

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Semi-Annual Members Meeting  
Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

**Board members present (8 of 11):** Andrew Degerstrom (President), Brian Milivitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Peter Mason, Amy Sanborn, Mike Erlandson, Bruce Larson, Nancy Johnston. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

The annual meeting began with hors d'oeuvres and a social half hour. Thirty-two East Isles residents and invited guests attended the event.

Andrew Degerstrom called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

- The next Lunch with Lisa will take place Wednesday, October 21 at 12 p.m. at the St. Thomas School of Law, MSL 334 on Harmon Place between 11<sup>th</sup> St and 12<sup>th</sup> St. (new location this month). The Council Member is honored to welcome Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon to speak about the Voter Rights Act of 1965.
- Fall street sweeping is about to begin. Be on the look out for temporary “No Parking” signs, which will be put out 24 hours in advance. The East Isles street sweeping schedule can be found at:  
<http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/StreetsweepApp/default.aspx?BDNUM=44>
- South West Light Rail Update: In September the Minneapolis City Council gave municipal consent to a revised design and budget for Southwest light rail, which will extend the Green Line from Target Field to Eden Prairie. Council Member Goodman was one of three council members to vote against the proposal. The project still needs to be approved by the legislature, which Council Member Goodman believes is unlikely in this political climate.
- Council Member Goodman explained the proposed Working Families Agenda (more information can be found here:  
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/WorkingFamiliesAgenda/index.htm>). Council Member Goodman does not believe the proposal will pass in its current form.

**Inspector Todd Loining and Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police Department, 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct has the highest crime reduction numbers in the city.
- The majority of crimes in East Isles are property crimes. Numbers are down for all types of crime across the neighborhood.
- 5th Precinct beat officers are expected to maintain relationships with local businesses. More officers, now than ever, are attending community meetings across the precinct.

- Taking ownership of the community is one of the most important ways to combat crime. Call 911 if you see something suspicious. Residents can contact Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams ([chelsea.adams@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:chelsea.adams@minneapolismn.gov)) if they have questions regarding an incident in the neighborhood, and for current crime neighborhood crime stats. If a police report was made on an incident residents can look it up here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/statistics/crime-statistics\\_codefor\\_index](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/statistics/crime-statistics_codefor_index)
- Residents are encouraged to register their bike with the City. More information on how to register your bike here: [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/about/evidence/police\\_about\\_bicycles](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/about/evidence/police_about_bicycles)

## **Committee Reports**

### **Presidents Report, Andrew Degerstrom**

- The EIRA Board has submitted comments on two different policy proposals by the City of Minneapolis: the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement and Review of NRP Funds. The Board has commented publicly on both of these in the Southwest Journal.

### **Treasurer Report, Brian Milivitz**

- Bank Account balances are: \$10,837 in EIRA checking, \$22,936 in NRP checking, and \$10,055 in EIRA savings.
- EIRA is currently up-to-date on its insurance policy.
- The Board recently adopted a new accounting policy. This policy outlines new practices, good controls about how EIRA does accounting, and who is authorized to spend money. It also streamlines the accounting process for staff to both save time and money.

### **Transportation Committee Report, Peter Mason**

- The committee recently organized a 311 walking tour of the neighborhood, where residents walked the neighborhood and alerted 311 about problems. The event was well attended and another 311 walking tour is scheduled for later in October.
- The committee is exploring the possibility of adopting part of the Midtown Greenway.
- The committee is looking into the possible removal of the stop signs for bikers on the Midtown Greenway at Humboldt Ave and Irving Ave.
- The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, October 21 at 6:45 p.m. at Dunn Brothers Coffee (2528 Hennepin Ave).

### **Zoning Committee Report, Andrew Degerstrom (filling in for Chair Allan Amis)**

- It has been a slow summer for development related activities in East Isles and the committee has not met since May.
- The committee is currently discussing the Wells Fargo tear down and reconstruction project on Lake Street. Wells Fargo is planning on moving out of the

Sons of Norway building and into a newly constructed building on their current drive through location.

### **Social Committee Report, Amy Sanborn**

- The East Isles Ice Cream Social was July 30 at Joanne Levin Triangle Park. It was a beautiful day and the event was well attended.
- The annual Hennepin-Lake Community Wine Tasting Fundraiser is quickly approaching. It will be held on Wednesday, October 28, from 6pm - 9pm at Calhoun Square. This is EIRA's biggest fundraiser of the year. The face value of each pre-sale ticket purchase goes directly to fund EIRA. Pre-sale tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by contacting Amy at [events@eastisles.org](mailto:events@eastisles.org).

