

ECCO Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2009

President Fred Monk presided.

6:30 Crime Watch Meeting

Senator John Scott presented information about state government. The budget shortfall is putting stress on many state programs and benefits. He is in favor of utilizing the stimulus package to meet current state obligations. He would prefer to eliminate pay day lending. If pay day lending is not eliminated, then he is in favor of strong regulation.

Speeding is a strong concern in the neighborhood. More intense traffic regulation resources will be placed in the neighborhood, Sunset Drive will be closed to install a new sewer line. A detour route will go around the work site.

Brenda Creson is ECCO's Police and Safety Chair. Call her if you are interested in a Home Safety inspection or if you would like to volunteer for her committee (771-2735).

In addition to calling 911, you can call Officer Wines at 315-3792, Officer Merrill at 546-6803 or Captain Young at 422-1265 for further police assistance.

At this time, the Earlewood community enjoys the lowest crime rate in the city.

One criminal who was responsible for a number of crimes in Earlewood is currently incarcerated and is serving time on a drug related charge.

7:00 General Neighborhood Meeting

Susan Wilson welcomed and introduced new ECCO members.

John Sinclair announced that the new web site was coming soon. You can find it at earlewood.org.

We are having a Porch Party Sunday, April 19, 4 to 7, located 2900 Block of Clark Street (2910, 2918 2923, and 2924). Grills, volley ball, music by Steven Stokes, and tables will be provided. Bring your own food and drink. Beer and wine are OK. Call Cynthia South for more information at 413-4758.

On May 16 we will have our annual Flea Market and Plant Sale in the back parking lot of Reformation Lutheran Church. Rent a space for \$10 and a table for \$5 and/or donate items for sale to the neighborhood. Your help in growing and donating plants for the sale is also appreciated,

Rebecca Spratlin (338-5111) discussed plans for a dog park in the greenway between Main St. and the railroad tracks. Many neighborhood people have been bringing their pets to the Earlewood Ball fields. Now that the sports season has begun this is no longer possible. The city parks department supports the establishment of the dog park in the greenway: Other neighborhoods can share this park. Many Earlewood neighbors need and want this facility. The dog park will introduce many dog owners to the North Columbia area and Earlewood and enhance the impression of the area. Dogs will be in a controlled setting and shot records can be more easily checked. It is felt by many residents that this project will enhance the value of the neighborhood. To sign a petition in support of the dog park, call her.

DHEC is monitoring sewer problems in Earlewood and the Smith Branch stream. Currently Smith Branch does not support life.

Fred Monk is working with USC law school students at the law school clinic to obtain a 501c3 designation for the neighborhood to apply for grants and receive tax deductible contributions. At this meeting the membership voted to allow the Executive Council to make IRS required changes for non-profit status in the ECCO constitution.

Fred Monk will present a request to County Council to return our historic fountain to the Earlewood Community on April 7. Paul Livingston, a Council member from Elmwood Park, is supporting our request.

Susan Wilson, who is a traffic engineer, made a highly sophisticated power point presentation on traffic calming devices in neighborhoods. Speed bumps and humps, stop signs, chicanes, road narrowings, road landscaping, diverters, and wournurfs were discussed. Susan will present this program to City Council with the assistance of Sam Davis and Tameika Isaac. Hopefully this will give impetus to traffic calming activities in our neighborhood.

Fred Monk and Sabrina Odom are working in leadership roles with the North Columbia Business Association. The goal of this organization is to foster business growth in the North Columbia area.

Respectfully submitted,

Fordyce H. Mason III for Martha Mason