

ECCO Monthly Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2009

Meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Sen. Scott provided an update of current items being discussed by the General Assembly: the state's budget, education and a partnering program with colleges, college students and credit cards, and payday lending.

Fred Monk provided the President's report. He spoke of ECCO's pursuit of 501(c)3 designation that will allow ECCO to pursue grants and receive donations. ECCO is currently working with the USC Law School on the application, which will take a few months. An update on the dog park was also given. The concept was presented to and unanimously approved by City Council. A meeting with City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department was to take place the following Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Parks and Rec will soon present the proposal to City Council for approval for construction of the dog park.

Treasurer Bill Eiwen presented the financial report, with a current balance of \$8,073.54.

Fred Monk spoke of the upcoming Porch Party, to be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. April 19 on the 2900 block of Clark Street, and invited all neighborhood residents to attend.

Virginia Bedford spoke of the upcoming Flea Market/Plant Sale to be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. May 16.

Damon McDuffie with Parks and Rec provided an update on the status of the new park building to be located in Earlewood Park. He commended the community for their efforts in the planning process of the new building. Construction documents in June will lead to the demolition of the current park building. Mr. McDuffie will return in the future to discuss any planned events at the park building to come up with alternative locations. He would like ECCO to provide the wording for an information plaque that will be placed on the fountain that will be returning to the neighborhood and incorporated into the site of the new building. A suggestion was made to include a write-up on the fountain in the next newsletter. Design drawings of the new building should be on the Parks and Rec website.

John Sinclair asked for volunteers for the Communications Committee, to include assistance with the website and newsletter. Bill Eiwen mentioned the upcoming Dining with Friends event to be held at Reformation Lutheran Church April 19 at 12:30 p.m. Dan Elswick mentioned an upcoming historic preservation presentation called "This Place Matters" to be held at Richland County Public Library at 6 p.m. on May 14.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Wilson, for Martha Mason