

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
December 10, 2014
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (9 of 10): Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bill Elwood, Jasna Hadzic, Nancy Johnston, Brian Milavitz, Carla Pardue, and Linda Schutz. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA Vice President Vaughn Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

- To keep informed about snow emergencies, go to: www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_stay-informed
- Later with Lisa, December 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Normandy (free food/parking and cash bar).
- The City Council unanimously passed a ban on e-cigarette use in indoor public places.
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is offering a Master Water Steward program. For more information: www.masterwaterstewards.org.
- The final public hearing and budget adoption is December 10, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance. The resolution judgment is expected on December 15th. The city's goal is to stop the pumping as quickly as possible.
- CM Goodman does not support the city-wide organics program as proposed because all residents in 1-4 unit buildings will be required to pay \$45 whether they use the program or not. Goodman stated that the fee is not equitable for lower-income residents and she prefers the current voluntary drop-off program offered in the city.
- The City Council is considering voting to reinstate funding for the energy partnership that was cut during budget mark-up.
- Southwest LRT: the litigation filed by neighbors is moving forward as is the Park Board's study of options for tunneling under the Kenilworth channel.
- The City Council passed the Accessory Dwelling Unit amendment.

Announcements

- Guest speaker Debra Behrens, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, District 6 was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. She will be invited to the January 13th meeting.
- An attempted stranger sexual assault was reported on December 7th, 3 am near Humboldt Ave S and W 27th St. The victim screamed and the suspect fled. The victim was not injured. If you have any information, contact the Sex Crimes Unit at 612-673-3081.
- Book sale to benefit the Walker Library will be held December 19-21 at Hosmer Library, 347 W 36th St.

REPORTS

Zoning Committee, Monica Smith

The committee did not meet in November. The next meeting is December 16, 5 pm at Grace. The agenda includes an overview on the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance. CPM is invited to attend the meeting to discuss their application for historic review of properties at 1708 and 1714 W Lake St (located next to 1800 Lake). The January 20th committee meeting will include a presentation by Wells Fargo to build a new office building on the SW corner of Humboldt Ave S and W Lake St.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The November meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Commissioner Tabb responded to the letter sent by EIRA regarding plowing The Mall and Lake of the Isles sidewalks and the Greenway. The Park Board is responsible for The Mall and Lake of the Isles and Commissioner Tabb shared the concerns with the crews. The City of Minneapolis plows the Greenway and one of their first priorities is the bike trails but they do not have 24-hour crews to respond. One inch of snowfall triggers overtime crews.

The next committee meeting is December 18, 7 pm at Grace.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The minutes from the November 11, 2014 EIRA Board meeting will be amended to include the Zoning Committee's resolution regarding the development at Irving Ave S and Lagoon Ave with a note that the EIRA Board did not act on the recommendation because the City Planning Commission had already approved the project (on November 10).
- Nancy Johnston testified at the Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee on November 17th and presented the letter approved by the EIRA Board at the November 11th meeting.
- The Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee issued a staff direction to create policies and procedures for unspent NRP allocation and to develop recommendations for future expenditures of TIF funds for neighborhood revitalization purposes.
- The Neighborhood Board Survey deadline is December 15. Board members are encouraged to participate in the survey.
- The EIRA Board reviewed the 2014 CPP budget allocations and approved a motion to authorize payment of \$500 to Grace and \$100 to Bridge for Youth for meeting space use in 2014.
- The EIRA Board approved the proposed CPP budget for 2015.

NRP Committee, Monica Smith

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, January 6, 5:30 pm at Grace.

Green Team, Betsy Allis

- The Green Team is organizing a 4-part series on food and climate change. The first event is Monday, January 26, 7 pm at Grace. Food is an allowable NRP expense in this case because it related to the food education strategy in our NRP Phase II plan. The Uptown area Green Teams will be invited to co-sponsor the series. Monica Smith to clarify with NCR if a request for proposal is require to hire a speaker.
- Minneapolis is working on community solar with the goal of a community array to which neighborhoods could subscribe.
- Bill Elwood will attend a Partners in Energy meeting in January that will focus on energy conservation on neighborhoods that border Lake St.
- The Green Team would like to organize green house parties. The EIRA Board would like to further discuss the idea at a future meeting.
- The budget for upcoming Green Team activities was approved.

Social Committee, Monica Smith

The EIRA Board authorized reimbursing Amy Sanborn \$25 for the October semi-annual meeting. The Ice Skating Party is Sunday, January 25, 1-3 at the Lake of the Isles rink.

Shoreland Overlay District Ordinance, Linda Schutz

Handouts were provided for the following presentation.

In May 1988 (largely due to concerns from residents over large tall developments jeopardizing city lakes, recreational uses, and nearby lower density residential) the Minneapolis City Council enacted a shoreland districts ordinance limiting new development:

- 1) Generally to a height of 35 feet tall (the height of the natural tree line) around/near the lakes and shorelines of creeks or rivers, in most areas of the city.
- 2) Exempting from these strict limits the downtown side of the Mississippi Riverfront between Plymouth Ave. and I-35 as well as the East bank of the Mississippi River from 1st Ave. N.E. to Central Ave.
- 3) Allowing heights of 60 feet in an area near the Calhoun Beach Club and moving westward if nearby residential dwellings were not shaded more than one and one-half hours on December 21 between 10 AM and 1 PM (the day of the year when there is the least sunlight in Minnesota).

In July 1989, the Department of Natural Resources established a statewide shoreland statute. Minneapolis has primary jurisdiction of the shoreland ordinance within its borders.

Purpose of the Minneapolis ordinance: "The Shoreland Overlay District is established to preserve and enhance the environmental qualities of surface waters and the natural and economic values of shoreland areas within the city, to provide for the efficient and beneficial utilization of those waters and shoreland areas, to comply with the requirements of state law regarding the management of shoreland areas, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare." The ordinance applies to more than 20 bodies of water in the city.

Boundaries: "One thousand (1,000) feet from the ordinary high-water mark of a lake, pond, wetland or flowage; or three hundred (300) feet from a river or stream or the landward extent of the floodplain of such river or stream, whichever is greater."

Height of structures: "Except for structures subject to a more restrictive maximum height limitation in a the primary zoning district, the maximum height of all structures within the Shoreland Overlay District, except for single and two-family dwellings, shall be two and one-half (2.5) stories or thirty-five (35) feet, whichever is less. The maximum height of single and two family dwellings shall be two and one-half stories or thirty (30) feet, whichever is less."

The height limitations of all other principal structures may be increased by conditional use permit (CUP). The City Planning Commission considers the following factors when determining maximum height:

- 1) Access to light and air of surrounding properties.
 - 2) Shadowing of residential properties or significant public spaces.
 - 3) The scale and character of surrounding uses.
 - 4) Preservation of views of landmark buildings, significant open spaces and water bodies.
- The following criteria is also considered:
- 1) The prevention of soil erosion or other possible pollution of public waters, both during and after construction.
 - 2) Limiting the visibility of structures and other development from protected waters.
 - 3) The suitability of the protected water to safely accommodate the types, uses and number of watercraft that the development may generate.

The Uptown Small Area Plan calls for stepping down of building height from Lake/Hennepin toward the lakes.

The Shoreland Overlay is an important factor in decisions the EIRA Board makes regarding development in the neighborhood.

Board Review

- The EIRA Board approved a one-month extension on Monica Smith's contact until the contract can be discussed with the EIRA President.

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

If consistent with EIRA Bylaws, and where the availability of a public document or report in electronic forms exists, copies of EIRA Board agenda items may be obtained by an EIRA member by contacting nrp@eastisles.org.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.