

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
August 13, 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.

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

**Announcements:**

- The annual Ice Cream Social is Thursday, August 15, 6-9 pm at Levin Triangle Park (26<sup>th</sup> and Irving)
- The redesigned website is operational: [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org)

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

- Information will be available soon about the groundwater discharge from 1800 Lake.
- A public meeting was held August 1 to hear feedback about the utility municipalization ballot measure. Most of the speakers were opposed to municipalization. Xcel has since sent a letter to the mayor stating that they will work with the City on energy goals. Council Member Gordon indicated that he will withdraw his resolution for the ballot measure.
- The next Meet with Meg is August 19, 6-7 pm at Bryant Square Park (31<sup>st</sup> and Bryant) and will be a family-friendly event with a fire safety theme.
- The City Council is reserving \$7 million of unspent 2012 revenue in a 2014 stabilization fund with a goal of 0% increase in 2014 property tax levy.

**Eve Borenstein, Borenstein and McVeigh Law Office, LLC**

Eve Borenstein attended the meeting to advise EIRA on its nonprofit status with the IRS. In 2006, Congress enacted a law stating that nonprofits have to file tax returns (prior to that, small nonprofits did not have to file returns). EIRA did not file a return in 2007, 2008 or 2009. In 2010, the IRS automatically revoked EIRA's nonprofit status.

EIRA needs to reapply for nonprofit status with the IRS. Borenstein discussed the advantages and disadvantages of 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4).

501(c)(3) disadvantages are strict operating rules (particularly related to receiving donations and political activity such as candidate forums and lobbying) and required expertise to be in compliance with regulations. Advantage is that donors can claim a tax deduction for the donation.

501(c)(4) disadvantage is that donors can't take a tax deduction (however, 85% of tax filers don't take deductions because they are below the threshold and most businesses write off donations as a business expense). If we had an individual interested in making a large donation, EIRA could use a fiscal agent (such as People for Parks) to partner with us on a project. Main advantage is that the operating rules are less stringent.

Organizations are allowed to change their status from a (c)(4) to become a (c)(3) but the IRS does not allow (c)(3) organizations to change to (c)(4).

The IRS charges a filing fee of \$850 (same for either designation). EIRA can use CPP funding to pay the filing fees.

The EIRA Board approved a motion to become a 501(c)(4).

## **REPORTS**

### **Smith Triangle Subcommittee**

Renee Guest will meet with a student from the U of M Landscape Architecture to work on ideas for Smith Triangle. The Park Board will also be involved with the student project and will add Smith Triangle to their project list.

### **Social Committee**

- The Ice Cream Social will include a jazz trio this year (the music was donated). A \$150 amplification permit is required. The board approved the funding for the permit.
- Additional volunteers are needed for serving ice cream from 7-8 pm.

### **Jill Waite, Zoning Committee**

The July 16 Zoning Committee meeting included a presentation by Peterssen/Keller Architecture and CPM (developer of 1800 Lake) for a proposed new four-story mixed-use building on the northeast corner of Lake and James (1618 W. Lake St., 1620 W. Lake St., and 2915 James Ave. S). The presentation included preliminary designs. The team will return to the committee with a more detailed proposal on September 17. The Uptown Opportunity Task Force also presented at the meeting. They are working on bringing the four Uptown neighborhoods together to find common goals for the Uptown area. They have compiled a master list of all the planning documents for the area. The group will review the documents and determine priorities.

The next committee meeting is August 20, 5 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> St. and will include presentations by Nico's Tacos, a new restaurant at 2516 Hennepin Ave S and a variance request for a home at 2681 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy to add a second story balcony above the existing front porch.

### **Candace Dow, Transportation Committee**

- No meeting in August due to conflict with National Night Out.
- The committee will have an information table at the Ice Cream Social.
- Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis Community Advisory Committee's next meeting is August 20, 7:00 pm, at Collin Powell Center, 2924 4th Ave S.

### **Green Team**

- Upcoming events include: Super Sale, September 7; green film on September 16; kids edible gardening program tentatively set for September 21; and raingarden celebration on September 28.
- Emerging initiatives being considered are: community solar initiative; reallocating Zero Waste Uptown grant to East Isles for outreach to multi-family buildings; and possibilities for edible landscapes/block grants.

### **NRP Report**

- The committee met on August 5 and discussed details of East Isles NRP Phase II plan. The committee will begin meeting quarterly. The next meeting is Monday, November 4, 7 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church.
- The Phase I & II expenditures and remaining funding were reviewed.
- The EIRA Board approved a request from a 13-unit condo building for a \$500 home security grant.

**Monica Smith, Staff Report**

- The City Council approved Community Participation Program funding for the next three year cycle (beginning in 2014). EIRA will receive a 3% increase in funding.
- The funding needs for EIRA's CPP funding were reviewed for the remainder of 2013. The Board voted to allocate \$11,967 of the CPP reserve to fully fund staff, communications, supplies, meeting space and development for the remainder of the year.
- The vacant home at 2208 Irving Ave S remains on the city's vacant property list and the owner continues to pay property tax.
- Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb will attend the next meeting of the EIRA Board (September 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Board Review**

- The Fall Members Meeting is Tuesday, October 22. The board discussed options for guest speakers and decided on presentations about transportation (transit study for Greenway/Lake St) and the Walker Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> St.