

**MINUTES
ECCO BOARD
February 13, 2025
ECCO Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM
M. Belka's home (due to weather/church access)**

Call to Order – President T. Ourada-Hubka

Board Members Present: Mary Belka, Janet Buck, Richard Firebaugh, Amy Hampton, Doug Gibbs, Paul Johnson, Roy Maurer, Ken Nickerson

Quorum present (8 = quorum)

Others present: Andrew Thierolf AICP, Anna Eddings – both w/Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Department

Minutes – M. Belka

- January minutes filed as approved.

Treasurer's Report – P. Johnson

- January reports filed as approved.
- Discussion/question RE former budget item for tree canopy project. R. Maurer & P. Johnson will review past financials to determine prior amount included in budget, and make recommendation to Board in March RE re-instituting it, to support project headed up by Rich Sutton.

Presentation – “Expanding Access to Local Produce” – Proposed Zoning Text Amendment – Andrew Thierolf, AICP & Anna Eddings – Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

- Reviewed upcoming proposal outline per handout – making it possible for individuals to own and operate an Urban Garden as a primary use in a residential district. Note: Proposal becomes part of Minutes for reference purposes.
- Public hearing will be held per usual zoning change protocols. The City supports expanding access to local food.
- Better use of vacant lots; only one 150 sq. ft. shed would be allowed; and/or one 500 sq. ft. greenhouse – again, per current codes. City wants to avoid any garages or other types of storage structures being built as a result of the proposed changes.
- Discussion ensued regarding parking, liability/insurance, etc.

Committee Reports

Newsletter – M. Belka

- Question RE delivery dates – same as indicated in January minutes – 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.
- See note below – P. Johnson suggested note in newsletter reminding residents to vote in upcoming election.

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

- Event scheduled for 4/12 from 9-1 PM. Grant application completed. Niederhaus roll-offs arranged. Still working on arranging shredding.
- P. Johnson shared Mayor's Roundtable info – there are resources for signs/advertising, and borrowing vests/cones, if needed.
- P. Johnson also mentioned that “brush coupons” are available – we've handed some out in the past during the event. Can dump brush @ landfill w/no fee. Suggestion that we obtain some, and provide to TJ Timmerman (does yardwork in the neighborhood); also to our yard waste providers. Ask P. Johnson for more info.
- Volunteers needed – contact M. Belka or R. Maurer – full event or two-hour shifts are fine (9-11 AM and 11-1 PM).

Rental Properties

- M. Belka, A. Martinson-Voss, and A. Hampton willing to lead/serve

Tree Canopy – Richard Sutton (ECCO resident)

- See note in Treasurer's Report above.

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.
- *Communications Committee*. A. Hampton brought up our Bylaws, which include having a standing Communications committee. This was created 12+ years ago, when the website and e-mail were becoming more important ways to communicate w/ECCO residents. A. Hampton indicated that all “communications” should be brought under this committee's “umbrella” for better overall coordination of these issues (Social Media, ECCO Facebook, private ECCO Facebook, Website, Instagram, etc.). **Motion by P. Johnson/seconded by R. Maurer to combine all digital communications-related issues/recommendations under the Communications committee; and for Pres. T. Ourad-Hubka to appoint a Communications committee chair, per Bylaws.**
- *Rental Committee*. A. Hampton brought up that she wanted to know more about the scope/duties of those on the Rental committee. M. Belka indicated that Pres. T. Ourada-Hubka and VP Chuck Hassebrook would be setting up an orientation meeting

w/the 3 new Board members to review all committees/Board member duties; recommended that discussion be tabled until after that meeting takes place.

- Mayor's Roundtable meeting notes – P. Johnson.
 - ✓ Lincoln on the Move – There will be a proposal to continue the .25 sales tax amount earmarked for street repair. Suggested article for newsletter.
 - ✓ Uni Place 48th Street long term plan. Meeting being held 2/27 from 5-7PM @ Gathering Grove, near Mo Java in Uni Place, to discuss plan to review recommended plan to restructure current 4 lanes of 48th Street. Proposing 4 lanes to 2 lanes with a center turn lane and parking on one side; making things more “pedestrian friendly”. Have roundabouts @ 48th & Leighton and @ Adams. Proposed to be done after 33rd & Cornhusker project is completed in 2031. Suggested e-mail blast for interested residents to attend.
 - ✓ Suggested e-mail blast and note in newsletter to remind residents to get out and vote in upcoming election.

Unfinished Business

- Vote on recommended new Board member – Britany Porter. **Motion by P. Johnson/seconded by K. Nickerson to elect Britany Porter to fill Frank Newell's unexpired term – motion passed unanimously.**
- Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 19 @ 11 AM. Reminder to forward \$50. donation check to East Campus Starrs to support event. No vote needed – already in approved budget. M. Belka to provide Starrs Treasurer contact info to P. Johnson.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by M. Belka

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