

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
February 10, 2015
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (10 of 11): Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice-President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Jasna Hadzic, Nancy Johnston, Bruce Larson, 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.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

- Lunch with Lisa is February 25, noon at the University of St. Thomas. The speaker is a wildlife expert. A field trip to the emergency operations center is being planned for May.
- Public hearing for landmark designation for the Thomas Lowry Memorial (in Smith Triangle Park) is February 17, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- A public hearing for a Registered Land Survey for proposed building at 1710 W Lake St (to separate ownership for the below-grade parking) is February 23, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The property tax valuation notices have been mailed. Follow instructions on the notice if you would like to contest the listed value.

Kathy Spraitz, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden renovation

Kathy Spraitz serves on the Sculpture Garden Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The budget for the project is \$10 million and focus on infrastructure, accessibility and energy efficiency. The garden will close in August 2015 for the renovation (concurrent with the Hennepin /Lyndale project) and remain closed for 14 months. The final CAC meeting is February 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Walker Art Center. The project will be presented to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on March 4th.

Spraitz also reported that she (along with Harvey Ettinger of East Isles and a Kenwood representative) will meet with Commissioner Anita Tabb to discuss improvements to the Isles of the Isles ice rink warming house.

Linda Schutz, Thomas Lowry Memorial

Linda Schutz presented a resolution in support of the historic designation for the Thomas Lowry Memorial (Smith Triangle Park). The resolution contained a detailed history of the memorial and EIRA's involvement with the park and the memorial over the years. The EIRA Board unanimously approved the resolution, which will be sent to the Heritage Preservation Commission in advance of the February 17th public hearing. The complete resolution can be found at www.eastisles.org.

Open Forum

- The Loppet was a success despite the lack of snow.
- EIRA representatives staffed an information table at the Uptown Association annual meeting, which provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of the organization in the community.

REPORTS

Outreach & Nominations, Nancy Johnston

The committee is asking for help in recruiting three new board members and two alternates to stand for election at the annual meeting scheduled for April 14.

The board approved the search committee to hire a new EIRA Coordinator: Chair Nancy Johnston, Bruce Larson, Amy Sanborn, Karen Carney and Dan McLaughlin. Any candidates for EIRA president will be invited to participate in the final interviews.

The EIRA Board received the committee's 2014 annual report as approved by the committee.

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

The January 20th meeting included a second presentation from CPM and Peterssen/Keller Architecture for a new building at 1708 and 1714 W Lake St (project name: seventeen10). The building is four stories plus one level of underground parking to be used by residents of 1800 Lake. The building is within the Shoreland Overlay District (SOD) and the Uptown Small Area Plan. The project will be seeking a conditional use permit to exceed the height restriction in the SOD and variance for setbacks and parking. The committee send a letter to the project team asking for improved interface with the sidewalk and expressing concerns about the east side setback variance. The team indicated that they will work to address the sidewalk interface but they need to maintain the footprint of the building to accommodate the parking. The Zoning Committee will invite the team to the next meeting and formulate a resolution to present at the March EIRA Board meeting.

Wells Fargo also attended the January meeting to discuss plans for a new bank building on the SW corner of Lake and Humboldt.

The EIRA Board directed the Zoning Committee to consider drafting a letter regarding concerns about the excessive lighting of the MoZaic building.

Council Member Lisa Bender is looking at reducing the city's parking space requirements for new residential projects near transit stations.

The next meeting is February 17, 5 pm at Grace.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The January meeting did not have a quorum.

A multi-modal traffic study will be conducted for the area around the proposed West Lake Station for Southwest LRT.

The next committee meeting is February 26, 7 pm at Grace and will include a discussion of possible projects for NRP funding.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- EIRA is in compliance with the guideline for allowable spending of NRP/PPP funds for community building events.

- Minneapolis Health Department is launching Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative.
- The Community Connections Conference will be March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- The Park Board will begin work on a Master Plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. The budget for 2015 is \$700K (\$200K for planning and \$500K for projects – mostly trail improvements). The Park Board is seeking an additional \$3 million from the state legislature in 2016. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed and will meet ten times between April-December. EIRA will be able to appoint one representative to serve on the CAC.
- The Park Board will be launching RecQuest – a system-wide needs assessment of Minneapolis recreation centers and programs to discover gaps between current facilities and offerings and the needs of the community. Community engagement will begin in early spring.
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will begin updating its Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan. For more information: www.minnehahacreek.org/2017.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

- The Ice Skating Social held on January 25th was a big success.
- The EIRA Board approved the date for the Ice Cream Social for August 13, 2015.
- The Wine Tasting fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for June 17.

Green Team, Monica Smith

Upcoming presentation in the food and climate change series (all at 7 pm at Grace): The Skinny on Fat on March 9, food allergens on March 23 and super foods on April 9. Email nrp@eastisles.org to sign up.

Board Review

The annual meeting will be April 14 at Grace. Council Member Goodman, Commissioner Tabb and Commissioner Greene will be invited.

Linda Schutz presented a resolution that encourages EIRA zoning committee members and EIRA Board members to become familiar with the shoreland overlay in Minneapolis and the Shoreland Overlay District ordinance and its provisions. The EIRA Board directed the Zoning Committee to review the resolution and bring it back to the EIRA Board for consideration.

Topics for upcoming meetings: Friends of Walker Library in March and Midtown Greenway Coalition in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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, March 10, 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.