

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
September 10, 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, 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 One Minneapolis One Read book is “A Choice of Weapons” by Gordon Parks.
- A community meeting will be held on September 12, 7-8 pm at Bryant Square Park, 3100 Bryant Ave S to discuss proposed zoning changes related to density for high-density residential districts (R5 and R6), commercial (C1, C2 C3) and Office/Residential (OR). Low- and medium-density districts are not affected (R1-R4). The changes would allow developers to have flexibility on the number of units in a building (allowing for an increase in the number of smaller units). A building with a higher number of units will also require a higher number of off-street parking spaces. The size and height restrictions will not change. Contact CM Tuthill with feedback about the proposed changes.
- A public hearing will be held on September 11 regarding a proposed ordinance for feral cats in the City.
- The City is finishing retiming the traffic signals for better traffic flow.
- There are 71 openings on City boards and commissions. For more information: www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.
- The next Meet with Meg is September 16, 6 pm at Bryant Square Park featuring Velma Korbel, Civil Rights Director for the City of Minneapolis.
- The City has given the developers of 1800 Lake (Lake & Knox) until September 27 to provide a solution to the groundwater discharge into the lagoon.

Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Commissioner, District 4

- Stump removal (from trees that fell during the June 21st storm) should be completed in 30 days. Once the stumps are removed, the City will repair the damaged sidewalks.
- Anita Tabb and Jennifer Ringold from the Park Board met with EIRA representatives and a landscape design student to discuss Smith Triangle (24th and Hennepin). The student will present a proposal (with a scope of services, site analysis and programming ideas) to EIRA's Parks Committee in mid-October. The goal is to begin making improvements to the park next summer.
- Work continues on Lake of the Isles issues. Crews are working on vegetation and aerating the turf to reduce soil compaction.
- The Parade Pkwy ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10 am on September 19 (corner of Parade Pkwy and Kenwood Pkwy).
- Repairs continue at Parade Ice Arena. The north rink will reopen October 1st; renovations will begin on the other rinks next spring.

Open Forum

An East Isles resident is interested in pursuing a farmers market in the neighborhood. He will be invited to the October 8th EIRA Board meeting to discuss the idea.

REPORTS

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

- The Ice Cream Social was a great success with over 300 people in attendance.
- EIRA raised \$435 from the Uptown Art Fair pop booth. Special thanks to the 36 volunteers who staffed the booth.
- The Wine Tasting Fundraiser is Wednesday, October 30. EIRA Board members will be selling tickets and EIRA keeps 100% of the proceeds from its tickets sales. Volunteers are needed. Contact Amy at events@eastisles.org to help or purchase tickets.

Jill Waite, Zoning Committee

The August 20th Zoning Committee meeting included a presentation for a variance request to reduce the front yard setback to allow for a new balcony over the existing open front porch at 2681 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy. The homeowner stated that the immediate neighbors were consulted and had no objections to the plans. The committee recommended that the variance request be approved. The EIRA Board voted to adopt the recommendation.

The meeting also included a presentation by Alex Victoria (owner of Amore Victoria) and Tim Ross for an authentic Mexican restaurant at 2516 Hennepin (formerly Birdhouse Restaurant). No action was required. The restaurant opened last week.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 17, 5 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

Dan McLaughlin asked the committee to discuss ideas to work with property owners of empty storefronts in the neighborhood.

Candace Dow, Transportation Committee

- Committee members conducted a survey at the Ice Cream Social.
- Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis: the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) continues to seek answers to questions about project costs, ridership projections and travel times. The next meeting of the CAC is in November.
- The committee has changed their regular meeting date to the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church. The next meeting is October 15.

Betsy Allis, Green Team

- The Super Sale (neighborhood-wide garage sale) on September 7th was a big success with 46 households participating.
- Upcoming events include: Uptown Green Team meeting on September 11, 7 pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church featuring a solar presentation; green film and discussion about edible gardens on September 16, 7 pm at Grace; and one-year anniversary celebration of the demonstration raingarden on September 28, 3-5 pm at 2871 Humboldt Ave S.
- The Green Team is gathering information and learning more about opportunities for community solar in East Isles.

CPP Funding

- EIRA will receive \$77,000 in Community Participation Program (CPP) funding for the next three-year cycle (a 3% increase over the current cycle). Dan McLaughlin and Monica Smith will draft the application paperwork to present to the EIRA Board in advance of the November 15th deadline.

Board Review

- Ordinance change for density (see comments under Leslie Foreman's presentation). It was noted that East Isles has a long history of preserving low density near the lake and in the interior of the neighborhood.
- The Fall Members Meeting is Tuesday, October 22* at Grace-Trinity Community Church. The evening will begin with refreshments and social time at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 7 pm. Committee chairs will be invited to give brief reports followed by a presentations about the new Walker Library and the Lake St/Greenway transit study (Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis). The EIRA Board approved a budget of \$50 for refreshments. An ad to promote the meeting will be placed in the Hill and Lake Press.
- Monica Smith and Ramon Ramirez Quintero are working on the 501(c)(4) application.
- EIRA will begin filing an annual report with the Charities division of Attorney General. The report will be submitted to the EIRA Board for approval at the October or November meeting.
- Membership update: 95 membership forms have been received from the recent membership mailing. Online registration is available on the new website: www.eastisles.org.

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

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA Board of Directors meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.

*Addendum: The Fall Members meeting has been changed to October 29 at Grace-Trinity Community Church.