

June 14th, 2012

Warren Methodist Church Library
ECCO Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Members in attendance: Ann Bleed, Rebecca Carr, Mary Eisenhart, Gary Gebhardt, Roy Maurer, Danielle Shea, Brian Striman and Cindy Stuefer-Powell

Patti Pierson - via phone

Guest: Richard Sutton

According to the Agenda J. Burger from WKP was supposed to discuss with the board the PUD which would be held in a few days, but he couldn't be present for family reasons and the PUD meeting has been delayed for a month.

Mr. Burger would like to have another neighborhood meeting, which may involve putting out another flyer.

A. Bleed wrote an article for the newsletter concerning the WKP planned development and its' zoning situation. We could mention in the newsletter to watch for a flyer and an email blast.

R. Sutton mentioned that he was in favor of the new plan. He commented that the two entrances into the complex would create a better traffic flow. He did feel that the building did look boxy and perhaps the architect could do something to make it look better for our neighborhood. Also the slope of the property needs to be dealt with in some manner.

R. Sutton also suggested that there be more cutouts for shade trees and more plantings.

A. Bleed called for a proposal for the board to tentatively support the PUD and a change of zoning if we have a another neighborhood meeting to discuss any changes and we reserve the right to change our vote depending on future meetings.

M. Eisenhart voted yea in support of proposal and R. Carr seconded motion.

May Minutes – C. Stuefer-Powell apologized for r the late minutes of the May meeting. The board read the minutes and suggested changes. Minutes were then approved by R. Carr and seconded by M. Eisenhart.

Treasurer's Report: Please insert

Approved by B. Striman and seconded by R. Carr

President's Report:

President's Report

June 2012

Discover ECCO

We had 18 exhibitors, a "house detective", story corps, ECCO history conversations, a Bustaraunt and polka band at the event. The Bustaraunt did a brisk business and the band added a lively fair atmosphere to the scene. We estimated 250 people attended the event throughout the afternoon. The article in the paper the next day provided a lot of good PR for ECCO. During the event I heard people saying, wow, its been a long time since I have talked with you and I am glad we met, we will have to get together some time. I have also received many very positive comments, one from a stranger riding by on her bike who saw me picking up yard signs afterwards. One exhibitor said she a great time, much better than she had expected. Overall, I think we had a great success and generated increased interest in ECCO.

Update on City Impact Project

The Lincoln Parks Department and City Impact had a meeting to discuss plans for Peter Pan Park with the neighborhood. I was unable to attend but Richard Sutton did attend and in brief said they are doing everything right.

Update on Valentinos

Since the March meeting WRK has completed a number of required environmental studies and on June 13th they submitted their plans and an application for the development to the Planning Commission. Based on the submitted diagram (see below) WRK wants to somewhat expand the area already zoned for commercial development (B1 zoning) into areas currently zoned for high density development (R5 and R6). There would be no change in the zoning for the existing R-2 low density residential areas. The application also makes a request for a Planned Unit Development (PUD), which is essentially an overlay zone which is used in combination with the underlying zoning district to allow increased flexibility in the project design. In a PUD the city may approve area, height, sign, parking, landscaping, screening, traffic access and setback regulations for the project that are different from those within the underlying zoning district. The City Council may also impose alternate or additional area, height, parking, landscaping, screening, traffic access, and setback regulations as necessary to protect and enhance areas within or adjacent to the planned unit development. Once approved by the city, the developer must proceed in accordance with the details of the PUD plan, unless the PUD is formerly amended by the city.

According the proposed PUD (see attached) the applicant is asking to vacate one block of 35th Street and to create a break in a median on Idlywild Drive to allow traffic to exit the parking lot and turn north get access Holdrege Street, as suggested by neighbors at the ECCO meeting.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the Valentino's block application within the month. In the meantime ECCO and the applicants plan to hold another neighborhood meeting. Stay tuned for announcements on the time and place for this meeting. More details and updates will be made available on the ECCO website as they become available to us.

NeighborWorks Leadership Training

Rebecca Carr, Patti Pierson, Danielle Shea, and I attended the first NeighborWorks Leadership Training session. We weren't sure what to expect but found the workshop quite helpful. Shawn Ryba is a good trainer and gave us some good ideas and kept us moving throughout. In addition, we were able to network with people from other North Lincoln neighborhoods and found we have many of the same problems and much to share and learn from each other. In short, we concluded this program will be well worth the time and if we can get \$3,000 for a project for ECCO, even economically worthwhile.

Clinton Neighborhood Association

I attended the board meeting of the Clinton Neighborhood Association, primarily to express our interest in trying to work with Clinton on issues of mutual concern. A major discussion on their agenda was about problems they are having with large groups of young people congregating in the street around 24th and Dudley blocking traffic, having loud parties and in general disturbing the peace. A representative of the Lincoln Police Department was at the meeting and they are trying to eliminate the problem. For awhile they provided a heavy police presence in the area and the problem now is less, but the police department does not have enough officers to provide that heavy a patrol in the long term. The police did make some arrests, but the charges were eventually dropped. When residents asked what they should do, the police said keep calling the police department – 911 if it is an emergency or 402-441 ???? otherwise. The more calls that were made, the more convincing a record the police can make.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bleed

President

Committee's Reports

Communication Report – B. Striman reports that he has 140 people on the blast email listing.

