

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the Annual Members Meeting
April 8, 2014
Uptown Diner

The annual meeting began with a chili dinner and social hour. 40 East Isles residents and invited guests attended the event.

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

Lisa Goodman, Ward 7 Council Member, City of Minneapolis

- CM Goodman commented on her past representation of East Isles when it was part of Ward 7, then East Isles went to Ward 10 and is now redistricted back into Ward 7. She thinks this is good to have continuity with a council member and for issues and background.
- The City has seven new City Council Members and a new Mayor. CM Goodman is the Chair of the Community Development Committee.
- The City has a goal of increasing density. CM Goodman believes we need a holistic approach and supports increasing density where it allowed by current zoning codes. She would like to see development in all neighborhoods of the City, not just focused on the more desirable SW Minneapolis neighborhoods.
- The Met Council is expected to vote on Southwest LRT on April 9th. If approved, there will be a 45-day comment period, then each city along the route will be asked to give municipal consent. CM Goodman has serious concerns about the project with both freight and LRT in the narrow Kenilworth Corridor. Freight rail could increase 10 fold in the corridor and Hennepin County could sell the right-of-way to the railroad. She is also concerned about the shallow tunnels and the water table. They are only at 30% engineering. If they get further along and find that they can't build the tunnels, this could involve removing 60 townhomes and removing the bike trail. The City will be trying to negotiate for the best possible outcome.
- CM commented that Minneapolis must not be a city of the very rich and the very poor. We are a city of immigrants. We need to do a better job of working with the immigrant communities. Goodman would prefer to give a number of loans to small businesses vs. one large loan for projects like the Vikings stadium.

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

- The City and Park Board have a joint lawsuit against 1800 Lake (for pumping groundwater into the Lagoon between Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles). They are in the discovery phase of the process.
- Smith Triangle: There is money in the Park Board's budget to make improvements to the park in 2018-19.
- Levin Triangle Park: New trees will be planted, park benches will be repositioned to face into the park, and options for additional seating will be considered.
- The new Walker Library is opening on April 26. The Park Board property adjacent to the library will be restored with trees and grass. There is funding in the budget for improvements to this parkland in the 2019 budget.
- Trees that were removed for the sewer construction project will be replanted along E. Calhoun Pkwy (between Lake St and Lake of the Isles). The road will be repaved in 2015.
- The Park Board is planting 7,800 new trees on public property this year. They have a plan to remove and replace all of the ash trees on public land in the city over the next eight years.
- They continue to work on the aerating and over-seeding the turf at Lake of the Isles.

Michael McLaughlin, Lowry Hill District

The Lowry Hill District is the business association for Hennepin Avenue (from Lincoln to the Midtown Greenway). Hennepin Avenue is the most successful commercial corridor outside of downtown. Several new businesses opened on Hennepin Avenue in the past year. The Lowry Hill District also operates a Special Service District (started in 2000) with a budget of \$120K (funded by taxes to commercial properties) to maintain sidewalks, boulevard turf, landscape planters and bike racks. They also remove trash and graffiti.

Appreciation

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to outgoing board members: Rosita Acosta, Candace Dow, Renee Gust, Antone Melton-Meaux, Ramon Ramirez Quintero and Michael Rossini.

REPORTS

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

- Over the past year, the committee has worked to continue to educate members by hosting specialist presentations on four topics: Uptown Small Area Plan; City of Minneapolis Planning and Zoning Overview; Shoreland Overlay Ordinance; and Building Energy Codes.
- Also reviewed zoning requests including working with the architects of 16Twenty mixed use development on NE corner of Lake St and James Ave S (1618 and 1620 W Lake St, and 2915 James Ave S) to scale back the project to a three-story building that received approval from the EIRA Board.
- The next meeting of the Zoning Committee is April 15 18, 5:00 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

- Organizes two large annual events: Ice Skating party in January and the Ice Cream Social in August.
- Also organizes volunteers for the Uptown Art Fair pop booth and the Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

NRP Committee, Judy Enenstein

- Directed an additional \$50,000 to the affordable housing loan program
- Working with the Parks Committee to prioritize park improvements.
- Continue to offer Home Security Grants (up to \$250 for security upgrades) as funds are available.
- The next meeting of the NRP Committee is May 5, 7:00 pm at Grace Church.

Green Team, Betsy Allis

- Their mission is to engage East Isles residents in greening the East Isles community.
- Six working groups: solar, recruitment, edible gardens, green standards for development, plant swap and water quality.
- Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday, April 26, 9:30 am – Noon at Lake of the Isles (at 27th) featuring water protection education.
- Green Festival on May 31 at Triangle Park featuring a plant swap, activities and a potluck lunch.
- Working on a community solar garden.

Transportation Committee, Candace Dow

- The committee worked to engage residents regarding the Midtown Greenway Alternatives Analysis. The committee and the EIRA Board supported the option of enhance bus on Lake Street. Policy makers selected a dual alignment of enhanced bus on Lake Street and rail on the Midtown Greenway as the Locally Preferred Alternative. Funding has not yet been identified for

the project.

- Candace Dow will be stepping down as the Chair of the committee, Andrew Degerstrom has offered to assume the role of Chair.

Parks Committee, Donna Jansen

- The Smith Triangle Subcommittee will be scheduling a park clean up in May. They are working with the Park Board to do some short term improvements for the park as well as looking at options for longer range planning.
- The committee is interested in improving The Mall by replacing the park benches and planting new trees and possibly a community garden and bike corral on the north side of the Midtown Greenway.

Treasurer's Report, Dan McLaughlin

- EIRA had revenue of \$34K in 2013, mostly from the City of Minneapolis for neighborhood programs and some from fundraising.
- EIRA formally applied for 501(c)(4) status from the IRS (awaiting confirmation). Special thanks to Ramon Ramirez for his work on the application and his service as Treasurer.

Nominations Committee, Linda Schutz

- Publicity to recruit new board members included ads in the Hill and Lake Press, fliers were distributed and notices were included in the e-newsletter, e-blasts, social media and website.
- The committee endorsed nine candidates and two alternates to the 2014-15 EIRA Board.

Election of EIRA Board of Directors and Alternates

Nominations Committee Chair Linda Schutz introduced the pre-registered slate of nine candidates for the 2014-15 EIRA Board of Directors: Andrew Degerstrom, Bill Elwood, Vaughn Emerson, Nicole Engel-Nitz, Donna Jansen, Dan McLaughlin, Andrew Moratzka, Carla Pardue, and Linda Schutz. Candidate for Alternates to the EIRA Board of Directors: Maria Bales and Brian Milavitz. McLaughlin called for any additional floor nominations (there were none). The slate of candidates was unanimously approved. We remain short two director to fill the 11-member board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, May 20 (note: one week later than usual), 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St.