

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
December 10, 2013
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Antone Melton-Meaux (Secretary), Ramon Ramirez Quintero (Treasurer), Candace Dow, Donna Jansen, Carla Pardue, Michael Rossini, and Linda Schutz. Alternate Bill Elwood and other East Isles residents were also in attendance.

EIRA Vice President Vaughn Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Announcement

- The Park Board is seeking community input in planning for improvements to the Kenwood Rec Center at an Open House on December 17, 6:30-8 pm at the Kenwood Rec Center, 2101 Franklin Ave. Improvements will focus on accessibility and improved building function.

Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis, Candace Dow

Candace Dow is the chair of EIRA's Transportation Committee and EIRA's representative to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Midtown Greenway Alternatives Analysis (AA). Dow reported that the Alternatives Analysis is studying transit options (Light Rail Transit, Streetcar, Bus Rapid Transit and Dedicated Busway) for Lake Street and/or the Midtown Greenway between the proposed Southwest LRT and Hiawatha LRT.

The transit options have been narrowed to the following: enhanced bus on Lake Street; double/single track rail in the Midtown Greenway; or a combination of both. Under all options, the bike trail will remain on the Greenway and local bus service will continue on Lake St.

The project goals:

- Increase transit use among the growing number of corridor residents, employees and visitors.
- Improve corridor equity with better mobility and access to jobs and activities.
- Catalyze and support housing and economic development along the corridor.
- Develop a cost-effective transitway that is well positioned for implementation.
- Build upon the vibrancy and diversity of the corridor by supporting healthy, active communities and the environment.

The Metro Transit is in the final screening stage of the AA. The Policy Advisory Committee will select the Locally Preferred Alternative on February 12, 2014. If rail is selected, the vehicle type and single vs. double track will be determined at a later date. Metro Transit planners have said that if the combined option were selected, it would be possible to implement enhanced bus on Lake Street first to determine how the service meets needs before implementing rail on the Greenway.

Metro Transit is accepting feedback via an online survey available through 12/31/13 at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MidtownCorridorAA.

Residents and board members raised concerns about streetcar/LRT on the Greenway including, in unranked order: safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists at the three at-grade crossings in East Isles with 214 daily streetcar/LRT trips and hours of operation from 4 am to 1am daily; noise; vibration; traffic and air pollution from idling cars waiting for trains to cross the intersection; increase in crime in East Isles; pinch points that would narrow the pedestrian and bicycle paths; equity issue that single or double track on the Greenway would remove the area persons farther east of the Chain of Lakes than East Isles use as a park; changes to the trench may not meet historic preservation requirements; green space and

quiet as more people move to residences near or on the Greenway, finding a quiet place and nature in the city becomes increasingly important and difficult; and cost compared to enhanced bus on Lake Street.

Attendees supported enhanced bus service on Lake Street.

The next meeting of the East Isles Transportation Committee is Tuesday, December 17, 7 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street. The committee will draft a resolution regarding the Alternatives Analysis to be presented to the EIRA Board of Directors at its January 14, 2014 meeting.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report, Ramon Ramirez Quintero

- The income statement and balance sheet were presented for the period January 1 – November, 30, 2013.

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

- The annual Ice Skating Party will be Sunday, January 26, 1-3 pm at Lake of the Isles. The EIRA Board approved a motion to spend up to \$250 of unrestricted funds for food and beverages at the event.

NRP Committee, Monica Smith

The committee recommended shifting the balance of the funds from the Residential Loan Program (about \$51K) to the Affordable Housing Loan Program. The Residential Loan Program has been available since February 2012 but only three home improvement loans have closed to-date.

- The EIRA Board approved a motion to amend the Residential Loan Program contract with Center for Energy and Environment to remove the remaining balance from the contract.
- The EIRA Board approved a plan modification to increase the allocation of the Affordable Housing Loan Program to accommodate the transfer of additional funds. The Affordable Housing Loan will be repaid to EIRA on 12/31/14 and will be available to use for other priorities.

The EIRA Board approved a motion to change the scope of the NRP Phase II Participation Agreement contract from planning purposes to implementation purposes to “provide staff and administrative support for NRP Phase I and II programs, Community Participation Program and Neighborhood Priority Plans” and to extend the contract until 12/31/15.

The EIRA Board approved a motion to allow the Green Team to keep profits (\$74) from the 2013 Super Sale in a discretionary fund.

The next NRP Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 7 pm at Grace.

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

- The November 19th meeting included a presentation on the Shoreland Overlay District by EIRA Board member Linda Schutz.
- A public hearing will be held December 12, 4:30 pm at City Hall regarding a variance to reduce the front yard setback along 26th St W to allow for the construction of a new enclosed porch to an existing single-family dwelling at 1612 26th St W. (Note: the architects did not meet with the Zoning Committee because their request came in after the Zoning Committee meeting on November 19th).
- The next meeting of the Zoning Committee is Tuesday, December 17, 5 pm at Grace. The agenda

includes a variance request for an interior side yard and rear yard setback for a new two-car garage to replace an existing single-car garage at 1520 W 27th Street.

Green Team, Bill Elwood

- The Community Solar program on November 18 was a success with over 25 people in attendance.
- The Green Team meeting on December 9th focused on planning for the next year.
- Three new members have joined the Green Team.

Nominations Committee, Linda Schutz

- The committee will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 pm at Grace to begin planning for the 2014 elections.
- Four of the current board members will not be seeking re-election in Spring 2014.

Fall Meeting Evaluation Report, Linda Schutz

The majority of the respondents to the Fall Members meeting evaluation gave high scores across almost all of the evaluation categories. Most highly rated were: meeting place convenience & accessibility; speakers were informative & engaging; and agenda's content & topics were informative & helpful. Some areas for improvement included: helping to assist speakers in fielding questions from the audience; difficulty hearing the presenters; printed materials; and uncomfortable seating.

BOARD REVIEW

Park Board's Urban Agriculture Plan

The Park Board is accepting public comments on an Urban Agriculture Plan for the parks. For more information and to offer individual comments, go www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Community Participation Program

- The city accepted EIRA's application for the 2014-16 Community Participation Program (CPP).
- Expenditures for the current CPP program were reviewed. Any funds remaining after December 31, 2013 will be rolled into the new program.

Miscellaneous

- Monica Smith's contract expires on 12/31/13. The EIRA Board approved a motion to extend the current contract until Dan McLaughlin can present a new contract for approval to the EIRA Board.
- The monthly e-newsletter will continue to provide links to crime maps.

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

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.