He wanted to discuss with the board another type of security for the website. There is another layer of security being offered at a discount. He said that he would look more deeply into the difference of the cost of our website now, in comparison with the discounted premium coverage.

The ECCO board overall is not sure that we would need that type of security. Board discussed the issue and decided not to do the extended service.

Advertising was discussed for the newsletter. C. Stuefer-Powell said that ECCO has done it in the past, and often the newsletter can pay for itself. She said that the past ECCO board member Cindy Loope was instrumental in obtaining many of the ads for the newsletter.

Membership Report – M. Eisenhart reports that two more members joined at the Discover ECCO event and that the committee is half way to their goal.

Yard of the Month – R. Carr reports that there were three nominations for the next yard of the month; one on 39th street, one on 37th and Apple, and the third is Elizabeth's Katt's house on N. 38th Street.

M. Eisenhart suggested that in the future perhaps we could do two yards a month, but A. Bleed thought that would dilute the significance of the choice.

R. Carr requested that the pictures of the chosen yards stay up on the website, in order to be used as an archive.

Historic Preservation Report - Mary Eisenhart working with the Audubon yard event coming up but will be meeting with Christine Jackson of UNL concerning the on going parking situation.

Report on Questionnaire of ECCO residents conducted by Wesleyan Students:

Dr. Abigail Mitchell bought the survey report to share with the ECCO board. Dr. Mitchell's students in conjunction with NeighborWorks conducted neighborhood satisfaction surveys in four areas in Lincoln; Belmont, East Campus (ECCO), Irvingdale and University Place. The survey was designed to articulate homeowner's needs to help improve the quality of life in those areas. Fifty-five homeowners participated in the ECCO neighborhood. Our area scored well in the categories of Neighborhood Satisfaction, Security, Familiarity with Neighbors, Recommending the Neighborhood to Others, and Longevity in the Neighborhood. Items that residents choose the most often of what they liked about the East Campus neighborhood was: Neighbors, Safe Neighborhood, Quiet, Close to job/ School and a Feeling of Community. The number one stand out item that the residents disliked most of the neighborhood was the Parking.

When asked about possible community improvements the top five responses, in order, were; Farmer's Market, Block Parties, Bars/Restaurants, Neighborhood clean-ups and Community Garden. Also the survey of 55 residents showed that 86% had internet access.

We are very appreciative of the information that Dr. Mitchell's students provided for us, the board plans to utilize the data to help make more informed decisions for the community. B.

Striman suggested that the board write a letter of appreciation to the authors of this report and their sponsors.

D. Shea and R. Carr both were interested in the survey's use for mapping assets and needs within the neighborhood.

A. Bleed mentioned that many of the points from this survey should form part of the Annual Meetings Agenda.

Old Business

Neighborhood Clean-up Report – Richard Leiter did a great job with the Neighborhood Clean-up. C. Stuefer-Powell reported that the bill for the roll-offs were sent to the Treasurer (who reported it being paid), M. Eisenhart sent Thank-you notes to the volunteers, C. Stuefer-Powell sent Thank you notes to the American Lutheran Church, MoJava (coffee donation) and other volunteers. C. Stuefer-Powell sent in the final report for both the grant and mini-grant. C. Stuefer-Powell retained the volunteer sign-up lists for future reference.

Valentino's Block (Discussed at the beginning of the meeting)

Discover ECCO – See President's report – Event was extremely successful. Many great comments about the music and informative tables. Very nice write up in the Lincoln Journal Star.

NeighborWorks – Building Leaders, Building Communities report from June 9th meeting
Next meeting June 23rd 8:30 AM-11:30 AM.

A. Bleed reported on the work that Richard and Lisa Sutton are doing with Peter Schroeder concerning the improvement of street trees in the neighborhoods.

New Business:

Parade Report – Parade committee members are: Danielle Shea, Teri Drier, Bob Peterson and C. Stuefer-Powell. D. Shea, T. Drier and C. Stuefer-Powell met on June 7th in order to choose the parade route, miscellaneous items for the parade and talent show participants. The honoree of the parade was chosen and will be announced at the beginning of the parade on July 4th. The parade will begin at 10 am and will follow the same route as last year, beginning at McAdams Park. C. Stuefer-Powell has ordered the parade items and D. Shea will be sending in the paperwork for the parade permit.

Next Parade Committee Meeting is June 21st at MoJava at 7:00 pm.

ECCO Board Meeting Adjourned at 8:58 pm

Respectively submitted by C. Stuefer-Powell
ECCO Board Secretary