

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
June 11, 2013
Bridge for Youth

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Antone Melton-Meaux (Secretary), Candace Dow, Nicole Engel-Nitz, Renee Gust, Donna Jansen, Carla Pardue, Michael Rossini and Linda Schutz. Alternate Bill Elwood and other East Isles residents and guests were also present.

EIRA President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Leslie Foreman, Policy Aide to Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

- The City continues to work with the developer of 1800 Lake to find a permanent solution for the groundwater discharge issue. The developer, CPM, is proposing a new development at the northeast corner of W Lake St and James Ave S.
- CM Tuthill hired an Urban Scholars intern to work with multi-unit buildings to ensure that they are in compliance with the City's recycling ordinance.
- The City is promoting bicycle safety with a series of new posters.
- Single sort recycling has been rolled out citywide.
- Nature Valley Grand Prix is June 14 in Uptown.
- Open Streets – June 23, 10 am – 4 pm on Lyndale Ave between 22nd and 42th Streets.
- To prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, don't prune Ash trees between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- A new ordinance bans recreational fires on air quality alert days.

REPORTS

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

- Plans are underway for the Ice Cream Social – Thursday, August 15 at Levin Triangle Park.
- EIRA will be staffing a pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair. Contact Amy at events@eastisles.org to volunteer for a shift.
- The East Isles Facebook page is up and running. Please “like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastislesresidentsassociation

Zoning Committee

Monica Smith reported on the May 21st meeting of the Zoning Committee:

- Presentation for a new restaurant at 1513 W Lake St (in East Calhoun). The restaurant will be chef-driven concept with 80-90 seats serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and include a full bar featuring craft beers, wine and liquor. The committee took no action.
- Allan Amis volunteered to serve as the committee Chair; Jill Waite will be the Vice-Chair.
- Recommendation that the Smith Triangle Subcommittee be moved from Zoning to become a subcommittee of the new Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

Next meeting is June 18, 5 pm at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St. Agenda will include a presentation of a feasibility study for a new mixed-use development at the northeast corner of W Lake St and James Ave S (1618 W Lake St, 1620 W Lake St and 2915 James Ave S) and a Uptown Small Area Plan primer by Lara Norkus-Crampton. All are welcome.

Smith Triangle Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Renee Gust thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Smith Triangle Park clean up on June 8. Another clean up will be scheduled for the fall.

A letter of solicitation was sent on June 6th to the University of Minnesota Department of Landscape Architecture inquiring about possible graduate student involvement in public engagement and design work for Smith Triangle Park. We are awaiting a response. The Park Board owns the property and has final authority of any designs and stipulates three important factors: simplicity, ease of maintenance and sustainability. EIRA members may request a copy of the letter by sending an email to nrp@eastisles.org.

Linda Schutz, Outreach & Nominations (O&N) Committee

- A 12-page report of the 2013 O&N Committee was forwarded to the EIRA Board last week. The Board confirmed receipt of the report. EIRA members may request a copy of the report by sending an email to nrp@eastisles.org.
- The report included seven recommendations that will be discussed at the July meeting of the EIRA Board.

Betsy Allis, Green Team

The EIRA Board approved the request for funding by the Green Team for:

- Up to \$700 for multi-purpose banner(s) and permanent stand for Green Team and EIRA events (using NRP funds). Betsy Allis and Amy Sanborn to work together on the details of the banners.
- \$200 of operating expenses for the Green Team for the next four months. Food related expenses come out of EIRA unrestricted funds.
- Budget of \$548 for the 2nd annual Super Sale (Sept 7). Projected income is \$550 (including income from sales and corporate sponsors).

Betsy Allis shared information that the utility contracts for Xcel Energy and Centerpoint Energy are up for renewal in the next two years. These are 20-year contracts. Minneapolis Energy Options is a campaign to urge the City to seek significantly more conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy through –or instead of -- its contract negotiations with Excel Energy and Centerpoint Energy to reach the City's climate goals (30% greenhouse gas reduction by 2025). Minneapolis Energy Options is asking the City Council to support a ballot measure (Nov 2013) to give the City authority to study the feasibility of a municipal utility to meet the energy goals.

Minneapolis Energy Options and a representative from one of the energy companies will be invited to present to the EIRA Board at the July 9th meeting.

Candace Dow, Transportation Committee

- The committee had their first meeting on June 6. Regular meeting time will be the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church.
- Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis – The transit alternatives have been narrowed to three options: 1) Enhanced Bus on Lake Street 2) Streetcar on the Greenway and 3) Dual alternative with both. Open houses were held in May to give feedback on the three options. Next steps: concept designs and operating costs will be evaluated.

Monica Smith, Staff Report

- Expenditures were presented for the Community Participation Program (CPP) and Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The EIRA Board approved shifting CPP expenses to underfunded categories (\$100 from Admin to Supplies and \$267 from Admin to Development).

- The EIRA Board approved \$1400 for the annual membership mailing. The mailing will include an invitation to the Ice Cream Social in August (design and printing of the invitation will be donated).
- The Directors & Officers insurance has been renewed.
- Bill Whitbeck, founder of EIRA passed away on June 4. The Board authorized Dan McLaughlin to determine an appropriate way to honor Mr. Whitbeck.
- FairVote Minnesota is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to educate residents about Ranked Choice voting. They will be invited to have an information table at the Ice Cream Social and give a brief presentation at the October Members Meeting.
- MSP FairSkies Coalition is a group of SW Minneapolis neighbors opposing a plan to increase airplane traffic over our neighborhoods. They will be invited to present at a future EIRA Board meeting.
- Conflict of Interest forms were provided to EIRA Board members.

NUSA Report

Candace Dow and Monica Smith attended the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference in Minneapolis last month. The conference featured educational workshops. Attendees were neighborhood volunteers and city employees from all over the nation. Candace attended a workshop by the Wilder Foundation focusing on neighborhood demographics. Wilder will be invited to present at a future EIRA Board meeting.

Board Review

- Signatory authority for the EIRA banks accounts has been transfer to Ramon Ramirez Quintero, EIRA Treasurer and Dan McLaughlin, EIRA President.
- Dan and Ramon will meet with an attorney (provided by the City) to discuss EIRA's IRS status.
- Linda Schutz provided a summary of the evaluations from the EIRA Annual Members' Meeting in April. The majority of the respondents gave high scores to almost all of the categories. The meeting location (Uptown Diner) received high ratings. EIRA members may request a copy of the report by sending an email to nrp@eastisles.org.
- EIRA Board members will be asked to give approval to share their email address with EIRA Committee Chairs to be used for official EIRA business. Board members can opt out if they choose. The EIRA Board member phone number list will be updated.
- The quorum discussion was postponed to the July 9th meeting.
- The EIRA Board will meet the second Tuesday of each month for the remainder of the year. The July 9 and August 13 meetings will be held at The Bridge for Youth. Beginning in September, the Board will resume meeting at Grace-Trinity Community Church. The Fall Members meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 22nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 7 p.m. at The Bridge for Youth, 1111 W 22nd St.