

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
January 13, 2015
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (10 of 11): Dan McLaughlin (President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bill Elwood, 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 January 28, noon at the University of St. Thomas. The topic is youth homelessness.
- The vacant house at 2208 Irving Ave S will be demolished. The property owner has no immediate plans for the property.
- The city has implemented a new policy for snow removal. The ordinance requires property owners to clear sidewalks after a snowfall within 24 hours (for residential) and 4 hours (for commercial). If the city is notified that a sidewalk isn't cleared, a letter will be sent to the property owner asking them to address the issue or crews will be sent to shovel and the property owner will be billed for the service. Call 311 to report unshoveled sidewalks.
- 1800 Lake: A consent decree was issued; the property owner must fill in the lower level and stop dewatering by March 31, 2015. The developer is paying for the cost of the temporary diversion pipe and city staff expenses but not the city's cost for litigation (\$1 million). The developer is considering a new adjacent building to accommodate the parking.

Debra Behrens, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), District 6

Debra Behrens represents East Isles and nine other neighborhoods on the NCEC, which serves as a bridge between neighborhood organizations and city priorities. The vision for the NCEC is "a city and community engagement process that increases inclusiveness, empowerment and greater opportunities for participation by all community members of the City of Minneapolis." The NCEC is a 16-member commission that advises the mayor and City Council on community engagement issues. Monthly meetings are the 4th Tuesday, 5 pm and are televised on channel 79, past meetings can be viewed at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/tv/79. Behrens can be reached at debrabehrens@me.com.

Open Forum

- Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene holds office hours in the district once a month. Upcoming: January 23, 2-4 pm at Rustica, 3220 W Lake St and February 27, 2-4 pm at Syphouse, 2404 Hennepin.
- Linda Schutz requested time on next month's agenda to discuss the Thomas Lowry Memorial and Smith Triangle. The city has completed a draft of a designation study for the monument that will be presented to the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole on January 15.

New Board of Director

The EIRA Board appointed Bruce Larson to fill a vacancy on the EIRA Board of Directors.

The board approved the assignment of specific seats for recently appointed board members. Nancy Johnston was assigned to the seat open due to the death of Donna Jansen; Jasna Hadzic was assigned to the seat open due to the resignation of Maria Bales, and Bruce Larson was assigned the seat open due to the resignation of Drew Moratzka.

REPORTS

Outreach & Nominations, Linda Schutz

Linda Schutz resigned a committee chair but will remain a committee member. Nancy Johnston volunteered to serve as committee chair until the April annual elections. Andrew Degerstom joined the committee.

The board allocated \$100 for committee expenses (copying, supplies, etc.).

Each board member is asked to help recruit new members for the annual election in April. Dan McLaughlin, Vaughn Emerson and Linda Schutz will all be leaving the board due to term limits. Officer positions will also be open.

Zoning Committee, Monica Smith

The December 16th meeting included a last minute agenda item – CPM and Peterssen/Keller Architecture presented preliminary plans for a new building at 1708 and 1714 W Lake St (next to 1800 Lake) to accommodate the parking that they will be losing at 1800 Lake due to the judge's ruling to remove the lower level of parking. Andrew Degerstom gave an overview of the new Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance.

The next meeting is January 20, 5 pm at Grace. The agenda will include a presentation by Wells Fargo to build a new one-story bank building at 1505 W Lake St and a more detailed presentation by CPM for a 4-story (plus one basement level parking), mixed-use building at 1708 and 1714 W Lake St (in the Shoreland Overlay District). The demolition of 2208 Irving Ave S will also be discussed.

The Uptown Neighborhood News reported that Bank of America will join Giordano's Pizza at 2700 Hennepin. EIRA has not been contact by Bank of America.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The December meeting was cancelled.

The next committee meeting is January 22, 7 pm at Grace and will include a discussion of possible projects for NRP funding.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

- The minutes from the December 9, 2014 EIRA Board meeting will be amended to state that handouts were provided for the Shoreland Overlay District overview.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) has assigned an auditor to conduct a Financial Operations Review for EIRA.
- NCR published a resource guide for allowable festival/event expenditures for Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Community Participation Program (CPP) funds. An information meeting will be held on January 29, 6-7 pm at NCR, 105 5th Ave S, Minneapolis.
- E. Calhoun Parkway is closed between Lake St and 36th St for sewer repairs through February 13.

NRP Committee, Monica Smith

The committee met on January 6. The board approved the committee's recommendation to amend the Home Security Grant guidelines to specify a maximum grant of \$1,000 for buildings of four or more residential units.

The next meeting will focus on working with the Parks Committee to prioritize the use of NRP funds. A date has not been set.

The NRP funding agreement outlines bidding requirements for using NRP funds and states: "Contract less than \$10,000 – quotation basis if practicable, or market rate." Contract for more than \$10K have more stringent rules.

The annual report for EIRA's 2014 CPP funding is due in March.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

- The Uptown Association annual meeting is January 27. EIRA will have an information table at the event. The board authorized up to \$200 for board/committee members to represent EIRA at the meeting.
- The Ice Skating Party is Sunday, January 25, 1-3 at the Lake of the Isles rink. Volunteers are needed, contact events@eastisles.org. Lake of the Isles Living magazine will feature the event in the upcoming issue.
- The City of Lakes Loppet is looking for volunteers to staff food stations on January 31 and February 1. Contact events@eastisles.org to volunteer. They are also offering 10 tickets to EIRA for the Luminary Loppet.

Green Team, Betsy Allis

- The Green Team is organizing a 4-part series on food and climate change: Eating Consciously, on January 26, 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.
- Betsy Allis will host a trial green house party in March with nearby neighbors.
- The solar team worked with Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) to develop a questionnaire for considering solar developers.
- Partners in Energy is a program focusing on energy conservation for neighborhoods that border Lake St.

Meg Forney, Commissioner-at-Large, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

The Park Board has been in support of Southwest LRT for two years. The Park Board advocated for relocation of freight rail. When the route included co-location of LRT and freight, the Park Board asked the project team to investigate the possibility of an LRT tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel. The Park Board does not think that the project office adequately studied the option and passed a resolution on January 7 to continue the consultant work to determine if it is "feasible and prudent" to tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel. The work is not delaying the project; the Park Board wants the information in time to respond to the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Forney does not believe that recent discouraging comments by Governor Dayton about Southwest LRT are linked to the Park Board action. Forney remains a strong advocate for the Lake Street Station and working on bike/ped connections to the station.

Board Review

Monica Smith resigned but will remain until a replacement is hired. The EIRA Board prefers to wait until the new board is elected in April to hire a new person and approved a motion to renew Smith's contract on a monthly basis at the current terms until June 2015. The Outreach & Nominations Committee will lead the search for a new staff person.

The Shoreland Overlay District (SOD) follow up discussion was deferred to next month. A resolution will be introduced to urge the Zoning Committee to continue to consider SOD when reviewing projects.

The February meeting will also include a speaker on the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden renovation project.

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, February 10, 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.