

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the Members Semi-Annual Meeting  
October 23, 2012  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

23 East Isles residents and invited guests attended the meeting.

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

**Guest Speaker David C. Smith**

David Smith, author of *City of Parks: The Story of Minneapolis Parks*, spoke about the history of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MRBR) and the parklands in and around East Isles. Smith has also written a brief history of every Minneapolis park for the MPRB website ([www.minneapolisparkehistory.com](http://www.minneapolisparkehistory.com)) and continues to write on the subject of parks and Minneapolis history at [www.minneapolisparkehistory.com](http://www.minneapolisparkehistory.com).

**Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member, City of Minneapolis**

- Residents are invited to participate in Minneapolis City Academy, a five-week program (beginning the week of October 29) designed to give residents an introduction to the various City functions.

**Membership Vote**

The Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department of the City of Minneapolis has asked EIRA to revised its bylaws to better comply with the guidelines for the Community Participation Program (CPP). Copies of the proposed Amendment #1 were made available to members. Changes to the bylaws requires approval of 2/3 of members present at a general membership meeting.

Amendment #1 relates to EIRA Bylaws Article VI, Committees, Section 2, on Qualifications. It is intended to amend something previously adopted, by dropping a single sentence, to eliminate nine (9) words, and strike this language from the bylaws: "All committee members must be approved by the board."

Members present unanimously approved the motion that "EIRA members amend the language of the EIRA bylaws as proposed in Amendment #1, and that this be done by 2/3 affirmative vote of those EIRA members tonight."

**Smith Triangle Park Survey results**

Renee Gust, Chair of the Smith Triangle Park sub-committee gave a report. The Zoning Committee was discussing Smith Triangle Park, 2330 Hennepin Ave S, and the possible request that the Thomas Lowry statue be moved from Smith Triangle Park to Thomas Lowry Park. A sub-committee was formed to study this issue further. A survey was created and sent to all East Isles residents, it included a one-page history of Thomas Lowry and the statue (researched and written by Linda Schutz) and the following three questions:

- Please describe what you think about Smith Triangle Park?
- Please describe what you think should be done to enhance the park?
- Do you have any comments, suggestions or ideas regarding the monument?

Thirty-seven surveys were completed and returned. Most respondents reported that they think the park is neglected and unkempt and efforts should be made to improve landscaping. Many respondents mentioned that the park should have more inviting amenities. Most respondents supported the statue and monument stay in Smith Triangle Park but that it needs cleaning and maintenance.

It was suggested to use NRP funds to make improvements to the park.

The committee will check with the Park Board about their plans for Smith Triangle Park.

Special thanks to committee members: Helen Ackerman, Rosita Acosta, Renee Gust, Donna Jansen, Linda Schutz and Richard White.

### **Announcements**

- Fall street sweeping is scheduled in East Isles for the weeks of October 29 and November 5. Watch for No Parking signs.
- The Park Board recently conducted a design charrette for North Lake Calhoun and South Lake of the Isles. For more information, see the article in the October issue of the Hill and Lake Press and go to [www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1398](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1398).
- The Walker Library has closed and will not be a polling place this year. To confirm your polling place, go to [www.MNVOTES.org](http://www.MNVOTES.org).

### **Neighborhood Priority Setting**

Monica Smith gave an overview of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), a 20-year City of Minneapolis program that provided funding to neighborhoods to make improvements based on the needs of each neighborhood. The NRP program is phasing out; there is no new funding for this program. East Isles is spending down its NRP funds and continues to offer programs to help residents: low-interest home improvement loans and home security grants (for more information, go to [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org)).

As NRP was phasing out, the City started the Community Participation Program (CPP) in January 2011 to keep neighborhood organizations functioning. The funding was for communications, outreach and administration. EIRA received \$30,000 for the first 18-month cycle. The second 18-month cycle started July 1, 2012 and EIRA received \$53,000. In this cycle, neighborhoods are allowed to set aside funds for Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP). Each neighborhood is required to submit a NPP to the City by December 2013. A Neighborhood Priority Plan is a neighborhood-generated initiative for improvement. Partners will be identified and the City must approve a formal application. EIRA has allocated \$18,000 to a NPP.

The EIRA Board identified some potential NPP projects and members were invited to offer additional suggestions. Ideas were presented and members were allowed three votes on the ideas. The results:

- 12 votes: Beautification of “The Mall”
- 12 votes: Lake of the Isles, parkland clean-up and reduce milfoil
- 6 votes: Revitalize Smith Triangle Park and the Lowry statue/monument
- 5 votes: Create more social events
- 5 votes: Create Transportation Committee
- 3 votes: Create Hennepin Ave traffic management plan
- 4 votes: Develop legal capacity for EIRA
- 3 votes: Parks & green space: develop projects to encourage a more walkable community
- 3 votes: Environment: work with partners to engage residents in improving energy efficiency and water quality (i.e. rain gardens)
- 3 votes: Environment: Organize by blocks to reduce, reuse and recycle waste including food and water.

The results will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting of the EIRA Board to establish the next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The evening concluded with socializing and refreshments.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28<sup>th</sup> St.