### **NRP Steering Committee Report, EIRA Coordinator John Louis (no current Chair)**

- The NRP Steering committee is looking for more members and a new Chair. This committee offers the EIRA Board guidance on how to spend its NRP funds. For more information on how to join the committee please contact EIRA Coordinator John Louis at [coordinator@eastisles.org](mailto:coordinator@eastisles.org)

### **Green Team, Judy Enenstein (filling in for Chair Betsy Allis)**

- The Green Team's work has included: a four part series on eating consciously, an Earth Day clean up in April, a spring plant swap, and most recently, a house party regarding innovative and energy saving ways to cool your home during the summer.
- The annual East Isles Super Sale was very successful and earned \$150. This year 47 homes participated.
- A *Make Dinner, Not Waste* house party is scheduled for November 11, 7-8:30 p.m. Get cool tips and demos from Eureka Recycling on smart shopping, a kitchen inventory, food storage and preservation and more. For more information contact EIRA Coordinator John Louis at [coordinator@eastisles.org](mailto:coordinator@eastisles.org).
- The Green Team is looking for East Isles residents who would like to host a house party on solar and saving energy. For more information contact EIRA Coordinator John Louis at [coordinator@eastisles.org](mailto:coordinator@eastisles.org).

### **Parks Committee, Harvey Ettinger**

- In June of this year the EIRA Board approved an expenditure of \$11,000 to spend on replacing the benches on the Mall in partnership with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. The Parks Committee has approached the Uptown Business Association, Rental Property Owners and Peoples for Parks for grants and contributions to help offset the cost.
- The Parks Committee is working with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board to plant 11 new trees along the curb line directly across the street from the Mall. The planting is scheduled for the spring of 2016. In June of this year the EIRA Board approved an expenditure of \$7,000 for this project.
- The Parks Committee is still working with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation

Board to get new trees planted around Lake of the Isles.

### **Member Vote on Proposed Bylaw Changes Regarding EIRA Membership**

Nancy Johnston, Board Member and Chair of the EIRA Membership Ad Hoc Committee instructed to review the bylaws regarding membership, explained the reasons why the Board voted to bring the proposed bylaws changes to the EIRA members. The EIRA Board is seeking to make the neighborhood organization more inclusive, and wants to attract new members and other groups not traditionally represented in the EIRA membership. She noted that many other neighborhood groups use an opt-out system for membership versus the current method. The Neighborhood and Community Relations department at the City also prefers this type of membership.

Current EIRA Bylaws Regarding Membership:

#### ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1. Members.** Any individual eighteen (18) years of age or older, maintaining a domicile within the boundaries of EIRA, and who can produce, upon request at a meeting of the members, a Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota identification card, or some form of residency verification that indicates the individual resides within the geographic boundaries of EIRA, may be a member of EIRA upon full completion of a member form. A member remains a member of EIRA for one (1) year. Despite completion of a member form, EIRA membership ceases when an individual no longer resides within the boundaries of the neighborhood. The EIRA Board of Directors ("Board") shall encourage but not require annual donations and recommend the amount of annual donation. No person shall be denied membership in EIRA because of consideration of race, religious belief, color, gender, sexual preference, national origin, economic status or disability.

**Section 2. Voting Rights.** Each member shall be entitled to a single vote when present at any meeting of EIRA members.

**Section 3. Membership Roster.** EIRA shall maintain a membership roster with the name and contact information for each member. The membership list shall be available at any general meeting of the EIRA membership. Any EIRA member may obtain a copy (paper or, if available, electronic) of a current EIRA membership roster by making a written request for it to either the President or Secretary of EIRA, who shall provide it to the requesting party within ten (10) days. Any charge to the requesting party, by EIRA, must be reasonable and at cost. The roster cannot be used for commercial, financial, or political purposes. Use of the roster must be consistent with EIRA's purposes, EIRA's bylaws, and EIRA's neighborhood affairs.

## **Proposed New Language Regarding Membership:**

### ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1. Members.** Any individual eighteen (18) years of age or older who resides or maintains a domicile within the boundaries of EIRA is granted automatic membership in EIRA. Any individual may waive their membership by providing written notice to the EIRA Secretary. Membership of any individual is terminated when the individual no longer resides nor maintains a domicile within the boundaries of EIRA.

**Section 2. Voting Rights.** Each member shall be entitled to a single vote when present at any meeting of EIRA members.

A motion was made to approve and seconded to approve the proposed changes to the EIRA Bylaws regarding membership. The motion was unanimously approved (18-0, with no abstentions).

The EIRA Board will be reviewing the EIRA Bylaws over the upcoming months at EIRA Board meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street) and welcomes all community members to participate in the conversation.

### **Community Concerns**

A community member raised the idea of creating a Crime and Safety Committee in the neighborhood and asked if anyone present was interested in chairing the committee. Interested residents should contact EIRA Coordinator John Louis at [coordinator@eastisles.org](mailto:coordinator@eastisles.org) for more information.

### **End at 8:42pm**

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 EIRA Board Meeting Tuesday, November 10, at 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.