

## **ECCO Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2010**

6:30 Police & Safety Meeting: Officer Walker reported that Omar had been caught with his feet sticking out of a car that he was in the act of stealing. Since this was his 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, he likely won't be released for quite a while and could receive a life sentence.

A Laurel Hill felony suspect has been extradited to Georgia.

A Beaufort Street duplex owner has been renting his property to tenants who may be using and selling drugs and are relating poorly to and threatening neighbors. Police are asked to carefully monitor this situation.

Ronald Robinson (skinny, dark skinned) seems nice but picks up things from porches.

On the snow day [Feb. 12] multiple burglaries occurred in Laurel Hill and Keenan Terrace. The victims were frustrated with police communication. Burglars were undeterred by dogs and doused dogs with bleach.

Speeding has been noted by the police on Earlewood Drive near the park and also on Northwood and Beaufort. Residents feel that flashing speed-limit signs are effective.

Our police recently have placed flyers on vehicles containing valuables in plain sight. Since Earlewood Park closes at sunset, cars are not permitted in the park after that. Residents are encouraged to call the non-emergency number 252-2911 to report violators of this park rule. When residents have emergencies, Officer Walker requests that they first call 911, then call him. Until Walker receives his departmental cell phone, call his personal cell, 391-2391.

### 7:00 Monthly Meeting

President Fred Monk presided. January minutes were approved. As of February 15 Treasurer's report, ECCO has \$6354.08. An additional \$500.00 will be deposited into the account soon.

Earlewood's centennial celebration year will feature 2 major events, the Earlewood Reunion to be held in Earlewood Park, 11-6 pm, May 8, and BungalowFest on September 12. The Reunion date was changed from May 1 to avoid conflicting with the Rosewood Crawfish Festival. The Reunion will include such activities as Dancing through the Decades, a photographic history scavenger hunt, relays, kickball, a disk golf exhibition, a dog parade, etc.

Three Earlewood residents made presentations spotlighting their arts-related organizations.

- 1) Andy Smith spoke about the Nickelodeon Theatre, Columbia's independent theater which originated in 1979. The Nick features many independent and foreign films, a Jewish film festival, and the Indie Grits Film Festival which Andy runs among other things. Future events include the March 7 Oscar party hosted by Patti O'Furniture, projecting artists' work in the 1600 block of Main Street on April 17, and the Nick's future

- move with a Media Education Center to the old Fox Theatre. Larry Hembree, Executive Director of the Nickelodeon, attended the ECCO meeting.
- 2) Kimi Maeda, puppeteer, set designer and director at the Columbia Marionette Theatre, told ECCO that the Theatre stages 3 productions each year plus Saturday birthday parties, and, with funding from Palmetto Pride, takes performances on litter control to schools statewide.
  - 3) As Development Director of the S.C. Philharmonic, Robin Hallyburton spoke of the Philharmonic making music more accessible by bringing it to schools and grocery stores and through 1/2 price coupons. The Philharmonic has a new director, Morihiko Nakahara, and 2 concerts remain on this year's calendar, on March 27 and April 24.

#### Committee Reports:

*Communications* . John Sinclair asked that people send in newsletter articles and Earlewood snow pictures.

*Police and Safety* . Due to a significant increase in responsibility at her job and her professional association, Brenda Creson is stepping down as Chair of the Police and Safety Committee. She has no plans to move out of Earlewood and will return to a more active neighborhood role when her schedule permits.

*Street Captains* . Ford Mason announced a need for additional assistance with newsletter delivery.

*Quality of Life* . The nature trail is now under construction, though a shortage of slag has caused a delay.

*Dog Park* . Parks and Recreation wants to use a different green+porous pavement. There is a good example in use at the pink lawyer's office on Park Street. Contact Chantelle Prior at 737-0400 for further information.

*Grants* . Wes Crosby reported that grants have been secured for the Centennial Celebration.

*Membership* . ECCO currently has 202 members.

At the March meeting Greg Hilton will talk about COR (Columbia Opportunity Resource) who encourages young residents to remain in Earlewood.

The census will be on the April 15 agenda. The city will provide a party for the neighborhood with the highest returns.

An Earlewood clean-up day has been announced for March 20. Mayoral candidate, Steve Morrison, dropped by and was offered a few minutes to speak at the end of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Mason, Secretary