

EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 6/11/19 7:00 p.m.

Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street

Board members present: Ellen van Iwaarden (President), Mackenzie Nelson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Debbie Gold (Secretary), John Morrow, John Grochala, John Barnett, Emma Erdahl, Steve Havig, Julia Curran, and Mike Erlandson

Board alternates present: Kate Svitavsky

Members and alternates not present: John Erlandson

Staff: Molly Fleming

Guests: Council Member Lisa Goodman, and Michael Gold, volunteer organizer of the Ice Cream Social

Welcome & Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. Ellen van Iwaarden, EIRA President

Guest Speaker, Council Member Lisa Goodman, City of Minneapolis

Council Member Goodman reported that the Lunch with Lisa registration is closed for the June event because it is a field trip with limited seats and is full. With the popularity of this event, the Council Member's office might plan a similar trip at a future Lunch with Lisa. There will be no Lunch with Lisa in July or August. The September Lunch with Lisa will be a panel of citizens from Ward 7 who serve on public boards or commissions. The October Lunch with Lisa will have to do with inclusion and equity issues, but there is no set agenda or speaker yet. Council Member Goodman congratulated Debbie Gold and the board for actually doing something about food justice by starting the Farmers Market. The Council Member also reported that her longtime secretary, Ruth Weakley will be retiring after 28 years of service for the City of Minneapolis. The Councilmember's final statement was that the hotline number for issues regarding the Southwest LRT is 612-373-3953.

Michael Gold, resident and coordinator of Ice Cream Social

Michael Gold, a resident who is organizing the East Isles Ice Cream Social, reported that the event will be on Tuesday, August 20, from 6-8 p.m., at Joanne Levin Triangle Park. He also presented a proposed budget for the event. The budget from last year was \$2,031.21. The only difference in the budget from last

year is adding a porta potty to the event at the request of several neighborhood members. The proposed budget was approved unanimously by the board. Volunteers are required for this event. If you are interested in volunteering please email info@eastisles.org.

President's Report

Ellen van Iwaarden, President, asked everyone to read the Conflict of Interest Policy and sign and return the signature page to Molly. She also reported that she has been emailing with the Green Team leader from ECCO and a representative of the Loppet Foundation. The emails were in regard to the amount of trash along the eastern shore of Lake of the Isles, even after the Earth Day clean up and how ECCO, EIRA, and Loppet volunteers might work together to clean it up at one or two events this summer. Some ideas the board had were to have trash bags and gloves available at the East Isles Farmers Market so people can go out on their own and pick up trash, and perhaps claim a reward if they bring back the trash to the market. The board is also interested in purchasing some nets to keep for clean ups so that volunteers can scoop up smaller debris from the water. The board would also like to reach out to businesses to encourage them to reduce single use plastics, which make up a great deal of the debris. The board is interested in reviving the Green Team for EIRA, and several board members volunteered to be involved. Those who are interested want to make the mission of that team waste reduction and proactive green efforts.

Ellen then reported that the efforts to make EIRA a 501(c)(3) are ongoing. EIRA is currently a nonprofit 501(c)(4). She is interested in having an accountant go over the work that has been done on the application, and has reached out for information on possible accountants. She and Andrew, the Treasurer, will investigate the possibility of hiring an accountant to review the application and to do the board's taxes and report back to the board. If there are any neighborhood accountants who might be interested in helping with this, either as a pro bono or paid project, please email info@eastisles.org.

Ellen's final report was on a conversation the executive committee had about the board elections in April. Ellen, Mackenzie Nelson, and Emma Erdahl, the new Outreach and Elections Committee Chair, will work together to ensure there will be more process and procedure put in place for the elections going forward, including a written ballot.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew Degerstrom reported that he is working on the transition with EIRA's former Treasurer, Amy Sanborn. He is creating a new system for handling the number of invoices generated by EIRA and the Farmers Market. He also gave the board a quick rundown of the accounts and credit cards for EIRA.

Committee Reports

NRP

Mike Erlandson, NRP Chair, discussed the proposed Plan Modification to add money to the Affordable Housing Loan Program and Public Space Improvements. This Plan Modification has been posted for the required time period and had been discussed by the board in May. The resolution to do the Plan Modification was passed unanimously by the board.

Mike then presented a request for funds by Grace Nursery School for items for their community garden adjacent to the Greenway. Grace Nursery School presented a budget of \$2736.50 for items such as flower bulbs, nature play area pieces, a small storage shed, landscaping, etc. These funds will come from the Public Space Improvement funds. Molly Fleming previously confirmed with NCR that EIRA could fund this project because the school is non-denominational and the garden is open to the public. The board unanimously approved giving Grace Nursery School a grant to cover these expenses to improve their community garden.

Mike then reported on the Home Security Grant program. There are funds available to continue this program, and the board is interested in contracting those funds to continue the program into the future due to its popularity with residents. The board voted to increase the contract with the City of Minneapolis for the Home Security Grant Program by \$5,000, for a total contract of \$15,000.

Mike's final report was about the ongoing project to get a shade structure at Joanne Levin Triangle Park. Mike and Molly Fleming have been corresponding with Park Commissioner Jono Cowgill about this project and at the time of the meeting, Jono Cowgill's latest response had been to say that he wanted to wait to take any action until after the SW Parks Master Plan came out. The board expressed frustration over the slow pace of this project and discussed ways to encourage the Park Board and Park staff to get this important project done.

Farmers Market

Debbie Gold, Market Director, reported that the Farmers Market is ready to open with many new and returning vendors, goat yoga June 20th, and food trucks. Increasing attendance at the Farmers Market will be important in this second year of the market pilot program with the Park Board. The Farmers Market will open on Thursday, June 13 and will be held all summer long on twelve Thursday nights and two Wednesday nights (July 3 and July 31) from 4-8 on the Mall. Debbie gave the board ideas on what it can do to support the market this summer. She encouraged all board members to volunteer for a shift at the EIRA outreach booth, think about sponsorships for the 2020 market, invite friends to the market, attend the market, and shop.

There was also a conversation about how to get more seating at the market. In future newsletters regarding the market, a message will be included encouraging people to bring chairs.

The Transportation and Land Use, Social, and Outreach and Nominations Committees did not have reports.

General Items

EIRA Coordinator, Molly Fleming, reported that the planning for the Hennepin and Lake Community Wine Tasting is underway. Save the date for Oct 10th at Saint Mary's greek Orthodox Church. She is splitting her billable hours for the Wine Tasting between EIRA and WCNC. Former board member Amy Sanborn is also representing the neighborhood at the Wine Tasting planning meetings. Planning for the Supersale is also underway. Molly will work with Social Chair Kate Svitavsky and neighborhood volunteer Shelly Itman to organize this event for Saturday, September 7. She and Kate are also working with Michael Gold on the Ice Cream Social.

The board discussed designing a postcard to promote summer events like the one that was sent last year. Andrew Degerstrom will take the lead on designing the postcard, Ellen will update the copy, and it will be finished by the end of June.

President Ellen van Iwaarden adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

The next EIRA meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Grace Trinity Church. EIRA invites all residents to participate. Should you require an

accommodation to fully participate, please let us know by contacting us at info@eastisles.org.

Respectfully submitted by: Molly Fleming - EIRA Coordinator