

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD)
Meeting November 10th, 2015 Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (9 of 11): Andrew Degerstrom (President), Carla Pardue (Vice President), Brian Milivitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Pete Mason, Bill Elwood, Bruce Larson, Nancy Johnston, and Mike Erlandson.

Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

Andrew Degerstrom called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Social Committee

The Annual Hennepin-Lake Community Wine Tasting had great attendance and was a big success. The total amount raised will be available at the next EIRA Board meeting.

The Annual Ice Skating Party is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 24th.

The Board approved a motion for a budget of \$200 for the Annual Ice Skating Party.

Green Team Committee

The Green Team is continuing its work around solar energy. EIRA is taking part in the Lake Street Energy Challenge, and the Green Team will be presenting to the neighborhood about opportunities to participate in upcoming community solar conversations. There will be a Solar Updates event on Tuesday, November 17th.

There will be a Food Waste house party on Wednesday, November 11th. Eureka will be presenting.

Transportation Committee

Consideration of a resolution of support for removing stop signs along the Midtown Greenway at Humboldt & Irving Aves.

There are over 3,100 bikers on the Midtown Greenway each day. The National Association of Bikers says having a clear bikeway is the safest option. Having a clear right of way for bikers would have a very minimal impact on vehicle traffic. Bikers would only have to look for pedestrians. Vehicle traffic law states that at every intersection pedestrians have the right of way. Signage or street marking would be a good way to designate that pedestrians always have the right away. There has been no accidents at James, which does not have a stop sign.

The Board approved a motion for the following resolution:

Whereas, the Midtown Greenway is a former railroad corridor across South Minneapolis with bicycle and walking trails, and,

Whereas, the Midtown Greenway has three at-grade crossings in the East Isles Neighborhood at Humboldt Avenue South, Irving Avenue South, and James Avenue South, and,

Whereas, the intersections at Humboldt Ave South and Irving Ave South have all-way stop signs, and,

Whereas, the intersection at James Avenue South has two-way stop signs with bicycle and pedestrian traffic along the Midtown Greenway having the right-of-way, and,

Whereas, all-way stop sign intersections, especially where a bicycle and pedestrian trail intersects with a traffic street, often cause confusion due to a lack of a clear right-of-way making such the intersections unpredictable and less safe for all modes of travel, and,

Whereas, intersections are safer when the more vulnerable modes of transportation have the clear, unambiguous right-of-way,

Therefore, be it resolved that the East Isles Residents Association supports converting the intersections of the Midtown Greenway at Humboldt Avenue South and Irving Avenue South into two-way stop signs, giving bicycle and pedestrian traffic along the Midtown Greenway the right-of-way. In addition, East Isles Residents Association would like the installation signs or road markings at each of the three intersections stating that cyclists should yield to pedestrians.

The Transportation Committee has conducted two very successful walking tours that have identified and reported some very serious sidewalk and cutback issues. The City has been very responsive, and has fixed many of the reported issues.

NRP Committee

EIRA staff presented on the organization's NRP Phase II housing dollars. Currently, these dollars are contracted with the Nonprofit Assistance Fund and will be up for recontracting in June of 2016. The EIRA Board will be brainstorming ideas over the coming months of how to best engage the neighborhood in this discussion.

The NRP Committee will be electing a new committee chair at their next meeting (Monday, December 7). For information on how to apply, or information about how to join the committee contact EIRA President Andrew Degerstrom at president@eastisles.org.

Staff Report

The Board approved a motion to pass the 2016 CPP Budget.

President's Report

EIRA received a public hearing notice for 2505 W Lake of the Isles Pkwy. The notice listed six variances, and the original resolution adopted by the Board last May only addressed three. After contacting Peterssen/Keller Architecture, they confirmed that they made minor changes to the design so that the additional three variances would no longer be required. The EIRA President then sent a letter recommending approval of the three variances that were discussed last Spring.

Board Review

EIRA Semi-Annual Meeting

47 residents attended the meeting. Board members thought the safety presentation by 5th Precinct Inspector Todd Loining and Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams was well received and helped to increase attendance. The Board discussed the possibility of only having an annual meeting, with the option of special members meetings as needed. The Board will discuss this change at the December Board meeting.

Discussion of further amendments to EIRA Bylaws

The Board discussed creating a committee at the December Board meeting that would be tasked with reviewing the EIRA Bylaws and reporting back on any conflicting language.

EIRA and the Greater Uptown Community Partnership

The Greater Uptown Community Partnership is currently focusing on transportation related issues. Other Uptown neighborhoods have contributed money to fund a transportation coordinator. The Board will send a representative to their next meeting to gather more information and report back.

Closed Session: Creation of a Special Search Committee for the hiring of a new Coordinator

The Board approved a motion that:

The Board of Directors for the East Isles Residents Association appoints a Special Search Committee for the purpose of hiring a new Coordinator. The Special Search Committee shall consist of the following members: Nancy Johnston (Chair), Nicole Engel-Nitz, Bruce Larson, Peter Mason, Carla Pardue, and Andrew Degerstrom (ex-officio). The Special Search Committee shall present its final recommendation to the Board of Directors by no later than its January meeting.

Further, the Board of Directors of the East Isles Residents Association grants the Special Search Committee the following authority to act on behalf of the East Isles Residents Association:

- To create an official job description for the Coordinator position, including desired qualifications, pay range, and hours per week
- To determine the closing date for applications
- To advertise the job opening on various websites and in various publications as the Committee chooses

- To select up to 5 qualifying candidates from the list of applicants
- To conduct interviews with qualifying candidates
- To select and present a job offer to a final candidate, including the pay rate, based on the candidate's qualifications and experience, contingent on final approval of the EIRA Board of Directors. The job offer to the final candidate will be for 6 months, after which the Executive Committee will recommend to the Board whether or not to extend the candidate's contract.

The Board approved a motion to authorize the EIRA President to hire a consultant to help with miscellaneous administrative tasks until a new coordinator is hired.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p. m.

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 contacting president@eastisles.org. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 7th, 2015, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.