

## **ECA Board of Directors Meeting**

### **Edgebrook Library**

**Monday, January 14, 2019, 6:30 PM**

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order 6:35pm. December minutes were approved with no changes.

**In attendance:** Mary Biesty, Craig Caimi, Jennifer Carlson, Michelle Christensen, Kevin Haran, Dennis Henley, Jennifer Herren, Jan Kupiec, Jeff Manuel, Caryn Meyers, Justin Ochonicki, Beverly Padratzik, Lidia Pomaville, Ewa Ryan, Christine Rosenberg, Nora Shea, Nancy Williams, Jerome Witte, and Susan Zelner

**Absent:** Jim Gillespie, Tom Kraft, Tom Misiewicz, and Jeff Singer

#### **Officer's Reports**

**President's Report:** Jeff welcomed all new board members and discussed committee assignments. All directors were encouraged to be involved with all events hosted by the ECA.

**Vice President's Report:** Nancy informed the board that the project to change our existing bylaws continues.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff Singer was not present and indicated in an email that current 2019 expenses were limited. Attached is the current copy of the budget versus actual expenses for 2018. A discussion about the need for an audit was held but subsequent research indicated that it was unnecessary for our organization to hire a professional auditor because of our financial picture. Because our bylaws cover the need for an annual "audit", Jeff Singer will schedule a meeting, where any board member may attend, to review the receipts and expenses from 2018.

**Secretary's Report:** A copy of the 2019 Board of Director's contact list were passed around to check for accuracy. Errors were recorded and a final laminated copy will be given out at the next meeting.

#### **Director's Reports**

**Special Events:** Justin presented the board with a proposal from a vendor to decorate the triangle for this year. The proposal was broken down into the construction and installation of a 12 ft light tree (\$800.) The LED lights installed on the shrubs (\$380.) and the wrapping of the Poplar trees with LED lights (\$1320). The total cost of the proposal would be about \$2500 (subject to an onsite viewing and written proposal). There were several concerns that were brought up that Justin will follow up on and communicate via email. (see attached). While there appeared to be strong support by the board, a final vote will be made at the next board meeting in February.

Tom M. has applied for the permit for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Jeff Green Park (AKA Choo-Choo park)

**Beautification:** Caryn sent out an email detailing plans for beautification. Jennifer Carlson will continue to work with Caryn.

**Programs:** The next General Meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> at SMOW from 11am until 1pm. All aldermanic candidates from the 39<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ward have been invited and confirmed attendance. Mary Biesty will moderate.

**Community Development:** The three directors assigned to Community Development will divide up the committee into three areas of responsibility. Christine Rosenberg – zoning (will continue to serve on the 41<sup>st</sup> ward zoning advisory group until further notice), Jennifer Herren will work with the 39<sup>th</sup> ward and Ewa Ryan the 41<sup>st</sup> ward. Any developments/issues effecting the Edgebrook neighborhood will be communicated to the board through this committee.

**Safety & Transportation:** Nothing to Report

**Membership:** *Sent via email prior to the meeting*

The Membership Report is as follows:

2018 Membership Statistics

605 Members

\$24,516.00 Funds Collected

The funds collected are categorized as:

\$18,145.00 Dues

\$ 5,171.00 Additional Donations

\$ 1,200.00 Landscaping Donations

Statistics have been consistently recorded for ten years.

Last year ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the number of ECA members and 2<sup>nd</sup> in funds collected.

Over the ten years, we've had as few as 550 members and as many as 666; we have collected as few as \$22,130 in revenues and as much as \$26,210.

The most effective membership tool is each Board Member promoting the ECA to neighbors, friends, school acquaintances, relatives, and co-workers along with positive messages to the general public via social media about ECA activities and programs. Thank you for your assistance in the past year.

Other membership activities in 2018 included direct mail to current members, new residents, neighbors of Kevin Haran, Bev Padratzik, and Jeff Singer, and Spooky House contest winners; a morning at the Farmer's Market; Membership presence at the Egg Hunt, Garden Walk, and the Devon Construction Block Party; co-sponsorship of a Spring Seed Swap and a Fall Bulb Exchange with the CPL; an ECA Welcome Center at the Holiday Stroll and Cookie Walk; an Edgebook calendar featuring Christine Rosenberg's photos for renewing members at the Holiday Stroll as well as our largest donors; and presence at ECA-underwritten Library events. (The Librarians always ask "Who here is an ECA

member?" so we like to be there to raise our hands and shout "We are!" The Edgebrook Library is very happy to partner with the ECA and credits us profusely.)

As of January 13, 2019, Membership Statistics are:

30 Members

\$ 1,420.00 Funds Collected

The first quarter membership drive was initiated, timed to the release of the year-end review newsletter which appeared in the Nadig Reporter on Saturday, January 12.

**Newsletter and Website:** Dennis was commended for the amazing job he did for the recent newsletter in the Reporter. As a kind gesture, Dennis provided each board member with a copy of their pictures.

**Social Media and Publicity:** Justin will be posting publicity for the upcoming events including the General Meeting in January and any snowplowing use. Lidia continues to post articles and publicity in local papers.

**Charitable and Community Support:** Nothing to report

**Forests and Parks:** Craig is continuing to work with Kevin Coon on the Fitness Trail.

**Snowplowing and Police/Fire:** jeff indicated that Jim Gillespie will be leaving the board in March or April. Kevin Haran will assume his duties.

**New Business:** it was suggested that Bridget Gainer, Cook County Commissioner be invited to present at a future general meeting to discuss future plans for forest preserve properties in the Edgebrook area.

**Old Business:** Dennis provided the secretary with the flash drives containing the records and also the directions on how to access the records from a cloud-based account. All ECA records are now digitized. Awesome job Dennis!

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the community room of the Edgebrook Library. Please remember to contact Jeff if you are unable to attend.