

ECA Board of Directors Meeting

North Branch Arts

Monday, September 10, 2018, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order 6:57pm. June minutes were approved with no changes.

In attendance: Mary Biesty, Craig Caimi, Jennifer Carlson Kevin Haran, Jennifer Herren, Jan Kupiec, Tom Kraft, Jeff Manuel, Julie Marske, Caryn Meyers, Tom Misiewicz, Justin Ochonicki, Beverly Padratzik , Christine Rosenberg, Jeff Singer and Nancy Williams

Absent: Bradley Bland, Nick Boudreau, Jac Charlier, Jim Gillespie, Dennis Henley, Lidia Pomaville, Nora Shea, Dan Trevino

Officer's Reports

President's Report: Jeff provided a brief recap of the Fourth of July and indicated that although sales were down, the overall event was very successful and he was proud to serve as Grand Marshall. The Fourth of July poster contest was successful as was food service, and children's games (thanks to Park Church). Jeff also acknowledged the success of the Garden Walk and noted that it raised more money than the Fourth of July.

Jeff informed the board that Nick Boudreau resigned and we presently have three resignations of board members.

Vice President's Report: Nancy informed the board that she and several board members met over the summer to look at our present bylaws and is making some proposed changes. To formally make changes to our bylaws....

Article 8 – Amendments

This Constitution and the appended By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in good standing, who are present at any general meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been made available at the previous general meeting and in addition shall have been published in the Association's newsletter at least five (5) days prior to the meeting at which said amendment is to be acted upon.

With these deadlines in mind, Nancy has asked board members review her proposed changes (see attached) and provide feedback Sunday, September 23rd so the approval the next Board meeting (October 8th).

Treasurer's Report: Jeff presented the latest financial report (see attached) and a financial recap of the Fourth of July (see attached). Jeff also informed the board that Caryn Meyer's husband donated \$500.00

to the ECA that he wished to have earmarked for Beautification Committee. A motion was made and passed unanimously to provide the monies to the Beautification committee.

Secretary's Report: Based upon community concerns about increased freight traffic, a letter was sent to Congressman Mike Quigley asking for clarification about this issue. The following response was received... According to METRA,

“Any perceived increase in freight traffic through Edgebrook has absolutely nothing to do with the 2012 Shermer Road bridge collapse. Canadian Pacific is back to running 85 to 90% of its freight traffic via the traditional UP “Techny Cut-off” from Northbrook through Des Plaines and on to CP’s Bensenville freight yard.

Although Metra owns the Milwaukee District North Line and maintains the tracks through Edgebrook, the dispatching of the line is done by Canadian Pacific according to the terms of the CP-Metra Operating Agreement which dates back to Metra’s inception. The Operating Agreement also does not limit the number of freight trains that may operate, nor does it specify a route that has to be used. Freight trains that do operate through Edgebrook are sent that way so that they may enter or leave the East end of Bensenville yard which is less congested than the West end. I was informed by our Supt. Of Operations that currently CP regularly sends 3 trains out via this route. Loaded and empty unit coal trains also operate via this route several times a month in order to avoid having to reverse directions at Bensenville. There are also 2 to 3 freights of tenant Wisconsin Southern that come through daily during night time hours. CP retains the right to send traffic via this route whenever track work or congestion on the UP route makes the Edgebrook routing more expedient, or whenever operating conditions at Bensenville dictate. Lastly, I was told that freight volumes on this line are roughly equivalent to that in the 1980s and 90s. “

Director's Reports

Nominating Committee: There are currently or will be five open board positions that should be filled for a complete slate that will be presented at the November General Meeting. Two prospective members have been identified and we need three more. Current board members are asked to identify neighbors and friends that might be interested.

Programs: US Congressman Mike Quigley will be the guest speaker for the next Edgebrook Community Association General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 18th at Edgebrook Library. On October 3rd, FAiR will speak at an additional ECA General Meeting and November 26, 2018 will be a presentation on Cybersecurity and the nominating committee will present the proposed slate of officers and directors for membership approval.

Beautification: The Garden Walk was very successful for both participants and financially for the ECA. Jennifer gave praise to both Margaret Dospiljulian and Margaret Nagle for their efforts. She also indicated that Margaret Dospiljulian, the original organizer of this event, has asked that NBA and ECA cochair this event in the future since they reap the financial benefit of this event. It was discussed nominating Margaret as ECA Volunteer of the Year.

Special Events: Julie Marske proposed that the ECA hire a professional decorator be used for holiday decorating at the triangle. This idea will be pursued for cost estimate and design ideas but the final decision is up to the Special Events committee. Julie recommended hiring Santa for an extra hour because of the high demand! Julie also reminded the board that the holiday stroll originated as an ECA event and the cookie walk was added to include downtown businesses.

Community Development: Christine provided updates on recent proposals before the 41st ward Zoning Advisory Committee. Zoning changes have been approved for the Resurrection property on Talcott (see July 31st email thread for more information). The board was also informed that Akton Realty had purchased the buildings west of Cut Rate Toys. That now makes Akton the owner of all building from Cut Rate to the Currency Exchange. Landlord, George Michael still owns the properties east of Cut Rate until Central Ave. Kevin is continuing to work on the Openlands grant that is now scheduled for the fall.

In an email, Jac updated the board on several issues including NCP (Neighborhood Connection Project), NPVAC (North Park Village Advisory Committee), MLK Day Dinner for Unity in Community scheduled for January 21st, and Veteran's Day Ceremony.

Safety & Transportation: The sewer project on Devon restarted after the Canadian fiber optic cable was rerouted.

Membership: Nora reported that our current membership is at 569 residents. Members have paid \$23,128.05. Recent activities for membership include direct mailings renewal notices, thank you notes for each renewing member, and direct mail to nonmembers of Jeff S and Bev P. Nora and Dennis also helped man the KidZone area at the Save our Stores Block Party. Nora printed coloring books with Christine's photos of Edgebrook landmarks and Dennis provided production assistance to children making pinwheels! Hourly drawings were held for leftover prizes from the Fourth of July. ECA brochures have been restocked at the library and the leftover coloring books were also donated to the library. Nora also wanted to remind board members that the Fall seed and Bulb Swap is scheduled for October 6th from 10 am until 1pm. There will be a special event for children at 11:30am. Directors are encouraged to attend.

Newsletter and Website: Dennis has requested that officers send him documents for digital archiving. He has also asked permission to post minutes on the website.

Social Media and Publicity: Justin will be posting publicity for the upcoming General meetings and resend the solicitation for Board Members.

Charitable and Community Support: Nothing to report

Forests and Parks: Craig is working on a proposal for a fitness trail be added to the 41st Ward participatory voting process

New Business: Special thanks to Christine and Nora for the creation of the Edgebrook coloring book

Motion to adjourn 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7pm. This meeting will be held at North Branch Arts. Please remember to contact Jeff if you are unable to attend.