

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
July 8, 2014
Bridge for Youth

Board members present (7 of 11): Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Maria Bales, Brian Milavitz, 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.

Ani Backa, Manager, Community Relations and Economic Development, Xcel Energy, attended the meeting to introduce herself to the community, departing shortly thereafter.

Council Member Goodman was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following written report:

- The next Lunch with Lisa is August 20, Noon at University of St. Thomas and features a Nicollet Mall redesign plan update.
- Public meetings will be held for proposed ordinance changes for residential infill. July 16: Public Open House, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at City Hall; July 28: City Planning Commission Public Hearing, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall; and August 21: Zoning and Planning Commission.
- Public meetings will be held regarding Accessory Dwellings (increasing density by allowing additional dwelling units in areas zoned for single family homes such as garage apartments): August 12, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N and August 23, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Hosmer Library, 347 E 36th St.

Bridge for Youth

The speaker from the Bridge for Youth was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Bridge will attend the August 19 EIRA Board meeting (or provide a written update) to discuss present and future uses of its facilities in East Isles.

Open Forum

- Reminder that all EIRA Board and Committee members are required to renew their EIRA membership yearly.
- An amendment will be on the November ballot to increase filing fees for candidates of an elected office in Minneapolis.
- The EIRA Board approved a motion to elevate Maria Bales from Alternate to Director fill a vacancy on the EIRA Board.
- If a boulevard tree is removed (eg: dying or diseased), the Park Board does not replace the tree unless specifically requested by the property owner.

REPORTS

Staff Report

- Conflict of Interest forms need to be completed by board and committee members each year.
- Debra Behrens was elected to Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) District 6.
- Construction on Lake Street: CenterPoint Energy is replacing a natural gas pipeline on Lake Street. Construction will continue through September. Go to www.centerpointenergy.com/construction for more information and to sign up for email updates.

NRP Committee

- The next meeting is August 11, 5:45 pm at Grace. The agenda will include reviewing the Green Team's three-month budget, discussing implementing additional strategies and outreach regarding boulevard tree replanting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the financials for the 2nd quarter of 2014. Degerstrom will contact the IRS for an update on EIRA's 501(c)(4) application.

Transportation Committee

The June 26th meeting included creating this mission statement: "The Transportation Committee fosters equitable, safe, sustainable, and multi-modal transportation options for all of the residents, workers, and visitor of the East Isles neighborhood." Also discussed were goals and issues to work on including information campaign to make property owners more aware of pedestrian issues; bike safety issues; parking violations; bus stop improvements; and Mall/Greenway safety issues.

The next meeting is Thursday, July 24, 7 pm at Grace featuring a guest speaker from Metro Transit to discuss transit planning.

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

The June 17th meeting included a presentation by the 70/30 restaurant group. The EIRA Board approved the following recommendation by the Zoning Committee:

Whereas, the East Isles Residents Association was approached by the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association and a representative on behalf of Minneapolis 70/30 restaurants asking for a resolution of support for amending the Minneapolis City Charter to remove certain provisions pertaining to alcohol, commonly referred to as the 70/30 Charter amendments, and

Whereas, the East Isles Residents Association represents all of the residents of the East Isles neighborhood, and

Whereas, in the event of a Charter referendum, the residents of East Isles will register their own opinions at the ballot box on Election Day;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the East Isles Residents Association takes no position on the proposed 70/30 amendments to the Minneapolis City Charter.

Be it further resolved, the East Isles Residents Association encourages community discussion regarding the proposed 70/30 Charter amendments.

The 70/30 group will be invited to host an information table at the East Isles Ice Cream Social to educate residents about the proposed charter amendment.

Also at the June 17th meeting: Lake & Irving Restaurant, 1513 W Lake St presented plans for outdoor seating (on east side of building and a sidewalk café on Lake St). The public hearing was held the afternoon of July 8 (preceding the July 8 EIRA Board meeting) so the committee did not have time to make a formal recommendation to the EIRA Board.

The owner of 2208 Irving Ave S is working with the City on plans to demolish the property and rebuild a single-family home.

An application has been filed to nominate the Thomas Lowry Memorial for designation as a landmark.

Public Hearing for Conservation District Ordinance at the Heritage Preservation Commission meeting on July 22, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. City staff anticipates the Zoning and Planning Committee of the City Council will review the ordinance on August 7, 9:30 a.m. forwarding their recommendation for action by the full City Council on August 15, 9:30 a.m.

The next committee meeting scheduled for July 15 may be cancelled if there are no agenda items.

Social Committee

Volunteers are needed to staff EIRA's pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair, August 1-3. Contact events@eastisles.org to help.

Planning is underway for the Ice Cream Social on August 28, 6-9 p.m. Volunteers are needed, contact events@eastisles.org to help. The EIRA Board approved funding to place two ads in the Hill and Lake Press to promote the event.

Green Team

The EIRA Board approved the budget for the 3rd annual Super Sale.

Upcoming events:

- August 5: National Night Out – the Green Team will be providing green tips
- September 6: Super Sale
- Fall program, tentative date September 28. The Green Team is considering topics (Dan Buettner was invited to speak but is unavailable at this time).

Community Solar

Green Team member Gerardo Ruiz discussed Community Solar. Minnesota law is changing to allow for centrally-located solar panels that provide electricity to participating subscribers. The details (such as rates) are not yet finalized. The Green Team is interested in developing a questionnaire that could help in the selection process of choosing a developer and possibly working on a solar project in the neighborhood (perhaps in partnership with other neighborhood entities).

EIRA Board member Drew Moratzka (absent July 8) has offered pro bono legal services of the law firm of Stoel Rives, his employer, in developing the questionnaire. He, along with EIRA Board member and EIRA Green Team member Bill Elwood (absent July 8), are requesting the EIRA Board agree to proposed terms of the Letter of Engagement from the firm and sign it. No action was taken on the Letter following brief conversation, expression of concerns, questions posed, and additional information shared with those present. The EIRA Board will continue the discussion at the August meeting. A representative from Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs) will be invited to the meeting to add another perspective to the conversation.

Parks Committee

The meeting on June 11 included: update on Smith Triangle Park and the clean up event; discussion of Nice Ride station on parkland at Lake St and E. Calhoun Pkwy based on a concerns by a nearby resident (concerns were not shared by most participants who attended the Parks Committee meeting); continued improvements to Joanne Levin Triangle Park; and parkland at the top of The Mall adjacent to Walker Library (Commissioner Anita Tabb will be invited to an upcoming EIRA Board meeting to discuss plans for this area).

Board Review

- The board reviewed EIRA's committees' purposes and rosters.
- The board did not have any feedback to send to the City on the draft of the Community Innovation Fund program.
- Dan McLaughlin will be EIRA's representative to the Art Selection Committee for the Walker Library.
- The EIRA Board approved an expenditure policy stating that Committees shall seek approval for any expenditure in any amount from the EIRA Board prior to the expenditure. In the rare circumstance that an expense arises and time constraints do not allow for approval by the EIRA Board, the committee may seek approval of the expenditure from EIRA President (or Vice President if the President is unavailable). Maximum amount is \$500. This policy will be reviewed yearly.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 7 p.m. at The Bridge for Youth, 1111 W 22nd St.