

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
May 14, 2013
Grace-Trinity Community Church

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. Other East Isles residents and guests were also present.

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

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

- Tuthill will hold a community meeting when the investigation into the May 10th shooting death at 27th and Bryant is completed.
- Smart phones theft continues to be a problem in the city.
- The City is working on a two-year pilot car-sharing program.
- 1800 Lake: The City, Park Board, neighborhood organizations and residents submitted comment letters to the DNR opposing the permit for 1800 Lake to continue pumping groundwater into the Lagoon. The DNR will not be issuing a permit at this time to The Shelard Group, Inc. of Eden Prairie. The City's legal staff is meeting with the building owner to try to reach a solution without litigation. A resolution date has not been set.

Election of EIRA Officers

The 2013-14 EIRA officers were unanimously elected: Dan McLaughlin, President; Vaughn Emerson, Vice President; Antone Melton-Meaux, Secretary; and Ramon Ramirez Quintero, Treasurer.

Announcements

- Sewer repair work will continue on Irving Ave from Lake St to 27th Street. Parking restrictions and lane closures will be posted.
- The City of Minneapolis is encouraging the use of Weather Radios for severe weather.
- The Greenway Glow fundraiser for the Midtown Greenway Coalition will be June 22.
- The May 14 Star Tribune featured an article about East Isles resident and textile artist Gini Corrick.

REPORTS

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

- Amy Sanborn submitted a proposal to use Facebook to help promote EIRA events. The board approved a motion to have Amy run a pilot Facebook program for one year. Concerns were expressed about: security; rules to be established especially to discourage or minimize derogatory comments, and how to eliminate abusers; process to close it down, even temporarily, if needed; obtaining permission first to post photos, especially of children; that Facebook efforts not result in neglect of EIRA's website; and added hours and costs for EIRA coordinator as one of the three administrators of the Facebook site (besides current Social Committee chair and one other volunteer. EIRA's website will remain the primary source of substantive information about the association, its business, and the neighborhood. Minutes and agenda will not be posted on Facebook. EIRA's BOD was assured that "swear words" would go to spam, and a conservative approach would be taken in unrolling and managing it; a major selling point was its use as a means to reach East Isles renters.
- The board approved a budget of \$2,275 for the 2013 Ice Cream Social. The event will be held August 15 at Triangle Park.

- The Wine Tasting fundraiser will be October 30 at Calhoun Square.
- Amy met with the Loppet Foundation to discuss ideas for East Isles to get more involved with the City of Lake Loppet.

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning Committee

The Zoning Committee recommended board approval on actions taken at the April 23rd Zoning Committee meeting.

- The Zoning Committee submitted a letter of no objection for a request for a certificate of nonconforming use to establish legal nonconforming rights for the three-unit residence at 2516 Humboldt Ave S. The Minneapolis Board of Adjustment approved the certificate. The EIRA Board approved a motion to endorse the Zoning Committee's position.
- Mesa Pizza, 1440 W Lake St is requesting support to extend their hours of operation to 3 am on Friday and Saturday nights (currently 2 am). The EIRA Board voted to approve Mesa Pizza's request.
- 1800 Lake – The Zoning Committee and NRP Committee each sent letters to the DNR opposing the permit to allow 1800 Lake to continue pumping groundwater into the Lagoon. The EIRA Board approved a motion to accept the letters from the two committees and to endorse two resolutions:
 - To ask the City to move as quickly as possible and explore all options to minimize continuous flow including consideration of a temporary injunction.
 - Be it resolved: Our local and state governmental appointed and elected officials, and entities (city council, the City Park & Recreation Board, the Minnehaha Watershed District, the MPCA, the DNR, etc.) take sufficient improved measures to prevent anything similar unpermitted situation from occurring again, whether in Chain of Lakes Areas or other Shoreland Overlay Areas throughout the City, adopt better policies and procedures (whether ordinance changes, rules or regs, more thorough site plan review at assorted levels and junctures, enhances staff accountability measurers, etc.), engage in rigorous permit compliance, implement best practices, capture water rate charges, and strengthen oversight including more timely inspections and monitoring to identify unauthorized suspicious and /or illegal illicit discharges and flows, and ongoing measurement of water for contaminants, etc. to ensure that our surface waters are indeed protected, that water quality is improved, species are protected, and environmental degradation is avoided; and further that there be sufficient public notice, to widely solicit public input, relative to any permit issuance process associated with such discharge or flowage permits now and in the future.

The resolutions will be sent to the CM Tuthill, the City engineers and to the DNR.

- The EIRA Board approved the sending a letter to CM Tuthill regarding living fences: “The East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) urges the City of Minneapolis, in a manner similar to how the city regulates fences, to determine effective methods of regulating the height, density and maintenance of plantings on private property which could negatively impact neighboring properties and/or public thoroughfares (i.e. obstruction of sunlight/views). Planting height regulations have been considered and enacted by various municipalities in Minnesota and other states around the country to contend with situations of this nature, and EIRA feels that similar measures are appropriate for consideration by the City of Minneapolis.”

Smith Triangle Subcommittee

A cleanup event is planned for Smith Triangle Park (Hennepin at W 24th St), Saturday, June 8; 9:30-11:30 a.m. Severe weather back up date is June 9. Refreshments will be donated by: Caribou Coffee, Kowalski's and Brueggers. The Board approved a request for \$25 for food and authorized a letter of inquiry to be sent to the U of M School of Landscape Architecture for possible student design proposals

for the park.

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

- Dan McLaughlin will develop a process to handle requests for personal information.
- Dan will also draft a conflict of interest statement to be read at committee meetings.
- Linda Schutz provided a term of election handout to board members.

Candace Dow, Transportation Committee

- The committee is in the process of scheduling their first meeting.
- Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis -- The project is studying transit option on Lake St and/or the Greenway. Options have been narrowed down to arterial bus rapid transit on Lake St and/or a streetcar on the Greenway. Open houses are being held May 21, 6-8 pm at Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Ave S and May 23, 6-8 pm at Whittier Clinic, 2810 Nicollet Ave. More info at www.midtowntransitway.org.

Green Team

- Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Earth Day clean up on a very cold and windy day.
- Upcoming events: Raingarden Workshop, May 18, 9:30 am at 2871 Humboldt and Green Film, May 20, 7 pm at Grace Church.
- Save the date for: Green Film on July 15 and the second annual Super Sale on September 7.

Monica Smith, NRP Committee and Staff Report

- The NRP Committee sent letters to select homeowners informing them that they could request a free boulevard tree from the Park Board. As a result, 23 new boulevard trees will be planted this spring.
- The NRP Committee will not meet in June or July. Next meeting is August 5.
- Conflict of Interest forms were provided to EIRA Board members.

Board Review

- The board approved the annual report for the 2012 Community Participation Program.
- The next meeting of the EIRA Board will be held at The Bridge for Youth (22nd and Emerson). The meeting schedule for the remainder of the year will be discussed at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m. at The Bridge for Youth, 1111 W 22nd St.