

ECA Board of Directors Meeting

Edgebrook Library

Monday, March 11, 2019, 6:30 PM

Minutes

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

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

Absent: Kevin Haran, Tom Kraft, and Susan Zelner

Officer's Reports

President's Report: Jeff recently met with the developers of the YMCA on Touhy. They informed him they have a 99-year lease on the property and denied rumors of closing the Y. They suggested differing plans for proposed rebuilding and renovation options. Jeff will keep us informed. Park church is moving to the Taft High School auditorium to accommodate larger size crowds but intends to continue to support ECA sponsored community events. Jeff is starting some preliminary plans for the Fourth of July. Michelle Christiansen will be working with him.

Vice President's Report: Nancy called for a vote on the proposed changes to the ECA bylaws. The motion was made and included changes made by Dennis Henley. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Singer shared the 2019 ECA budget with expenses incurred through March 11th. (see attached). Jeff also shared that a financial audit was completed the prior week with Mary Biesty, Jeff Manuel, and Nancy Williams in attendance. Minor errors were found during the audit and corrections were made.

Secretary's Report: A copy of the 2019 Board of Director's contact list were passed out. Mary also reminded the board that Jim Gillespie had resigned that has resulted into an open director position. Board members were encouraged to identify a replacement.

Director's Reports

Programs: The next general meeting is scheduled for March 28th and will include a presentation by Taft High School principal, Mark Grishaber. Jan is scheduling another meeting in late April or May to invite the newly elected alderman of the 39th ward and reelected Alderman Napolitano. There is tentatively a

meeting planned in September on how to write a college essay and a November meeting with a representative from the Cook County Forest preserve District.

Special Events: Tom M. has applied for the permit for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, April 20th at Jeff Green Park (AKA Choo-Choo park). The committee has reached out to Park Church and they will be providing assistance with the event.

Community Development: A meeting with newly reelected 41st Ward Alderman Napolitano will be scheduled in March with directors and officers in attendance.

Safety & Transportation: Kevin reported via email that a CAPS meeting was held at the library, and there were about 20 people there. There were representatives from the 911 and 311 centers. They both had great information to pass along. Kevin will provide an update at the April director's meeting about the new 311 app, and 911 app

Membership: *Sent via email prior to the meeting*

As of Sunday, March 10, membership statistics are as follows:

333 Members pledged in 2019
\$ 14,230 funds collected

The funds collected can be categorized as:

\$ 10,070 general dues
\$ 3,540 membership upgrades to Friend, Patron, Benefactor, or Sustaining Levels
\$ 620 Landscaping donations

A direct mail promotion was sent to 387 individuals and families who joined in 2018 and 55 members who joined in 2017 but did not renew in 2018. After one month lapsed, a follow-up mailing was sent to those who had not responded. Of the 442 addresses to which we mailed, 279 or 63% have responded. Because of attention paid to Edgebrook home ownership changes as listed on real estate websites, only a handful of envelopes were returned as "Vacant" or "Address Unknown."

Annual renewal of membership is not guaranteed as evidenced by the table below which reports how many times an address has pledged to the ECA between 2009 and 2019::

Number of Pledges 2009 - 2019	Number of Addresses
0	900
1	207
2	131
3	80
4	85
5	62
6	73

7	66
8	58
9	88
10	105
11	154

For example, 900 addresses, or about 50% of the ECA database have not pledged in the past 11 years; at the other end of the spectrum we have 154 address that have not failed to make an annual pledge during the same time.

We do not mail to the 900 addresses which have not responded to invitations to participate in the ECA for a long time or ever. However, we will begin to verify the names of the residents at these homes, and where home ownership has changed from that recorded in our records, database records will be updated and we will reach out to new residents. Certainly, many of these residents are already familiar with the ECA and our good work through social media, publicity announcing ECA events, news coverage of ECA activities, word of mouth, Edgebrook Librarians crediting the ECA for its financial support of programs, neighborhood parades, and paid advertising. We also know from ECA archives that the number of community members not supporting the ECA has always been a concern.

ECA thank you postcards to renewing and new members currently promote three activities: 1) March 28 General Meeting featuring Taft's Principal; 2) April 20 Egg Hunt; 3) May 11 Seed & Plant Swap. Membership was represented at the Aldermanic Forum along with several other Directors. Jerome Witte assisted in greeting arriving attendees. The slide show of Christine Rosenberg's photos ran at the Membership table which was stocked with newsletters and ECA brochures.

Planning is underway on the third annual Seed and Plant Swap to be held Saturday, May 11.

Please continue to tell your neighbors and friends about the ECA and direct them to the website to learn details of programs and to join.

Board members are encouraged to view Nora's March 10th email to view the comments and feedback received from residents to look for opportunities to better serve the community.

Charitable and Community Support: Bev is moving forward with plans to meet with local school administrators to obtain support for the Fourth of July poster contest for elementary school students. She also presented some ideas for cool plastic sunglasses and other items to be given out to the parade and game winners.

Beautification: Caryn and Jennifer informed the Board that there would not be a Garden Walk this year. It will be replaced by a North Branch Arts event in July. There will be a clean up event scheduled for the Triangle and Metra Corridor in April. The committee has plans to continue to remove weeds and add more plants to the east side of the Triangle. The committee is considering adding grass seed to Jeff Green Park. There is plans to add a small evergreen tree to the Kinzua Circle. Jennifer is planning on

taking care of the fence garden assigned to the ECA. Additionally, a local garden designer will assist with help on the Metra stair area.

Forests and Parks: Craig indicated that he will coordinate the next financial audit in January 2020. He also committed to communicating with the park district the need for cleaning up and pruning the bushes at Jeff Green Park prior to the Easter Egg Hunt.

Snowplowing and Police/Fire: Kevin Haran reported no additional snowplowing services were needed since the last meeting. For next year, Kevin will look into getting the sidewalk on the triangle plowed as this was asked for by community members.

Newsletter: Dennis has created suggested new graphics for the ECA logo. He sent out via email prior to the meeting and handed out copies of the proposed designs at the meeting. A new graphic/logo was selected and will be used for future publicity and communications from the Edgebrook Community Association. He is also gathering information for the next newsletter in April.

Old Business: The proposed funding of \$5020.00 for holiday decorating of the Triangle was approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business: A suggestion was made for the ECA to sponsor a dog park at a local site. The discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 8th at 6:30 pm in the community room of the Edgebrook Library. Please remember to contact Jeff if you are unable to attend.

Future Board Meetings

Monday	May 13, 2019
Monday	Jun 10, 2019
Monday	Sep 9, 2019
Monday	Oct 7, 2019 (first Monday)
Monday	Nov 4, 2019(first Monday)
Monday	Dec 9, 2019

Special Events 2019

Saturday, April 20th Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday, July 4th Parade and Picnic

Sunday, December 1st Holiday Stroll