed concern that LPD is not necessarily the best option for these calls.
 - Q – Which entity would be best for shifting the burden?
 - A – CenterPointe is the main contact; trying to hire mental health professionals. Their staffing is down – not enough beds.
 - Q – Are these people who used to be taken to The Bridge?
 - A – In some cases. Prison/jail has become the biggest “mental health” facility.
 - Q – Who picks up the new 988 calls? This is a mental health direct line.
 - A – Capt. Bucher did not know.
 - Q – Would the situation be alleviated if The Bridge were available again?
 - A – Civil protection for drinking/narcotics situations would be a help; CenterPoine is helping a bit, but it is limited.
 - Q – Is the mental health issue something that will be discussed with the Chief at the May meeting?
 - A – He hopes so! This is a national trend that is making LPD’s job harder.
 - Q – When you are sending someone out for a welfare check, is it one or two officers?
 - A – Minimum of two.
 - Q – How about having a mental health professional be the second person?
 - A – That sounds like a good idea.
- LPD article for remaining 2 ECCO newsletters. T. Ourada-Hubka said she will let Capt. Bucher know when we need his articles for the “Captain’s Corner”.
- Capt. Bucher was thanked for sending officers to the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the East Campus Starrs.
- Major crime in our area remains auto thefts – most are owners who let their vehicles run when unoccupied, leaving the keyfobs in the center console. Words of advice – Take the fobs with you!! This is affecting insurance rates adversely.
 - Q – Are these mostly younger thieves?
 - A – It is a crime of (too much) opportunity – many would-be thieves are walking the streets looking for an open car door or car running. The recovery rate is high – but it can take several weeks, and the cars are usually trashed and/or crashed. It is a safety/liability issue to pursue them – so this is usually not an option.
 - Q – What is your opinion of the Neighborhood Watch program?
 - A – Capt. Bucher comes from a farming community – people there still check on his folks. Neighborhood groups can be helpful – they have a good idea of who is in/out of town, etc. A lot of the success depends on the percentage of rental vs. owned properties in the neighborhood.

Guest Speaker – Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Director (as of 6/1/2022 – taking over from retiring Director Lynn Johnson)

- Coming out into the community – she is visiting 50 neighborhood associations. She mentioned that she is also a Meals on Wheels driver on the ECCO route, so is familiar with our neighborhood.
- Picnic table request regarding McAdams and Idylwild parks – no need to raise money – they can put the resources and amenities out to the parks.

- Signage Questions/Answers
Q – ECCO Park sign – a desire to establish some sort of signage to welcome people to the neighborhood.
A – Some signs are on park land (she has the code provisions if anyone wants more information). She suggested that we start with the Planning Department, as that’s where the “guardrails” are regarding signage. Parks & Rec can be a partner and help out. Sometimes they work with LES and put banners on their poles.
Q – Who is the contact person?
A – Stephanie Rouse in the Planning Dept. Also Jamie Grandquist handles the “volunteer & adoption program” which is signage for “adopting/taking care of” a section of a trail (like MoPac) – helping to keep things clean on a regular basis, etc.
- Parks & Rec Initiatives: What does success look like to the Mayor?
 - ✓ Looking at the Parks & Rec fleet vehicles – climate action plan is in place – thousands of City vehicles are on the street every day. P&R has diverse vehicles – ranging from smaller vehicles to heavy equipment, etc. Funding/decarbonization is a top priority.
 - ✓ Emphasis on community forestry – improving efficiencies. Inflation reduction act as well as dealing w/Emerald Ash borers – removal/replacement. Proposal submitted for \$15M grant for staffing/additional crews. Trees are a big part of our neighborhoods – including ECCO.
 - ✓ South Haymarket Park 7th & N – update. Other than UNL, the City has been woefully inadequate in green space w/tree challenges. The new park will have a dog park, in-ground skateboard area, etc. Construction starts April 27 - \$12M park almost entirely privately funded – campaign is launching this summer.
 - ✓ Lifeguards – 350-400 seasonal workers each year – aquatics, forestry, etc. They have 65 lifeguards currently – need 200+ to cover the pool hours of operations. We can get you trained! They still need 16+ more just to open up the pools; otherwise, a reduction in services is likely.
Q – Are they usually younger?
A – Not necessarily – often teachers serve as lifeguards in the summer. S. Kuvetakis mentioned her brother is Uni Place pool manager. Many communities are helping to recruit lifeguards.
Q – How much does it pay?
A - \$10.50 hourly vs. Amigo’s @ \$18 – easy to see the problem!
 - ✓ Yard waste banning – encouraging reforestation.
 - ✓ Street tree grants are available.

Minutes – M. Belka

Approved

Treasurer’s Report – P. Johnson

Approved

- Used standard Balance Sheet/Income Statements on a rolling 12-month basis for ease in reviewing
Q/Comment – If we want to keep balancing expenditures w/income, may want to raise our annual fees. Also a comment that it may need to be reduced.
A – T. Ourada-Hubka indicated that Membership Committee may be proposing some changes. Fees are part of that discussion.

Fraternity Reports – No members present – T. Ourada-Hubka working on establishing communication/Board meeting participation as in the past.

Thankyou Notes read by T. Ourada-Hubka – received from Hartley/Clinton for staff meals during recent parent/teacher meetings.

Committee Reports

Communication/Newsletter – T. Ourada-Hubka/E. Hunt (articles/printing); M. Belka (delivery)

- Delivery completed – good group delivering – appreciated everyone’s help.
- Printing comments – Goldenrod was close by and easy to work with. Cheaper options may be available. P. Johnson contacted Bethany printshop last week – still not response. Number of newsletters = 950.

Neighborhood Cleanup – E. Hunt

- Submitted paperwork for Neighborhood Organization grant for cleanup
 - ✓ Niederhaus – roll-offs / Goodwill donations / shredding all set
- Litter/trash pickup information
 - ✓ Separate grant – would pay us to pick up litter – so much per mile
 - ✓ Parks & Recreation – names of people actually taking responsibility for MoPac cleanup/maintenance from 33rd to 48th
 - ✓ Can borrow items, for instance gloves, pickers, bags, gloves, safety vests, etc.
 - ✓ Keep Lancaster County Beautiful – office at County Health Bldg.
 - ✓ Anyone interested in getting a few friends/neighbors to help with a section of the trail, for example? Do we want to consider doing this as a Board? There could be ECCO signage showing we are doing that. Could Stanley Corp. perhaps take a section? Get fraternities involved?
 - ✓ T. Ourada-Hubka indicated she may ask a Board member to lead a committee to coordinate this initiative.

Unfinished Business

- LPD meeting w/other neighborhood boards May 11 – providing some refreshments – provide a sign-in for attendees.

- ✓ J. Lamb volunteered to provide treats and water.
- Pilot Parking Program – M. Belka
 - ✓ Brief overview
 - ✓ Motion from C. Hassebrook: That the ECCO Board remain neutral on the Pilot Parking Program project. Seconded by J. Lamb.
 - ✓ Discussion
 - ✓ Motion amended: That the ECCO Board remain neutral – neither supports nor objects to – the Pilot Parking Program project.
 - ✓ Discussion
 - ✓ Vote by written ballot – motion carried – 6 for/5 against/1 abstained/1 blank

ECCO Events Calendar Review

- June 10 Garden Tour/Sale
- July 4 July 4th Parade
- October 12 Annual Meeting

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by M. Belka

Next meeting – To be held Thursday May 11 at New Hope Methodist Church @ 6:30 PM.