

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) Meeting
December 8, 2015
Grace Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Andrew Degerstrom (President), Carla Purdue (Vice-President), Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bruce Larson, Nancy Johnston, Amy Sanborn, Bill Elwood, Mike Erlandson

Guest: Lisa Goodman, Council member

EIRA President Andrew Degerstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Welcome & Announcements:

- EIRA is interviewing candidates for the position of EIRA Coordinator, with a goal of selecting and approving a new coordinator in the January 12 Board meeting.

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council Ward 7

- This month, instead of Lunch with Lisa, the Later with Lisa Event will be held at the Normandy downtown from 4:30-6:30 pm on Monday December 14.
- The Minneapolis final budget hearing will be held and residents are welcome to attend.
- Historic designation of the Thomas Lowry Park statue was approved.
- A resident has made an inquiry to the Council Member's office regarding the installation of speedbumps on Humboldt Avenue between 28th Street and the Greenway. The street is eligible for speedbumps, but approval requires signatures of 75% of block residents/owners, and no parking is allowed within 25 feet of bump. The block owners would need to pay \$7500 per speedbump (pair). There was a further discussion that speedbumps may be installed in alleys, although these must be taken up in the winter for plowing.
- The zoning variances for 2505 E Lake of the Isles Parkway were approved.
- The owners of 2701 Lake of the Isle have indicated that they are interested in tearing down the existing house to build a new house; the property is currently in the historic review process.
- Hennepin & Lyndale redesign work will make the traffic on Hennepin tricky, so drivers should look for alternate routes. The current work on sewer-utility redesign has uncovered a number of collapsed pipes that have to be dug out; upon completion of that work, the intersection at Oak Grove will be closed for 6 weeks. The sewer at Vineland will also be redone.
- Council Member Goodman has received a number of calls from East Isles residents regarding leaf collection; the deadline for pick-up was November 19. The same equipment that does leaves (e.g. street cleaning) also does snowplowing for the next season, so a fixed deadline is required. The leaf collection was performed through a contract that expired on November 25 with no option for extension; however, residents can pay for private removal and the Council Member's office will provide that information.
- The Nicollet Mall project concrete removal is being implemented 4 blocks at a time in order to keep 1 side always open, moving down the street. Without buses and bike traffic on the mall, crime has become a concern.

Open Forum

- Loppet organizers are expected to attend the January EIRA Board meeting.

REPORTS

Social Committee

The Ice skating party is scheduled for Sunday January 25th (assuming ice!), at the Lake of the Isles ice

skating rink.

The Wine-tasting event is expected to resume as a yearly event. Next year, the goal is to increase online sales (with will-call tickets). EIRA will try to find a volunteer to focus on increasing East Isle ticket sales with sales. The total raised for EIRA included \$600 of tickets, (\$100 online), plus one-quarter of door sales. In addition, pop booth sales from the Art Fair raised \$367.

Zoning Committee. The chair of the EIRA Zoning Committee is stepping down, so a new chair is required. Additional committee members are also needed.

Green Team

The Green Team held a successful Food Waste house-party in November attended by a dozen people. Eureka Recycling came and talked about food storage (e.g. CSA deliveries) and methods of preventing food waste, and the Hill and Lake Press published a related article.

An Energy Reduction meeting will be scheduled in January or February as part of Lake Street Energy Challenge.

The Green team held a Community Solar Gardens meeting on November 17 along with the ECCO neighborhood; the meeting was a kickoff for a subscription drive, with about 9 attendees interested in signing up. Anyone with an Xcel meter (bill) can participate in Solar Gardens, and the Lake Street Energy Challenge preferred developer program, run by Minnesota Community Solar, does not have an up-front cost, unlike some other developer programs. The Green Team encourages people to join before capacity is used up, and to check out our program before considering an alternative.

The next **Solar Gardens informational meeting is scheduled for January 13th at 7pm** at Grace Community Church; request for information can also be sent to Bill Elwood at elwood39@gmail.com or Sean Gosiewski at sean@afors.org. A subscriber interest form can be completed at www.mncommunitysolar.com/sustainablecommunities. EIRA will receive fundraising credit if prospective subscribers sign themselves up as EIRA residents.

NRP Committee

The board approved the EIRA President nomination of Mike Erlandson for Chair of the NRP Committee

At the last NRP meeting, members discussed the need for education on how NRP works and assess whether to re-evaluate the Phase 2 plan, which may include developing a list of potential projects. The next **NRP meeting scheduled for Monday Feb. 1** at Grace Community Church.

Greater Uptown Community Partnership. A board member reported on the partnership meeting; comprised of Uptown neighborhoods resident and business associations, the partnership aims to discuss projects that can be implemented together. A speaker from the Public Works Department solicited feedback on what transportation issues are the most significant. Board members expressed concerns with pedestrian safety, with increase in pedestrians getting hit. Participating neighborhoods were asked to contribute \$300-500 for a coordinator; the Uptown Business association offered to be the fiscal agent (be the recipients of the check). The Board approved participation in the Partnership with a \$300 contribution to fund a coordinator, to come from the unrestricted funds. The next meeting is January 13th.

President's Report

The Board approved contributing \$500 to Grace Church for meeting space.

John Louis has stopped working as the EIRA coordinator. In the interim, the President doing newsletter, website, etc. while the Board works on hiring a new coordinator.

EIRA will plan to put an ad in the Hill and Lake Press thanking EIRA sponsors.

Board Review

The Board approved formation of a Bylaws Committee to review and amend the EIRA Bylaws in order to correct conflicting language; a report will be due back at the March Board meeting. Bruce Larson was approved as committee chair. Potential committee members can notify the chair if interested in participating; participants must be an EIRA member and sign a conflict of interest statement.

EIRA Goals and Projects for 2016

- The Board initiated discussion of potential EIRA goals and projects for next year.
- The President will inform committee chairs that they should plan to report at every Board meeting for 3 minutes.
- A board member suggested that a Crime and Safety Committee be formed; the committee would help determine strategy regarding these topics for EIRA.
- The Green Team has goals related to the Lake Street Energy Challenge through 2017.
- A survey of neighborhood could be performed with NRP funds to help identify what neighborhood thinks should be priorities.
- The Board will plan a retreat for February to work on developing a priority list. The retreat may start with the list developed from the last retreat 4 years ago, and identify accomplishments.
- Committees may wish to review committee mission statements and compare to current tasks.
- During the summer, interns who could perform paid or unpaid projects may help implement some projects.

EIRA President Andrew Degerstrom closed the meeting to order at 9:00 pm.

Reminder: The next **East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA) Board meeting will be held at 7 pm on January 12, 2016** at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.

EIRA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at coordinator@eastisles.org at least five (5) days before an EIRA sponsored event.

Submitted by: Nicole Engel-Nitz, Secretary of the EIRA Board