

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
February 11, 2014  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Candace Dow, Nicole Engel-Nitz, Bill Elwood, and Linda Schutz. Other East Isles residents were also in attendance.

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

**Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7**

- Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, February 26, noon at St Thomas, Opus Hall. Guest speaker is Patti Webber, former CIA to speak about national security.
- Public meeting for Nicollet Mall redesign ideas: February 19, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Central Library.
- Watch for temporary No Parking signs to allow city crews to plow the streets from curb-to-curb.
- A special election for the Hennepin County Commissioner, District 3 will be held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Police Department is introducing a comprehensive crime map data system to make accessing crime information easier and more transparent. To access, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/police](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police).
- Community Connections Conference is Saturday, March 22, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- There are 40 positions open on city boards and commissions. Details on the City's website: [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov).
- The City is offering great prices on rain barrels (\$69) and compost bins (\$55). Order online at [www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org) and pick up on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Property Tax Valuations will be mailed this month. This is your opportunity to ask for an adjustment if you think your property is overvalued.
- Goodman does not think that the Conservation District ordinance is workable as currently written.
- Southwest LRT: new studies show that there is a viable option to move freight to St Louis Park. Minneapolis will not support co-location of freight and LRT in the Kenilworth Corridor.

**Open Forum**

A moment of silence was held to commemorate life of recently deceased Joan Mondale. At one time, the Mondales lived in East Isles.

**REPORTS**

**Transportation Committee, Candace Dow**

Midtown Greenway Alternatives Analysis: The locally preferred alternative (LPA) will be selected by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The staff recommends both enhanced bus on Lake St and rail on the Midtown Corridor. Project funding has not been identified at this time. EIRA's resolution was sent to the PAC prior to the decision (the resolution is posted on our website: [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org)).

The Transportation Committee is seeking a new Chair and does not plan to meet in February or March.

**Zoning Committee, Allan Amis**

The January 21st meeting included a discussion with Green Team member Dave Bryan about sustainable building standards. Minnesota has a goal of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. More stringent building codes are being implemented. Bryan documented a number of green items that the

Zoning Committee could ask to see included in renovation/new development projects in the neighborhood.

Notice of Public Hearing to allow additional sales and display of goods on sidewalks outside of businesses, February 19, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee is February 18 and includes: Lake & Irving Restaurant (1513 W Lake St) to discuss their application to change their license to include live music of up to five musicians; and a revised proposal for 16Twenty, the development on the NE corner of Lake and James (1618 W Lake St, 1620 W Lake St, and 2915 James Ave S).

### **Social Committee, Amy Sanborn**

Neighbors came out for the annual Ice Skating Party despite the cold and windy day (the bonfire was cancelled due to the winds). Thanks to Isles Bun & Coffee for their donation of food/beverage and all to the volunteers.

EIRA received \$1100 from the door sales of the Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

### **Green Team, Bill Elwood**

- The next event is *Transition Towns-The Future is Now*, a presentation about moving toward self-reliant communities. February 24, 7 pm at Grace.
- The team is working with an owner of multi-unit buildings to implement composting and increase recycling rates.
- Representative Frank Hornstein will meet with the Green Team to discuss his legislation for organics composting.
- Public Utilities Commission is holding a public hearing for Xcel Energy's plan for Community Solar Garden program: February 18, 10 a.m. at the PUC, 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place E, St. Paul.
- Earth Day Clean Up is April 26<sup>th</sup>. The EIRA Board approved \$25 for food/beverage for volunteers.

### **Parks Committee, Monica Smith**

- The first meeting was held February 3<sup>rd</sup> and was a joint meeting with the NRP Committee to discussion ideas for parks projects in the neighborhood.
- Donna Jansen will chair the Smith Triangle Subcommittee.
- The Park Board retired the email distribution lists for the following projects: Levin Triangle Park and the Mall/Library project.
- Public hearing for Kenwood Community Center building improvements will be February 19, 6:30 p.m. at Park Board headquarters.

### **NRP Committee, Monica Smith**

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 7, 7 p.m. at Grace.

### **Staff Report, Monica Smith**

- The Bridge is hosting a meeting on February 26, 5:30 p.m. to discuss the fate of their vacant building at 2200 Emerson Ave S. Options include renting, renovating, or selling the property. Linda Schutz will attend the meeting on behalf of the EIRA Board.
- Minneapolis is recruiting businesses and organizations to grow food for local food shelves through a program called Giving Gardens. A workshop for interested organizations is February 27, 9:15 a.m. at East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center.

- EIRA's Conflict of Interest policy needs updating. Linda Schutz, Dan McLaughlin and Monica Smith will make revisions for final approval by the EIRA Board.
- USI Wireless will be invited to a future meeting to discuss their plans for implementing fiber optic service in East Isles.
- The IRS confirmed that they received EIRA's application for 501(c)(4) status. They are reviewing the application and will respond within 180 days.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) has drafted a proposal for a Neighborhood Relief Fund that would provide additional financial support for neighborhoods during times of crisis (emergencies such as tornado, loss from theft/fire, etc.). Public comments are being accepted through March 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Nominations Committee, Linda Schutz**

- Linda Schutz deferred her remarks to the Board Review section.
- The committee is seeking new board members. Interested individuals should contact Monica Smith at [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org).

#### **BOARD REVIEW**

- Board members will help recruit new board members by posting ads in local businesses and forwarding the ad to neighbors and friends. A notice will also be posted on Facebook and NextDoor. An e-blast will also be sent to the distribution list. Current BOD member Antone Melton Meaux indicated via email he would not be seeking re-election in April 2014, mainly due to a new job; he will be missed. At least three interested parties have stepped forward to possibly fill four BOD seats for whom no incumbent is seeking re-election in April 2014. Two alternates to the BOD are needed. Recruitment of someone with financial and accounting skills is especially desirable to fill the volunteer EIRA Association Treasurer position.
- The Spring Annual Meeting will be held on April 8 at the Uptown Diner. The board approved the budget to provide a chili dinner. The agenda will include Council Member Lisa Goodman, Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb, committee reports and board elections. Michael McLaughlin from the Lowry Hill District business association will be invited to be the guest speaker.
- The EIRA Board approved the annual report for the 2013 CPP program.
- Meeting dates for 2014: The EIRA Board will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month with two exceptions: The May meeting will be moved to the third Tuesday (May 20<sup>th</sup>) due to special election for Hennepin County Commissioner on May 13 and the August meeting will be moved to the third Tuesday (August 19<sup>th</sup>) due to the primary election on August 12.
- The EIRA Board offered suggestions that will be forwarded to NCR as they draft their new program for neighborhood funding called Community Innovation Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> Street.