

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
August 19, 2014
Bridge for Youth

Board members present (6 of 8): Dan McLaughlin (President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Bill Elwood, Brian Milavitz, Carla Pardue, and Linda Schutz. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

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

Cynthia Daggett, Bridge for Youth

In 2013, The Bridge relocated all of their operations into their building at 1111 W 22nd St. The Bridge received an emergency services grant from the City of Minneapolis which will be used for interior renovation work to add two beds to the shelter, additional security cameras, and a new emergency generator. The Bridge has not made any decisions at this time about the other properties they own: 2200 Emerson Ave (currently vacant) and 1209 W 22nd St (under lease by StreetWorks). The Bridge's board is proceeding cautiously with the decision about what to do with these properties.

Community Solar

Lissa Pawlisch, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

Pawlisch is the CERTs Director for the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships & Extension. The mission of CERTs is to connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects.

Legislation passed in 2013 requiring Xcel Energy to administer a program for community solar gardens. Community solar gardens are remotely located solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that provide electricity to participating subscriber. Subscribers' utility bills will be credited with the electricity created by their share of the solar garden (established by the average retail rate). The gardens allow people to participate in solar energy without installing panels on their rooftops; they also offer a way for renters to participate in solar. Private developers will be creating host sites where the solar gardens will be installed. Individuals may subscribe to participate in the solar garden by purchasing shares. Developers may require an upfront payment for the shares, monthly payments or a mix of both to participate in the garden. The developers are not individually regulated, but Xcel Energy is a regulated utility and they will require the developer to meet certain standards (insurance, etc).

Bill Elwood, EIRA Green Team

The Green Team is interested in assisting East Isles residents in making decisions about, and encouraging subscriptions in, Community Solar Gardens. There are currently 14 solar developers coming into the market and more are expected. The Green Team asked the EIRA Board to approved Phases 1-3 of a five phase plan for involvement with community solar.

Phase 1: Educate residents about Community Solar Gardens (CSG).

Phase 2: Develop a fact-finding questionnaire to gather CSG developer information.

Phase 3: Host meetings between GT Solar Team and potential CSG developers.

Phase 4: Identify options for resident's CSG participation.

Phase 5: Join with other neighborhoods, or non-EIRA residents in a larger-scale project to optimize CSG benefits to EIRA residents

The meetings identified in Phase 3 would include an open invitation to any developer. All of the meetings would be open to the public, publicized to residents, held in public locations, and will be scheduled at times that will encourage participation.

Board member Linda Schutz departed the meeting for a prior commitment.

The board unanimously approved a motion to allow the Green Team to proceed with Phases 1-3 with two conditions: that minutes are produced for meetings and that the Green Team update the EIRA Board on a monthly basis (if there are updates to share).

Open Forum

The memorial service for Donna Jansen will be held on Tuesday, September 9, from 6-8 pm with a service at 6:30 at the Cremation Society, 4343 Nicollet Ave S. This is usual day of the EIRA Board meeting. The Board voted to change the meeting to September 16 so board members may attend the service.

REPORTS

Outreach & Nominations

Maria Bales and Drew Moratzka resigned from the EIRA Board and BOD member Donna Jansen passed away on July 29. The committee is working to recruit three new board members. Efforts will include a notice in the Hill and Lake Press and outreach at the Ice Cream Social and Super Sale.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom reported that EIRA received a letter from the IRS dated 8/13/14 confirming 501(c)(4) status and a letter dated 8/18/14 revoking 501(c)(4) status. Degerstrom will contact the IRS to clarify the conflicting information.

The EIRA Board approved Degerstrom's request of up to \$200 to utilize a computer generated system to automate the check writing process.

Transportation Committee

The July 24th meeting featured a Transit Planning 101 presentation by a Metro Transit planner. The committee will not meet in August due to a conflict with the Ice Cream Social.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 25, 7 pm at Grace.

Staff Report

The annual membership letter was mailed on August 5.

CenterPoint Energy is replacing a natural gas pipeline on Lake Street. Construction area is now Lake St near East Calhoun Pkwy and is expected to continue through September.

NRP Committee

The committee met on August 11th and reviewed the Green Team's request for funds for the next 3-month cycle.

Volunteers will survey the neighborhood for potential location for new boulevard trees. Letters will be sent to specific residents outlining the process to receive a free, new tree from the Park Board.

The next meeting is Monday, October 6, 7 pm at Grace.

Zoning Committee

The committee did not meeting in July or August.

The Conservation District Ordinance was approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission and will go the city's Zoning & Planning Committee for approval (tentatively on September 11).

Four public meetings will be held regarding Accessory Dwellings Units ("granny flats"). The meeting in Southwest Minneapolis is September 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Kenwood Community Center. Other dates and locations are: August 23, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Hosmer Library, 347 E 36th St; August 27, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St NE; and September 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N.

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 16, 5 pm at Grace and will include a presentation for a proposed apartment development on the SW corner of Lagoon and Irving (1609 and 1611 Lagoon and 2910 Irving). The zoning is R6.

Social Committee

- The Ice Cream Social is Thursday, August 28, 6-9 p.m. at Levin Triangle Park. Carla Pardue will create a sign to be posted at the event to honor Donna Jansen.
- We received a notice that the Wine Tasting Fundraiser will not be held this fall because a restaurant sponsor has not been secured.
- Revenue from the Uptown Art Fair pop booth was \$622.61. Thank you to all of the volunteers.

Parks Committee

Committee chair Harvey Ettinger has taken a temporary leave of absence as the committee chair. The committee is currently on hold.

Green Team

Recent activity:

- Weekly lakeshore clean up
- Tot Plot event
- Raingarden Respite on August 17

Upcoming events:

- Green Team Table at Ice Cream Social
- East Isles Super Sale on Saturday, September 6. Registration info at www.eastisles.org.
- September Tot Plot Harvest Tour---to be announced.
- Healthy Homes, Healthy Families, Thursday, October 2, 10-11:30 am ---daytime program to raise awareness about everyday household toxins.
- The EIRA Board approved the Green Team budget for August-November: \$500 for projects and \$115 for food.

Board Review

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14. We are waiting for confirmation for use of the sanctuary at Grace. Local elected officials (CM Goodman, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Tabb, Representative Hornstein and Senator Dibble) will be invited to participate in a panel discussion on issues that impact the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W
28th St.