

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
May 20, 2014
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bill Elwood, Donna Jansen, Drew Moratzka, 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.

Guest Speaker: Molly Broder, Broder's Pasta Bar and Jennifer Borger, Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association

Broder and Borger presented information about a proposed change to the Minneapolis Charter.

Most restaurants in Minneapolis are governed by City ordinances with the exception of about 70 restaurants in neighborhood nodes with a "Charter Wine License" (beer and wine license). These restaurants are governed by the Minneapolis Charter that dictates some of the regulations regarding liquor sales including the ratio of food (70%) to alcohol (30%) based on receipts and whether one can be served alcohol before ordering food. There is one restaurant with this type of license in East Isles: JJ's Coffee & Wine Bistro.

The increase demand for craft beer and fine wines make it difficult for restaurants to comply with the 30% alcohol limit.

These restaurants are seeking to be governed by ordinance (not by the Charter). To move an item from the Charter to an ordinance requires either a unanimous vote by the City Council or a ballot initiative. The issue will be on the ballot in the November election.

The Charter Commission is holding a public hearing on the matter on June 4, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The 70/30 restaurant group is seeking EIRA's support for moving the regulatory authority from City Charter to ordinance. If the 70/30 restaurant group is successful, it will propose amending various aspects of what is now known as the Charter Wine License, including the food to alcohol ratio and service restrictions. Such amendments would go through the process applicable to any change to a City ordinance.

The EIRA Board wanted more information and voted to have EIRA's Zoning Committee discuss this issue in more detail at their June 17th meeting (5 pm at Grace).

EIRA Board business

The 2014-15 EIRA officers were elected: Dan McLaughlin, President; Vaughn Emerson, Vice President; Nicole Engel-Nitz, Secretary; and Andrew Degerstrom, Treasurer.

EIRA has two open Board of Director positions. The two Alternates will be invited to fill the vacant seats. If one or both of the Alternates is not prepared to fill the vacant seat, the EIRA Board may appoint someone to the position.

The Board thanked Linda Schutz for her work on the recent EIRA Board elections.

Open Forum

Lowry Hill resident Kathy Spraitz attended the meeting to discuss making improvements to the warming house at the Lake of the Isles ice rink. The Board referred Ms. Spraitz to EIRA's Parks Committee to discuss the idea further.

REPORTS

Zoning Committee

The May 20th meeting was cancelled because there were no agenda items.

The April 15th meeting included a presentation by Lake & Irving Restaurant, 1513 W Lake St (in ECCO) to discuss their plans to expand the restaurant to include an outdoor patio with 20 seats on the east side of the building and to change their entertainment license from "D" to "C1" to allow for live music of up to five musicians (indoors only). A nearby landlord attended the meeting to learn about the plans and any potential noise impact on tenants of her apartment building. The Zoning Committee recommended that the EIRA Board approved a motion to support the plans as presented on April 15, contingent upon ECCO's position on the project. The Board approved the recommendation. A public meeting will be held.

On May 20th, Lake & Irving informed EIRA in writing that they are applying for a temporary expansion of license to close off their parking lot on Friday, June 13, from 3-10 pm during the NorthStar Bike Race. Access to their parking lot will be blocked that evening because of the bike race.

The Zoning Committee continues to work on developing a process document and developing green guidelines. A meeting was held with four other neighborhoods to share the green guidelines. The group will meet again in June to further discuss the idea.

The 16Twenty mixed-use development (1620 W Lake St, 1618 W Lake St, and 2915 James Ave S) was approved by the Planning Commission on May 5th with the CUP and variances as previously presented to EIRA.

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee is June 17, 5:00 pm at Grace.

Transportation Committee

The EIRA Board appointed Andrew Degerstrom as the new Chair of the Transportation Committee.

People interested in serving on the committee can contact nrp@eastisles.org.

NRP Committee

The next meeting of the NRP Committee will be either August 11 or August 14.

Andrew Degerstrom will join the NRP Committee as the representative from the EIRA Board.

Monica Smith reviewed EIRA's NRP/CPP funding.

The EIRA Board selected Andrew Degerstrom as the Elector and Jerome Ryan as Alternate Elector to represent East Isles at the election for Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, District 6 on June 12. There are two candidates seeking the District 6 seat; they will be invited to the June 10 EIRA Board meeting to discuss their desire to serve on the commission.

Funding requests: there are times when funding requests come from committees between EIRA Board meetings. The EIRA Board approved the following for the next 12-month period: Dan McLaughlin (President) is authorized to approve an expense of up to \$500 as long as the expense is within the budget. Any approved expense will be reported at the next EIRA Board meeting. This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Green Team, Betsy Allis

The Living Green Festival will be held on Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (rain date is June 1) at Triangle Park, co-hosted by the Green Team and Social Committee. The event features live music, plant swap, dynamic green stations and a healthy snack potluck.

The Green Team is forming a core team to work on a proposal for a community solar project in East Isles. The Board discussed, and was comfortable with, talking with other neighborhood organizations such as Linden Hills and Lowry Hill, about the feasibility of joining together on a Community Solar Garden project proposal.

The EIRA Board approved the Green Team budget of \$1008 for upcoming projects/events and \$105 of unrestricted EIRA funds for food at events. Since the budget requests, in writing, were unavailable during the meeting, it was requested that it be emailed to the EIRA Board thereafter.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

The annual Ice Cream Social will be Thursday, August 28 with a total budget of \$2,153 (\$640 from CPP funds and the balance from EIRA unrestricted funds). A printed budget request was distributed to the Board at the time of its decision-making.

The Social Committee is seeking donations from area businesses to help offset the expenses.

East Isles will staff a pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair as a fundraising activity for EIRA.

Smith Triangle Subcommittee, Donna Jansen

The committee met on Monday, May 12 and is planning a park clean up for Saturday, June 7, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (rain date is June 8). The EIRA Board approved a \$25 contingency budget for snacks/beverages for volunteers. The landscape architect student who volunteered to help with Smith Triangle has not provided any services; the Parks Committee terminated their agreement with the student.

The committee was interested in working with the Lowry Hill District to expand their vinyl wrap project to include utility boxes in Smith Triangle. Specific costs have not yet been provided so the board was not prepared to act. The Parks Committee may choose to pursue the idea to present to the EIRA Board in the future.

Insurance

EIRA's Directors and Officers insurance is expiring in June. Two optional policies were reviewed. The EIRA Board voted to renew the existing individual policy with a two-year term (paid annually). EIRA is not obligated to continue the policy for the second year if it chooses not to do so.

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

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.