

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
September 16, 2014  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (7 of 8): Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bill Elwood, 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 7:10 p.m.

**Open Forum**

A memorial service for Donna Jansen was held on September 9.

**REPORTS**

**Zoning Committee, Allan Amis**

The Zoning Committee meeting held on September 16 included the following:

Scott Nelson, DJR Architecture and Daniel Oberpriller, CPM presented preliminary plans for a six-story/70 ft tall, 45-unit apartment building on the SW corner of Lagoon and Irving (1609 and 1611 Lagoon and 2910 Irving Ave S) which currently includes four residential buildings. The project site is currently zoned R6 with Shoreland Overlay. CPM is seeking variances for setbacks on all sides (requesting 5' setback from the required 15-18') and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the building height of 70' (the Shoreland Overlay District restricts height to 2.5 stories/35'). The project includes 1-story of underground parking, which was reported to be 4' above the water table. Shadow studies were not available. The Zoning Committee will informally communicate their concerns to the developer about the height of the building in the Shoreland Overlay District and as it relates to the Uptown Small Area Plan. The developers are meeting with the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole on September 25 and will come back to the EIRA Zoning Committee on October 21st.

Janet Hallaway from The Bridge for Youth attended the Zoning Committee meeting to discuss their request for a CUP to serve 17-32 youth. The Bridge is not increasing the number of youth (24) that they serve, but the city requires a new CUP since The Bridge recently consolidated their programs into one building (1111 W 22<sup>nd</sup> St). Concerns were raised that the EIRA Board did not have sufficient information to ensure that The Bridge meets the conditions of the CUP. A motion was made to accept the Zoning Committee's recommendation that "EIRA recommends approval of the CUP for community residential housing serving 17-32 persons requested by The Bridge for Youth." That motion failed (2 yea – 5 oppose). The following motion (6 yea – 1 oppose) was approved and will be sent to The Bridge and the city: "EIRA appreciates the role The Bridge plays but we are concerned about details of the proposal and need more information before we can make a final determination." The EIRA Board will invite The Bridge to the next board meeting (November 11). The City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the CUP on September 29, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU): the final community meeting is September 17, 7:00 p.m. at Kenwood Community Center. The comment period closes on September 24. The ordinance has not yet been drafted but it will require that the primary structure be homesteaded. The ADU may be detached, attached or interior and must meet requirements of the zoning code and match the architecture of the primary structure.

Giordano's Pizza, a Chicago-based pizza company is looking to open a restaurant at 2700 Hennepin in April 2015. They are working with the city to determine the necessary requirements. They will be seeking an On-Sale Liquor License with Sunday Sales and a Class E entertainment license (TVs and recorded music).

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, October 21, 5 pm at Grace.

**Outreach & Nominations, Linda Schutz**

The committee is actively recruiting three new board members to serve the remainder of this term. Candidates will submit answers to three questions about their interest in serving on the board (deadline October 12). The board will appoint new members at the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Social Committee, Amy Sanborn**

Despite the threatening rain, the August 28<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social was a success. Amy shared a letter from The Bridge for Youth thanking EIRA for the donation of unused ice cream from the event. The Wine Tasting Fundraiser will not be held this fall. The Social Committee is interested in organizing volunteers for the City of Lakes Loppet.

**Treasurer's Report, Andrew Degerstrom**

The computer generated check expense was \$127. Regarding EIRA's status with the IRS: The 501(c)(4) status was approved pending EIRA's filing Form 990 returns for years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

**Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom**

The committee did not meet in August due to a conflict with the Ice Cream Social. The next meeting is Thursday, September 25, 7 pm at Grace.

**Staff Report, Monica Smith**

Over 100 membership forms with \$1700 in donations have been received to date.

CenterPoint Energy construction on Lake St is nearly complete. The repaving project will begin soon.

The Friends of Walker Library are interested in seeking input from the neighborhoods about ideas for programming. They will be invited to an upcoming meeting.

**NRP Committee, Monica Smith**

The next meeting is Monday, October 6, 5:45 pm at Grace.

**Green Team, Bill Elwood**

The Super Sale on September 6 was a success with 42 participating households and 9 sponsors. Thanks to organizers Jenika McGann and Shelly Itman.

The community solar team held a planning meeting on September 15.

Upcoming event:

- Healthy Homes, Healthy Families, Thursday, October 2, 10-11:30 am ---daytime program to raise awareness about everyday household toxins.

## **Board Review**

Linda Schutz presented the results from the April 2014 annual meeting evaluations. Overall, respondents were very satisfied with the meeting and the Uptown Diner location.

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at Grace. Social time from 6:30-7 pm. The meeting will begin at 7 pm and feature a panel discussion of elected officials, followed by committee reports. \$50 budget for refreshments was approved.

The EIRA Board discussed a proposed addition to the EIRA Mission Statement to include “preserve and improve our natural environment” as a primary goal. The board decided to carry this decision over to the November 11 board meeting.

Status of permit from Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to EIRA for planting on the Midtown Greenway (from 2003). This agreement remains in place but it is unclear if anyone from East Isles is maintaining the plantings. The board unanimously approved a motion to defer for future discussion by the Parks Committee.

Ash tree identification program: The Park Board is seeking partners to help with a campaign to help raise awareness of Emerald Ash Borer. The board will send the request to the Green Team and inquire whether they would add this project to their agenda.

The Minneapolis City Council approved municipal consent for Southwest Light Rail Transit by a vote of 10-3.

The November 11 board meeting will include a discussion about crime and the potential to fund additional patrols in the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org).

The next meeting is the Semi-Annual Members Meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 6:30 p.m. social time; meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> St.