

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
May 12, 2015
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (9 of 11): Dan McLaughlin (Outgoing President), Andrew Degerstrom (President), Carla Pardue (Vice-President), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Bill Elwood, Jasna Hadzic, Saleem Karmaliani, Pete Mason, and Amy Sanborn. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA Outgoing President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The board approved the revised agenda.

EIRA Board business

The 2015-16 EIRA officers were elected: Andrew Degerstrom, President; Carla Pardue, Vice President; Nicole Engel-Nitz, Secretary; and Brian Milavitz, Treasurer.

Open Forum

- A certificate of appreciation was presented to Dan McLaughlin for his service to the neighborhood.
- A winter music festival is being planned (near the lagoon between Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles) in conjunction with the City of Lakes Loppet (February 5-7, 2016). A representative from the Loppet offered to meet with the EIRA Board.
- A board member expressed concern for an elderly person who may be homeless and living on The Mall. The County can provide supportive services.
- Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) is offering Learning Labs. Upcoming sessions are: May 27 – Tips for Neighborhood Organizing and June 30 – Financial Management. Sessions begins at 6:30 p.m. at 105 5th Avenue South.

Dan McLaughlin departed and Andrew Degerstrom presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Staff Report

- The Community Participation Program (CPP) budget was reviewed.
- The EIRA Board voted to renew the Directors and Officers insurance policy.
- Reminder that board members need to sign the conflict of interest policy each year. The board issued a directive to have all of the committee members review and sign the policy.
- The board approved \$1500 for the annual membership mailing and \$250 to create an updated mailing list.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

- Lunch with Lisa Field Trip is May 20, noon at the Emergency Response Center. Registration for the event is required.
- The Bridge for Youth is selling the properties at 2200 Emerson Ave S and 1209 W 22nd St through a call for offers process.
- The Planning Commission approved the application for “Seventeen10” at 1708-14 W Lake St.
- Council Member Goodman supports the renovation project at Temple Israel.

REPORTS

Zoning Committee

Temple Israel: The Zoning Committee recommended that the EIRA Board support the Temple Israel renovation project. The board approved the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Temple Israel's Land Use Applications

Whereas, Temple Israel, located at 2324 Emerson Ave S, is proposing a renovation and expansion of their current building, and,

Whereas, part of the project involves rebuilding and expanding their existing early childhood center and preschool, and,

Whereas, an early childhood center and preschool are conditional uses in the R4 Multiple-Family Residence district, and,

Whereas, the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the conditional use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or general welfare, and,

Whereas, the conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of surrounding properties for permitted uses in the district, and,

Whereas, adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary features, or other measures have been or will be provided, and,

Whereas, adequate measures have been or will be taken to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets, and,

Whereas, the conditional use is consistent with the applicable policies of the comprehensive plan, and,

Whereas, the conditional use, shall, in all other respects, conform to the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located, and

Whereas, Temple Israel plans to construct a playground in the rear yard along Fremont Ave S, and,

Whereas, the specific development standards do not allow for the placement of playground equipment in required rear yards, and,

Whereas, practical difficulties exist in complying with the zoning ordinance because of circumstances unique to the property, and,

Whereas, Temple Israel proposes to use the playground in a reasonable manner that will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan, and,

Whereas, granting a variance will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity, and,

Whereas, granting a variance will not be detrimental to the health, safety or welfare of the general public or of those utilizing the property of nearby properties, and,

Whereas, Temple Israel plans to build a retaining wall, fence, and gate around the playground that will most likely encroach onto the public sidewalk,

Therefore, be it resolved that the East Isles Residents Association supports the following:

- 1. An expansion of an existing conditional use permit to allow for an early childhood center and preschool in the R4 Multiple-Family Residence District**
- 2. A variance from the specific development standards to allow for the placement of playground equipment in the required rear yard**
- 3. An encroachment permit to allow for a retaining wall, fence, and gate around the proposed playground**

A public hearing is expected to be held by the Planning Commission on June 15. Construction will begin August 1, 2015 and will be completed in 12 months.

2505 E Lake of the Isles Parkway: The Zoning Committee recommends that the EIRA Board support the variances for the new home construction. The board approved the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Land Use Applications for 2505 E Lake of the Isles Parkway

Whereas, the applicant proposes to build a new single-family residence at 2505 E Lake of the Isles Parkway, and,

Whereas, practical difficulties exist in complying with the zoning code because of circumstances unique to the property, and,

Whereas, the property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner that will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and comprehensive plan, and,

Whereas, the proposed variances will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity

Therefore, be it resolved that the East Isles Residents Association supports variances for the following:

- 1. To permit development within forty feet of a steep slope in the Shoreland Overlay District**
- 2. To vary the yard requirements, specifically front yard encroachment, to allow for an at-grade terrace**
- 3. To increase the maximum height of a retaining wall from three to four feet**

Barbette, 1600 W Lake St, notified EIRA that they are applying for a permit for the Bastille Day Block Party on July 12. Irving Ave will be closed between Lake St and Lagoon from 10:30 a.m. – midnight.

The City is evaluating changes for the zoning ordinance affecting the number of parking spaces for apartments/condos in areas well served by public transportation. A public open house will be held on May 21, Mill City Museum, 704 S 2nd St, 5:30 – 7 pm.

The restaurant tenant at 1800 Lake is interested in expanding their kitchen facilities that would require

additional equipment on the roof of the building (in the Shoreland Overlay District). EIRA will ask for a written description of the equipment and will invite them to an upcoming meeting if there are concerns.

The May 19th Zoning Committee meeting will be cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Transportation Committee

With his new duties as EIRA's President, Andrew Degerstrom is resigning as the committee chair.

The City is conducting a Multimodal Transportation Study for the area around the proposed West Lake Station of the Southwest LRT. Public feedback is needed. Take an online survey and give feedback on an interactive map at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-138480.

Outreach & Nominations

The committee worked to recruit 11 board members and one alternate for the 2015-16 EIRA Board and will continue its work in the coming year.

NRP Committee

The next meeting will be June 1, 5:30 p.m. at Grace to discuss purchasing and installing new park benches for The Mall using NRP funds. The committee will also review a draft of a policy created by NCR for unspent NRP funds for possible feedback. Comments are due by June 26.

Green Team

Plant Swap, May 31, 1-3 pm at the Demonstration Raingarden, 2871 Humboldt.

The board approved the budget (expected expenses \$590; expected revenue \$600) for the Super Sale, September 12.

The Green Team is promoting community gardens for rental property.

The Green Team is also working on two efforts: Lake Street Challenge (the plan will be presented at the June board meeting) and community solar.

Social Committee

The Ice Cream Social will be July 30. EIRA will likely organize volunteers for the Uptown Art Fair pop booth fundraiser.

Board Review

Summer meeting schedule: the board will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month at Grace.

Saleem Karmaliani will represent EIRA at the Uptown priorities meeting organized by the Uptown Association.

The board approved sending flowers to a board member who recently had surgery.

In accordance with EIRA Bylaws, Article 5, Section 15, the remainder of the meeting was held in closed session for the purpose of discussing the Search Committee's recommendation for the hiring of a new Coordinator. The EIRA Board approved the recommendation to hire John Louis effective May 18. Monica Smith will work with John during a transition period through the June board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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, June 9, 2015, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.