

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
November 11, 2014
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (7 of 10): Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Jasna Hadzic, Nancy Johnston, 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

- Yard waste is being collected through November 17.
- Later with Lisa, Monday, December 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Normandy (free food and cash bar).
- 2015 city budget public hearings: November 18 and December 10, both at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Planning Commission passed the Accessory Dwelling Unit amendment. Goodman will support the amendment when it comes before the City Council.
- The home at 2505 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy will be demolished. Peterssen/Keller Architecture is designing a new home for the property.
- A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance. The judge has yet to rule on damages and a solution.
- Re: consolidated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district funding for neighborhood revitalization, Goodman believes the term is broad and that the city can spend money on neighborhood revitalization without giving money directly to neighborhood organizations.

Janet Hallaway, Development Director, Bridge for Youth

The city approved the conditional use permit to consolidate their operations into their main building at 1111 W 22nd St. The Bridge did not expand the number of youth that they serve (24 youth) ages 10-17. The youth to staff ration is 10:1. If East Isles residents have questions or concerns, they are encouraged to speak with Dan Pfarr, Executive Director.

The Bridge owns two other properties: 2200 Emerson Ave S and 1209 W 22nd St. The property at 2200 Emerson is currently vacant; the property at 1209 W 22nd was being lease to a nonprofit (StreetWorks) but they are in the process of closing and vacating the building. The Bridge has not made any decisions on the fate of the two properties.

The Bridge has a “Good Neighbors Group” and welcomes additional participation from East Isles residents.

New Board of Directors

The EIRA Board appointed Jasna Hadzic and Nancy Johnston to fill vacancies on the EIRA Board of Directors.

Open Forum

Andrew Degerstrom reported that he attended the Planning Commission hearing for Accessory Dwelling Units; 15 people spoke at the hearing and all were supportive.

REPORTS

Zoning Committee, Monica Smith

Scott Nelson, DJR Architecture and Daniel Oberpriller, CPM attended the September and October meetings of EIRA's Zoning Committee to present plans for a 6-story, 70 ft tall, 45-unit apartment building at the SW corner of Lagoon Ave and Irving Ave S (1609 and 1611 Lagoon and 2910 Irving). The property is zoned R6 within Shoreland Overlay (which restricts height to 2.5 stories/35 ft). The Planning Commission unanimously approved the project on November 10 with a conditional use permit for the height of the building, variances for setbacks on all four sides, and a variance for impervious surface area.

Nelson and Oberpriller attended the EIRA Board meeting to offer two options for the façade that were in response to the EIRA's Zoning Committee's concerns about height and massing.

The EIRA Board approved a motion to endorse the original design as submitted to the Planning Commission (vote: 4 yes, 1 oppose, 3 abstain).

The EIRA Board did not act on the following recommendation by the EIRA Zoning Committee because the Planning Commission had already approved the project (on 11-10-14): "The EIRA Zoning Committee has concerns about the apparent height from street level on Lagoon Avenue and Irving Avenue because of the existing Shoreland Overlay District requirements. These concerns could be mitigated by a 4-story street face on Irving similar to that on Lagoon to maintain consistency with nearby properties. In addition, we ask that the massing of the 5th and 6th floors facing Irving be broken up."

Outreach & Nominations, Linda Schutz

The committee is continuing to recruit one new board member to serve the remainder of this term. Current board members should consider leadership opportunities as the terms for our current president and vice president are up in April. Linda Schutz will resign as the committee chair effective 12/31/14.

Treasurer's Report, Andrew Degerstrom

The financial records since July 1 were reviewed.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The EIRA Board approved a draft of a letter to the Park Board regarding snow removal on The Mall sidewalks, Midtown Greenway, and Lake of the Isles bike/ped paths.

The committee will also draft a letter to residents with tips for safely clearing snow. The letter will be included in the next e-newsletter and on our website (www.eastisles.org), Facebook page, and NextDoor site.

The committee will review Metro Transit's Service Improvement Plan and make comments by the November 30th deadline (with a caveat that the feedback has not yet been endorsed by the EIRA Board).

NRP Committee, Monica Smith and Nancy Johnston

The EIRA Board approved the following recommendations:

- Extend the following NRP contracts for two years (until 12/31/16): home security grants, sustainable practices (Green Team), Phase II implementation, and the Phase I miscellaneous contract.
- Extend the affordable housing contract with Nonprofits Assistance Fund for six-month (until 6-30-15).

The TIF district that funds neighborhood revitalization and Target Center debt is expected to generate more revenue than projected. The mayor's 2015 budget directs the surplus to purposes outside of the traditional uses of the money. Nancy Johnston prepared a letter to be sent to the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee in advance of the public hearing for neighborhood funding on November 17th. The letter outlines the purpose and goals of Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) as well as the successes and lessons learned. The letter closes with a request to continue the current level of funding for neighborhood revitalization purposes and support of neighborhood associations through the NRP and Community Participation Program (CPP) or to restore the NRP funds that were withdrawn from neighborhoods in 2010. The EIRA Board approved a motion to support the letter and to appoint Nancy Johnston to represent the board at the hearing (1 vote to oppose).

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

The Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held in 2015.

The Social Committee is organizing volunteers to help with the City of Lakes Loppet.

Green Team, Monica Smith

The Green Team is sponsoring a program on food in January with a goal to engage residents in eating for personal health and health of the planet. The Solar Working group is creating a questionnaire to assess individual solar developers and a marketing/communications plan. Progress has been slow as developers take time to create their programs.

Bill Elwood was invited to join a neighborhood solar advisory team sponsored by the City of Minneapolis Office of Sustainability and CERTS. The team will help the city in its goal to support neighborhoods in community solar. The city will be creating its own community solar garden.

The Green Team will organize green parties in 2015 to stimulate interest in working on green projects.

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, December 9, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.