

**MINUTES
ECCO BOARD
January 9, 2025
ECCO Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM
New Hope Methodist Church**

Call to Order – President T. Ourada-Hubka

Board Members Present: Mary Belka, Janet Buck, Richard Firebaugh, Amy Hampton, Doug Gibbs, Chuck Hassebrook, Amanda Martinson-Voss, Roy Maurer, Ken Nickerson, Teri Ourada-Hubka

Quorum present (8 = quorum)

Others present: LPD Officer Dave Wunderlich

Minutes – M. Belka

- November minutes files as approved

Treasurer's Report – P. Johnson

- Treasurer out of the country – no report – will forward upon return for approval at March meeting.

New Business item – Board Resignation – Replacement

- Pres. T. Ourada-Hubka advised that Board member Frank Newell had let her know he was no longer able to serve on the Board. He would like to continue to help with newsletter delivery. Note: Many of the delivery volunteers are not Board members – no problem at all, and happy to have his help – he handles two neighborhood delivery areas.
- Teri will contact Britany Porter, the next person receiving most votes at the Annual Meeting, to determine whether she is willing to serve, and advise at the next meeting, so a vote can take place on the nomination/appointment.

LPD Report – Officer Dave Wunderlich

- Reviewed year-end crime statistics report. Note: The LPD “NE Team” does encompass a larger area than just ECCO.
- Question from group RE recent fatal accident at 47th & Holdrege, where car lost control and crashed into side of apt. building. Apparently registered in Omaha; driver was staying at a home on 27th Street. Witnesses indicated high rate of speed with lights turned off – car was airborne and damaged the building; 2 families were relocated as a result. Currently being investigated.

Committee Reports

Newsletter – M. Belka

- Article suggested RE applicable City ordinances/Neighborhood Watch/Yard of the Month recipients
- Will be linking newsletter to make it available on the website
- Spring (1st) newsletter delivery slated for weekend of April 5/6 – T. Ourada-Hubka will double-check date by which articles need to be turned in to Rebecca Carr prior to printing/delivery.

Neighborhood Clean-up – R. Maurer & M. Belka

- Committee members will meet with Eric Hunt – former chairman, and put plan into place for 4/12/2025 event..

Membership – C. Hassebrook, J. Lamb

- Compiling the latest numbers – a bit behind last year's membership numbers – mailing & e-mailing membership renewal info when possible.
- Janelle will create more new member/neighbor packets – and track new residents.

Yard of the Month – J. Buck

- Suggestions – committee needs to meet and discuss.
 - ✓ Repeat yards limited to every 3 years (or other time limit).
 - ✓ Create a “holiday” category – plan a night – or weekend – when all lights in the neighborhood are lit for a “walk” – perhaps connected with a fundraiser including decorated homes – mentioned in Fund-raising report.
 - ✓ Cards for recipients, signed by Board members

Social Media

- IT/e-mail provider “Fat Cow” discussed – Donnette waiting for P. Johnson to return to discuss further RE cost, etc. Annual fee may already be paid.
- Goal – update the website and related issues prior to next Annual Meeting (10/2025).
- A. Martinson-Voss & A. Hampton willing to lead/serve.

Rental Properties

- M. Belka, A. Martinson-Voss, and A. Hampton willing to lead/serve
- Update on “dorm house” to the east of McQuinn home on Apple near 37th – a grandfather of college students, who lives in Scottsbluff, bought it for his grandchildren. So far, no issues.
- We are already delivering newsletters to all residences, including apartment complexes with fewer than 4 apartments. Suggestion to try to deliver to larger complexes. Sometimes we cannot gain access or easily deliver. Delivery volunteers can indicate if they need additional newsletters to make this possible. Packet can include digital info for online access as well.

- Suggestion RE delivering new neighbor welcome packets to residents, as well as sending packets to property owners, including ordinances, etc.

Fund-raising – C. Hassebrook

- Suggestions – committee needs to meet and discuss.
 - ✓ Parade of Homes? Donation/fee for tour?
 - ✓ Holiday tour – connected with Yard of the Month “lights” tour.
 - ✓ Research what other neighborhoods have found to be successful.
- M. Belka, C. Hassebrook, A. Martinson, A. Hampton interested in helping.

Tree Canopy – Richard Sutton (ECCO resident)

- Discussion RE high rate of tree canopy attrition due to Emerald Ash Borer & general age of many neighborhood trees.
- R. Maurer indicated that we need to double-check the budget – the tree replacement had been earmarked in the budget for some time, especially as fund-raising in the past had indicated this as one of the focuses of ECCO fund-raising. Need to review and reinstate as appropriate, as part of the budget. Further discussion needed, coordinating w/Rich’s committee as appropriate.
- In the past, activities included writing grants, helping to plant (fraternity participation was included).
- Rich will coordinate things, write grants, etc. Looking for support, “endorsement” of his activities – getting the word out.
- Rich needs ECCO’s UEI (Unique Entity ID) in order to access governmental grants for trees in the neighborhood. P. Johnson to provide – may already have provided it.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by M. Belka

Next meeting – Thursday February 13 @ 6:30 PM – New Hope Methodist Church