

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Grace Trinity Community Church**

Minutes

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

Board alternates present: Kate Svitavsky

Members and alternates not present: John Morrow, John Grochala, John Erlandson

Staff: Molly Fleming

Guests: Council member, Lisa Goodman, and Artist, Travis (No last name given)

Welcome & Call to Order: 7:04 p.m. Mike Erlandson, EIRA Vice President

Officer Elections:

The roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary were up for election. After a brief explanation of the roles and what they entail, as well a discussion of the possibility of contracting a bookkeeper to lighten the load of the incoming Treasurer, the elections were held.

President: Ellen van Iwaarden was nominated by Andrew Degerstrom. She was elected by unanimous voice vote

Vice President: Mackenzie Nelson self nominated for this position. She was elected by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer: Andrew Degerstrom was nominated by Debbie Gold. He was elected by unanimous voice vote.

Secretary: Debbie Gold was nominated by Mackenzie Nelson. She was elected by unanimous voice vote.

From here, these minutes will now reflect the new officers in these positions. Ellen van Iwaarden, President, took over as chair of the meeting.

Councilmember Goodman's Report

Lisa Goodman reported that the Lunch with Lisa in May will be on the same topic as the April Lunch, the Transportation Action Plan. This will take place on May 22nd at the Minneapolis Saint Thomas Campus. The June Lunch with Lisa will be a bus tour of new developments in the city. She also reported that there is a new city policy of random

housing inspections. This is in response to people feeling uncomfortable reporting their neighbors. Finally, she wanted to highlight an event happening on May 18th called Doors Open Minneapolis.

Board member Steve Havig asked Lisa Goodman what could be done about excessive noise coming from The Mansion at night. This was a topic that a community member had wanted to bring up during the Open Forum section of the meeting but was unable to make it. Lisa Goodman said the Mansion is not in her ward, but encouraged people to call the owner, Steve Hark, at 612-444-3211 or 911 if they feel the volume is too loud late at night.

Committee Reports

NRP

Mike Erlandson, Chair of the NRP Committee, discussed a plan modification that was put forth for a vote to move \$21,000 out of other accounts into Sustainable Practices. This proposed plan modification had been posted on the EIRA website for over 21 days. After some discussion, this plan modification was passed by a majority of the members present, with Debbie Gold abstaining. Mike then discussed a request made by Bridge for Youth for a letter supporting a grant application they are writing. This was approved by the board, with Mike saying he would draft a letter and send via email to the board for approval. Finally, Mike brought a discussion to the floor for another plan modification to be voted on at the next meeting to put program income from Residential Housing Program loans and Affordable Housing Program loans into Public Space Improvements so that projects like removing invasive species from the Lake of the Isles shoreline, putting in more benches, or funding a shade structure for Joanne Levin Triangle Park can continue. The board agreed to discuss the plan at the next meeting, after the 21 day notice period to the neighborhood had passed.

Social Committee

Kate Svitavsky volunteered to become the Social Committee Chair.

Zoning and Land Use/Transportation

The Zoning and Land Use and Transportation Committees jointly met on May 8 to discuss the potential merger of the committees previously discussed at the

Annual Meeting in April. Based on the discussion from that meeting, Andrew Degerstrom, chair of the Zoning and Land Use Committee, offered the following motion:

1. Merge the existing Zoning & Land Use and Transportation Committees into a new, single committee.
2. Temporarily name the new committee the Transportation & Land Use Committee.
3. Direct the new Transportation & Land Use Committee to report back to the Board by no later than July with recommendations for a permanent committee name and a new committee description.

Motion passed unanimously.

The joint committees also discussed concerns about pedestrian signals crossing Hennepin Ave at Uptown Transit Station, 27th Street, and 25th Street being button actuated and not automatic. Based on that discussion, Andrew Degerstrom moved that the Board write a letter to the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department requesting that pedestrian signals at the previously mentioned intersections be switched from button actuated to automatic, emphasizing the intersection at Uptown Transit Station as being the higher priority of the three. Motion passed unanimously.

