

EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 8/13/19 7:00 p.m.
Grace Trinity Community Church
1430 W 28th Street

Minutes

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, and Julia Curran

Board Members not present: Mike Erlandson

Alternates present: Kate Svitavsky

Alternates not present: John Erlandson

Staff: Molly Fleming

Guests: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Michael Schroeder, members of the public.

Welcome & Call to Order: 7:00 by Ellen van Iwaarden, President

Guest Speakers:

Lisa Goodman, City Council Member, reported that the next Lunch with Lisa will feature people who serve on community boards and committees in the Ward. Council Member Goodman gave a quick update on a teardown on James Ave that will be replaced with a new house. The old house being removed is not designated historic. She then gave an update on the "Drive Thru Ban." She authored the bill and wanted to stress that no drive thrus will be removed, the new rules would just prevent new ones from being built. This is a livability and pedestrian safety issue according to her and many constituents. She reported on the Dedicated Bus Lanes on Hennepin project, which will begin on September 6. The dedicated lanes will only be in effect during peak traffic times during the day (rush hours). This project is predicted to reduce traffic congestion and neighborhood traffic, since planners believe fewer people will avoid Hennepin.

Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board came to the meeting to give a brief presentation on the steps for planning and putting in a shade structure at Joanne Levin Triangle Park. The East Isles Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Committee will be heading up the planning and residents are encouraged to join the Committee if they'd like to help with the planning. If the planning begins this fall and continues on schedule, the new structure could be installed as early as June 2020. Assistant Superintendent Schroeder feels that

it is better to get this done right then get it done quickly. After a design is selected, there will be a significant engagement process with community members. Other things for the neighborhood planners to consider are whether the shade structure will be a year round structure and what materials should be used so that the Park Board maintenance staff can easily maintain it. The budget for this project is currently set at \$40,000, but additional funds could be procured through grants or NRP dollars.

Assistant Superintendent Schroeder then offered some comments on the Mall Park proposed redesign. He reiterated that the process is ongoing and that every version of the plan for this park seen so far has been a draft. He predicted that the online comment portal for the designs of this park will be open through October, and encouraged people to use it as well as attend the upcoming Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on August 19 at the Kenwood Rec Center. This fall, he hopes, the CAC will present a final plan to the Park Board, and there will be a 45-day comment period. After the comment period ends, the MPRB planning staff takes a month to sort and analyze comments before going to the Planning Committee to present. Once a plan clears the Planning Committee, then it will go to the Park Board Commissioners for a vote.

Public Comment on Mall Plans

17 members of the public chose to make a comment about a suggested draft sketch of The Mall as a part of Community Advisory Committee's (CAC) proposals for the [Southwest Service Area Master Plan](#). Each had one minute to speak and generally focused on things they did not like about the sketch. Before the comment period began, all present were reminded that the EIRA board is not the decision-maker on the sketch for The Mall park, the CAC will make their recommendation, and then the Park Board will make the decision after a period of public comment. Due to the Park Board's method for determining the priority of projects, Assistant Superintendent Schroeder also guessed that any changes to The Mall park would probably come in 8-10 years. Commenters were also reminded to comment on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website, where there is a comment portal. Assistant Superintendent Schroeder assured the crowd that he would take notes and pass along the comments to the Park Board staff and CAC as well. He also noted that the most important comment period will be the 45-day period just after the CAC makes a final recommendation to the Park Board, which he expects to happen this fall.

Committee Reports

President's Report

Ellen van Iwaarden, President, reported that a subcommittee interviewed three candidates in their search for an independent contractor or accounting firm to help EIRA with its accounting needs. They are waiting on a bid, but will have a recommendation for the board soon.

Built Environment and Transportation (BET)

Andrew Degerstrom, Chair, reported that the Committee has not yet drafted an official committee description for the board's review, but one will come soon. The Committee has received information on some upcoming construction in the neighborhood, including the proposed teardown on James Avenue, but thus far none have been significant enough to require BET Committee comment. The BET Book Club is still in its pilot phase and the committee will continue to make plans and adjustments. The next BET meeting was scheduled for Aug 20th but will be cancelled or moved due to the Ice Cream Social.

Farmers Market

Debbie Gold, Farmers Market Director, reported that the Dog Days of Summer event at the Market broke an attendance record with 1086 people counted at the market. Lunds and Byerlys Uptown donated 12 dozen hot dogs and buns and these were handed out by EIRA board and volunteers. Debbie then reported that as Director of the Farmers Market, she hopes that the final Mall design allows the Farmers Market to stay in its current location and not need to move a block east toward Hennepin, where it would be on an incline. She then reported that Farmers Market ads have now appeared in the Southwest Journal and the Hill and Lake Press. August 22 market will feature a happy hour with live jazz and a Beer Garden as part of a partnership with LynLake Brewery.

Outreach and Nominations

Emma Erdahl, Chair, reported that the first Outreach Committee meeting was held on August 1st. The Committee discussed setting goals for increasing participation and turnout from residents, and to get more board nominations in the future. The committee also discussed using Community Participation Program (CPP) funds to boost social media events and increase turnout so that the board can capitalize on social events to get people more involved in committees. The board discussed finding board training for themselves and people considering being on the board. A motion was made to approve paying to send board members and neighbors interested in becoming board members to board training, and the board approved this motion.

Social Committee, Green Team (no reports this month)

General Items

Coordinator Updates

Molly Fleming, Coordinator, reported that the grate painting with [Aeon for Ocean](#) is set to go forward on August 24. Planning for the Supersale is going well, and registrations are coming in. An ad has been placed in the Hill and Lake Press as well for this event. The summer donation mailer just went out, and included both a Super Sale registration form and an Ice Cream Social Flyer. The Ice Cream Social will be next week, Tuesday, August 20 from 6-8 pm at Joanne Levin Triangle Park. Interested volunteers should contact Michael Gold, Ice Cream Social Chair or email info@eastisles.org. Molly then passed out flyers to every board member for the Hennepin and Lake Wine Tasting on Thursday, October 10 and asked them to hand them out to neighbors and friends. The flyer directs people to buy tickets online.

Open Forum

The board as a whole discussed the public comment period that had taken place earlier in the meeting. The board was split over whether or not to make an official comment on the issue of the proposed design for The Mall park. Ellen van Iwaarden, President, wanted to make clear that she did not expect a vote on the design itself at this particular meeting, given how little notice neighbors had been given to comment to the board. Many board members agreed that more discussion needed to occur, and more engagement with the neighborhood,

before writing a letter of support or dissent. After more discussion and a determination that if the board voted to make a comment on this issue, the comment did not necessarily have to be binary and could include comments both for and against various ideas in the plan. The board's vote was 8-2, with the majority voting to make an official comment. The board will make that comment at a later date after an engagement period with the neighborhood is conducted.

Adjourn Ellen van Iwaarden, President, adjourned the meeting at 9:09 pm.

The next EIRA meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Sep 10, 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