

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
August 11, 2015  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (10 of 11): Andrew Degerstrom (President), Carla Pardue, (Vice President), Brian Milivitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Peter Mason, Nancy Johnston, Bill Elwood, Amy Sanborn, Mike Erlandson, Bruce Larson. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

Andrew Degerstrom called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7th**

·The next Lunch with Lisa will take place Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the University of St. Thomas, Opus Hall, RM 202. The topic this month is the current housing market, and what potential tenants are looking for (i.e. type of units, amenities around/within the development). A panel of housing developers will be present to give their views on the current market.

·The City approved Temple Israel's requests for variances for their expansion project. The EIRA Board of Directors had submitted a letter of support for the project.

·1708 and 1714 Lake St are going through the wrecking review process with the City. Council Member Goodman was happy with the strict stance taken on the take down of these properties, and the limiting of the amount of phosphorus that would have been released into the water systems.

·Council Member Goodman supports the request by Giordano's Pizza to have a five to six table patio outside their restaurant on the Hennepin. The Council Member has fielded and responded to complaints from four residents, and has spoken with Giordano's. The Council Member believes that having successful, busy businesses are a good thing for the neighborhood. The Council Member has reviewed 311 calls in the area over the past month and there has not been a single call to 311 regarding Giordano's. Roughly eighty jobs have been created by the business.

**John Gleeson, General Manager of Giordano's Pizza Presentation on Application for Sidewalk Café, 2700 Hennepin Ave**

Giordano's Pizza is a family owned Chicago-based restaurant. They are seeking to add a patio of five to six tables on the Hennepin side of the restaurant. The tables will be locked up at night and the umbrellas will be brought in the store. The patio would be operated during normal operating hours. The restaurant is currently very busy, but Mr. Gleeson expects business to slow down to a normal level after Labor Day. They currently have twenty-one parking spaces, but are only required to have eleven. The restaurant is providing valet parking in a nearby parking lot to meet the needs of their business. When asked if there are signs in their parking lot that ask that customers to be quiet since they are in a neighborhood, Mr. Gleeson responded that he will talk to the landlord about addressing that. When asked from whom most of the complaints are coming from, Mr. Gleeson responded that most had come from apartment managers. Giordano's is currently open until Midnight, and they are planning on applying for a permit to stay open until 2 a.m.

**Open Forum**

Questions were asked about the recent crimes committed in the neighborhood and what role EIRA can play in addressing the issue. It was suggested that the coordinator should include

information about recent crimes in the next EIRA newsletter and on the organization's various social media outlets. The coordinator will also contact the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct and ask if they have increased patrols in the neighborhood in response to the uptick in crime. The coordinator will also reach out to the Uptown Association to see what ideas they have about crime prevention.

### **Social Committee Report**

The Social Committee reported that the EIRA Ice Cream Social on July 30 was a huge success. The petting zoo was very well received. The committee would like to thank the community for their support.

EIRA once again staffed a soda booth during the Uptown Art Fair. The booth very successful.

The annual Wine Tasting fundraiser is set for Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at Calhoun Square. There have been bi-weekly meetings about having support around the tasting. EIRA will need to supply volunteers and sell tickets. EIRA keeps the proceeds from all pre-sale tickets the organization sells. Parella, located in Calhoun Square, will be providing food at the event.

### **Green Team**

The Green Team does not meet during the summer.

The Green Team will host a Cooling Party on Thursday, August 14.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Super Sale will take place Saturday, September 12 from 9-3pm. Last year there were 40 houses involved.

The Green Team is currently working on facilitating a neighborhood Community Solar Garden meeting. Solar Garden providers would be present at the meeting and be able to describe their services to the community. The City of Minneapolis has not authorized any solar gardens as of yet.

### **President's Report**

EIRA is now up to date on the EIRA Wells Fargo account information.

Portions of a statement given by the Board President were recently featured in the Southwest Journal relating to the City's draft of the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, which is currently open for comment. Below is his statement in full:

"I have heard that the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement has been a top down, rather than collaborative, process. There is a view at City Hall that some neighborhood associations do not do a good job representing the diverse interests in their neighborhoods. The inconvenient truth is that this view is not entirely unjustified. I urge other neighborhood associations not to get upset and attempt to dispute this view. Rather, associations should accept the City's challenge. In East Isles, we will be responding by highlighting some areas where we do a good job engaging underrepresented groups, some areas where we need to improve, and expressing our desire to work the City to improve our engagement overall."

## **Board Review**

*Final Approval: Comments on “Blueprint for Equitable Engagement” draft report from Neighborhood & Community Relations*

The Board approved a motion to direct staff and the Board President to create and submit a letter to NCR with comments drafted by the EIRA Board, including specific language, regarding the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement.

*Discussion: EIRA Membership Requirements*

The Board continued their conversation with regard to updating EIRA’s membership requirements. A motion was approved to create an ad hoc committee regarding the proposed changes to the membership requirements.

*Discussion: Requirements for EIRA sponsored events*

The Board discussed having EIRA sponsored events in East Isles resident’s homes. The general consensus was that this is okay as long as the events comply with EIRA’s ADA Policy and are open to all residents.

The Board also agreed that whenever an EIRA committee has an event that the Board should be notified in advance of the event. This will ensure residents and Board members will have proper notice of the event. In general there was agreement that there should be notice around all events and the Board should look into drawing up a best practices plan regarding all EIRA events.

*Giordano’s Pizza Presentation on Application for Sidewalk Café, 2700 Hennepin Ave*

The Board approved a motion for a letter of support for the Giordano’s application for a sidewalk café.

## **End at 9:07pm**

Submitted by: John Louis, Recorder

If consistent with EIRA Bylaws, and where the availability of a public document or report in electronic forms exists, copies of EIRA Board agenda items may be obtained by an EIRA member by contacting [coordinator@eastisles.org](mailto:coordinator@eastisles.org). The next meeting is Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.