Some additional announcements were:

1. 1721 Lagoon Ave, which is the 3 story fourplex on Lagoon that we approved a letter of support for at our March meeting, was approved by the Planning Commission on Monday night on consent.
2. 3021 E Calhoun Pkwy, a three story residential building with 17 dwelling units (mix of apartments and condos), was approved by the Planning Commission on Monday night. If you recall, back in February ECCO's Livability Committee chair requested that EIRA vote to oppose a previous iteration of the project. At our February meeting, we decided not to take any action, mainly because between the time we got the request and our February board meeting, the developer decided to meet with the neighborhood and work on changes to the project. ECCO was supportive of the final proposal that the Planning Commission approved.
3. The Transportation & Land Use Committee will be trying out a Transportation & Land Use Book Club. We encourage anyone who is interested to participate, regardless of whether they are on the Committee or not. Our first book will be *Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution* by Janette Sadik-Khan and Seth Solomonow. We will be discussing the book at our July committee meeting on Tuesday, July 16. <http://www.jsadikkhan.com/streetfight-the-book.html>
4. If you are interested in learning more about the METRO B and E Lines, attend Metro Transit's open house next Wednesday May 22, 4-6:30, at Walker Library. There is no

formal presentation, so come any time.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/582326172250651/>

Outreach and Nominations

Emma Erdahl volunteered to become the chair of the Outreach and Nominations Committee.

Farmers Market

Debbie Gold, Director, shared that she just received a new sponsorship for the market from the YWCA. She has also completed the process to secure the banner rigging over the intersection of Hennepin and Lake Streets on some crucial dates to promote the Farmers Market. The banner is currently being printed. She reported that the pre-season vendor meeting was a success. Finally, she showed the board the new hats for the Farmers Market, and noted that lawn signs will be coming soon.

General Items

An artist named Travis came to the meeting to present on a project of his he would like support for. The project uses images he took with verbal consent of people experiencing homelessness. The title of the project is “Homeless or Homebody?”. In his words, the aim of the project is to make people guess who is a person experiencing homelessness and who is not, with the surprise twist that everyone in the photos was, at the point the photo was taken, experiencing homelessness. The proposed sight of the photos under the Hennepin Ave Bridge on the Midtown Greenway. The photos will be printed and blown up large, and put on the wall using a paste made of flour and water. The board expressed many concerns over this project. The optics of this project, with the photos being displayed under a bridge without context, did not appeal to anyone. Travis explained that there would “probably” be QR codes or a url that people could look up and the context would be revealed there. There was also concern that the artist was perhaps not the right person to document this. One board member posed the question: Why did he not give the camera to the people he was trying to document so that they could tell their own story? Another board member expressed concern that he had spoken about attending several meetings with neighborhood organizations and elected officials, but had also stated he did not have time to speak to people currently experiencing homelessness about their reactions to his project and vision. Others agreed they

found this troubling. Overall the board was not ready to approve this project. A board member who has strong ties to Simpson Housing Services said he would be seeing people associated with that organization soon and would ask them if they had heard of the project and how they felt about it and would report back to the board so that further discussion could take place.

EIRA Coordinator, Molly Fleming, reported that she will be updating the website to reflect the new board. She asked for headshots and bios from everyone. She also reported that she will be out of office from May 17th through May 28th, returning to work on the 29th. Molly also gave a brief update about the current status of Neighborhoods 2020. The board asked that she bring Conflict of Interest Forms for the new board to fill out at the next meeting.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Ellen van Iwaarden, President, made the following announcements:

Thank you to our outgoing board members Peter Mason, Amy Sanborn, and Brad Ash for their outstanding service to the neighborhood.

Also thanks to Brad Ash and Mike Erlandson and Amy Sanborn for their service as President, Vice President, and Treasurer last year.

The Earth Day clean-up at Lake of the Isles on Saturday, April 20 was well-attended and thanks to all in the neighborhood who came out and helped. A special thank you to Brad Ash for organizing and leading the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm

The next EIRA meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St. 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