

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the Members Semi-Annual Meeting
October 4, 2011
Grace-Trinity Community Church

22 East Isles residents plus invited guests attended the meeting.

EIRA Vice President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

Representative Marion Greene, District 60A, Minnesota House of Representatives
Legislative update: the budget was not balanced; a marriage amendment will be on the 2012 ballot; and City pension funds will be merged into the state fund. No action was taken about a proposed downtown casino. Greene is co-authoring a bill to call for an impact study. Minneapolis legislators are focusing on the inequity of Minneapolis paying in more to the state than it receives in Local Government Aid.

Anita Tabb, District 4 Commissioner, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

- Levin Triangle Park renovation plans are progressing. Permitting and construction documents are being prepared, and then the project will go out for bid. Construction to begin in Spring 2012.
- Community meetings have been held about redesigning this parkland north of the Walker Library. The budget for redesign has not been identified.
- Parade Road will be reconstructed in 2012.
- The neighborhoods bordering Lake of the Isles completed a Citizens Joint Review Committee report on the renovation of the lake. The Park Board is working on their response to the report.
- A new email service is available for Park Board projects and road closures. Follow the link on the Park Board website: www.minneapolisparcs.org
- The Park Board is replacing boulevard trees that were destroyed in the N. Minneapolis tornado. Tree Trust is offering trees for use on private property at a discounted rate.

Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member, City of Minneapolis

- The City Council is busy with 2012 budget presentations from each department. The Mayor is proposing zero tax increase for next year.
- Fire hydrants are each inspected four times between Oct 15-April 15. Please report any leaking or frozen hydrants to 311 for immediate repair.
- The speed cart that we on the 2800 block of Irving was not requested by the council member's office, the request must have come from a private citizen. No data was collected.
- Traffic counts will be taken within the next few weeks at 24th and Fremont
- Street Sweeping begins Oct 24. Watch for signs to avoid being towed.
- Reminder that 311 is to be used to report potholes, broken streetlights, etc. 911 should be used to report crimes.
- The next Meet with Meg is Oct 11, noon-1 p.m. at the 5th Precinct.

- Tuthill will follow up on a concern about work trucks that have been near the Greenway between James and Irving for the past few months.
- The proposed plan to eliminate the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for 5+ dwelling units has been postponed. Council Member Schiff plans to visit each neighborhood to hear reactions to the proposal.
- A resident raised the concern about the height of new buildings casting shadows on the Greenway and requested that the City Council be vigilant about making sure that any develop along the corridor preserves and enhances the Greenway.
- Kowalski's received the CUP for their proposed liquor store and will be applying for their liquor license. 2653 Hennepin also received a CUP for their proposed liquor store, only one will be allowed. If Kowalski's qualifies first, the other business will not be allowed to open.

**Inspector Matt Clark and Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams,
Minneapolis Police Department**

The neighborhoods around Lake of the Isles have experienced an increase in burglaries the past three months (26 burglaries, 18 of which were garage burglaries). 67% of garage burglaries had unsecured doors. The police have officers dedicated to the problem. The police have arrested seven people for car break-ins and four suspects for burglary. Tips for residents: secure side garage doors; make sure the main garage door closes behind you; record the serial number, make and model of bicycles (to help in getting property returned); and keep bikes locked with a U-lock (80% of stolen bikes had cable locks). Report any suspicious person by calling 911, use the words "casing" or "prowling" to describe the person's activity and give a description of the person. Be available to answer questions that the officers may have if they find the suspect.

Contact Chelsea Adams at Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov to receive crime alerts.

Regarding traffic, the police concentrate on areas with vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic to ensure safety. Report an immediate traffic safety concern by calling 911. If after the fact, contact Chelsea Adams, give good information with patterns, time periods, etc so the police can investigate.

Soren Jensen, Executive Director, Midtown Greenway Coalition

Jensen encouraged everyone who loves the Greenway to support the trail by becoming a member of the Coalition. The Greenway has up to 9,000 users per day. The Coalition is doing outreach to communities to encourage use by all (including walkers). The Coalition continues to advocate for a future streetcar with a turf track.

REPORTS

Vice President's report

Dan McLaughlin reported that as NRP comes to a close, EIRA will have a new relationship with the City. The organization may need to be more effective politically to get dollars for projects needed in the neighborhood.

Al Rodriguez' report

Al Rodriguez presented the treasurer's report. Donations received since the last report were \$1,930. Expenses for the Ice Cream Social were \$1,925.65. Reminder that the Wine Tasting event is a great fundraiser for the neighborhood.

The membership lists have been updated after the summer membership campaign.

The Crime and Safety Committee formally had monthly meetings but they were not well attended. They shifted to quarterly meetings focusing on proactive measures such as recruiting new block club leaders. More block leaders are needed in East Isles.

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning Committee

The Lake of the Isles Citizens Joint Review Committee report will soon be available on line. Two of the Greenway bridges in East Isles have been renovated.

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

2011 East Isles socials: Ice Skating Party in January, Uptown Art Fair pop booth in August (generating income of \$198) and the Ice Cream Social in August. This year, an Ice Cream Social invitation was included in the membership mailing that went to all residents. The event was very well attended and a big success.

Thank you to 2011 sponsors of EIRA events: Isles Bun & Coffee, Kowalski's Uptown Market, Lunds, Peterssen/Keller Architecture.

The Wine Tasting Fundraiser, Wed Oct 26, 6-9 p.m. at Calhoun Square. \$25/advance and \$30/door. EIRA received 100% of revenue from tickets we sell in advance and ¼ of the proceeds from tickets sold at the door. Tickets can be purchase from Amy Sanborn or Board members. Volunteers are needed to help at the event.

Social committee members are: Chair Amy Sanborn, Sue Durfee, Carla Pardue and Monica Smith.

NRP Update, Monica Smith, East Isles NRP Coordinator

The NRP Steering Committee has been working to implement Phase II programs. Volunteers are needed for subcommittees such as Housing, Crime/Safety, Trees, etc.

Programs approved include: Community Energy Services; affordable housing loan; and home security grants. The committee will be seeking EIRA Board approval on additional items at the Board meeting.

NRP administrative will be transferred to the City at the end of 2011. The NRP Steering Committee would like to get as much in place as possible before the end of the year.

The 2011 Community Participation Program will be extended until June 30, 2012 and EIRA will receive an additional 50% funding. The guidelines for next year's program will come out in Feb 2012 and applications will be due by June 30, 2012.

Residents are encouraged to renew their EIRA membership so you can continue to receive the monthly e-newsletter and e-blasts about important neighborhood issues.

Betsy Allis, East Isles Green Team

The Phase II plan included environmental goals that included sustainable practices and the formation of a Green Team. The Green Team had their first meeting on Oct 3rd with committed volunteers and great ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder