

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Annual Members' Meeting  
April 17, 2012  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (Vice President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Ginna Portman Amis, Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Harvey Ettinger, Tina Frontera, Jane Schommer, and Linda Schutz.

Vice President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner, District 4**

- Triangle Park: The old equipment has been removed and the new equipment is being designed and manufactured (delivery is expected in June). The park should be ready by early August in time for the Ice Cream Social.
- Parade Road: Construction will begin in July. They will try to keep the old road open while the new one is being constructed. Completion is expected by October.
- Lake of the Isles: Replacing the mismatched lighting will be completed this year. The Park Board is testing aeration methods on the compacted turf on the north arm of the lake.

**Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District**

- The County is in the process of redistricting (East Isles will remain in District 3).
- Walker Library: Vincent James & Association, a local architecture firm is designing the new building. The Community Advisory Committee's June meeting will focus on interior spaces, the collection and programming. The library will close in late August, construction will begin in the fall and the new library will open in early 2014. The polling place at the Walker will be reassigned. There will not be an interim library.
- Light Rail Transit: Waiting to see if the state legislature include \$25 million for the project in the bonding bill. Funding is in place for the Met Council to begin preliminary engineering. A new Community Advisory Committee is being formed for station area planning.
- Hennepin County is providing some matching funds (with East Isles NRP money) for additional lighting on the East Isles section of the Greenway.

**Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member, City of Minneapolis**

- Urban Ag ordinance was approved. CM Tuthill recommends getting soil tested to make sure it is safe to grow food.
- A public hearing on the stadium will be held April 24, 4-6:30 p.m. in City Hall (350 S. 5th St.), Room 317.
- "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past," by Diane Wilson has been selected as the next One Minneapolis One Read book.
- Dining out for Life to support The Aliveness Project is April 26. For more information: [www.diningoutforlife.com/Minneapolis](http://www.diningoutforlife.com/Minneapolis)
- Check out the biking safety video on the City's website: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

**Legislative Update: Senator Scott Dibble, District 60, Representative Marion Greene, District 60A and Frank Hornstein, District 60B**

- The legislative session has been unproductive.
- Voter ID and marriage amendments will be on the ballot in November.
- Working on trying to pass a bonding bill.
- Redistricting put Reps Green and Hornstein in the same district. Rep Hornstein won the DFL endorsement for the seat.

### **Chelsea Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist, Minneapolis Police**

- Block leaders are needed in East Isles. Contact Chelsea if interested: [Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov)
- Since 2006, 93% of crime in East Isles has been property crime. Most of the crime is garage burglaries (40% from unlocked garages). Reminders: lock garage doors, don't leave valuables in your car, treat your garage door opener like a key, and record your bike's serial number in case it gets lost or stolen. Report crime and suspicious behavior to 911.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Open House is May 14, 5-7 p.m.

## **REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

Vice President Dan McLaughlin has been the acting president of EIRA.

- Two capital improvements for East Isles: Triangle Park and the Walker Library.
- The newly formed Green Team has been doing great work.
- With the economy improving, McLaughlin thinks we will see developers interested in East Isles. Two themes seem to be taller buildings and later hours for businesses. We need to be proactive about what type of development we would like in East Isles.
- The success of the neighborhood depends on the involvement of residents. We need to engage more people.
- EIRA Board has a new meeting date: second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is May 8.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Al Rodriguez provided an overview of EIRA's funding sources: NRP, CPP and EIRA fundraising.

### **Social Committee**

Chair Amy Sanborn reported on activities of the Social Committee since last year's annual meeting.

- August 2011: Ice Cream Social and Art Fair pop booth; October 2011: Wine Tasting fundraiser; January 2012: Ice Skating Party. All were well-attended, successful events.
- Tentative date for the 2012 Ice Cream Social is August 16. The Social Committee will get final approval from the EIRA Board at the May meeting.

### **Zoning Committee**

Co-chair Harvey Ettinger's report:

- Lake of the Isles Renovation Project report can be found on our website: [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org).
- Working with the NRP Committee:
  - Secure matching funding from the City and County for additional lighting on the Greenway.
  - The Mall: replace old park benches, replace trees and clean up landscaping near the Greenway.
- The Zoning Committee is working on drafting guidelines for new development in the neighborhood (specifically vacant BP gas station at 2700 Hennepin); possible relocation of the Lowry statute; and working with other Uptown neighborhoods to be more proactive with development.
- The City is considering Conservation District ordinance for interested neighborhoods.

## **NRP Committee**

Monica Smith reported on activities of the NRP Committee:

- NRP Phase II plan was approved at the 2011 EIRA Annual Meeting, followed by approval by the NRP Policy Board and City Council.
- December 2011, the City Council restricted NRP Phase II funding to 66% of original allocation.
- The committee has been implementing the plan:
  - Mailing went to all residents outlining new programs.
  - Home improvement loans are available (low interest, up to \$7K). Contact CEE for more information: [loaninfo@mncee.org](mailto:loaninfo@mncee.org) or 612-335-5884.
  - Home security grants of up to \$250 are available. Contact Monica Smith at [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org) or 612-821-0131 for more information.
  - Low cost chore service for seniors offered through Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP), contact [seniors@neighborhoodinvolve.org](mailto:seniors@neighborhoodinvolve.org) or 612-374-3322.
- Also working on planting new boulevard trees in the neighborhood.
- Community Participation Program (CPP) is funding provided to neighborhoods by the City for community engagement and administration. Funding for current 18-month period was \$30K. Next phase of 18 month funding begins on July 1, 2012; East Isles allocation is \$37K plus an additional \$15K to bring our NRP Phase II allocation to 70%.

## **Green Team**

Chair Betsy Allis reported that the Green Team was founded in Fall 2011 and focusing on three areas: rain gardens, energy efficiency and waste reduction. The Green Team is partnering with three other neighborhoods on a project called Zero Waste Uptown, working on organics recycling in multi-family buildings. The Green Team has hosted three events (a film, a family event and a composting event). Earth Day events include a clean up at Lake of the Isles on April 21, 9:30 – noon and a composting event at the Grace Garden (Greenway at James) on April 21, 11 am – 2 pm. Save the date for an outdoor movie on June 10 and neighborhood garage sale in the fall.

## **Election of EIRA Board of Directors**

Dan McLaughlin thanked outgoing board members for their service: Ginna Portman Amis, Harvey Ettinger, Ramon Ramirez Quintero, Joe Sinnott and Alternate Rosita Acosta.

Nominations Committee Chair Linda Schutz introduced a slate of candidates for the 2012-13 EIRA Board of Directors: Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Tina Frontera, Renee Gust, Dan McLaughlin, Carla Pardue, Al Rodriguez, Michael Rossini, Jane Schommer, Linda Schutz and Richard White. Candidate for Alternates to the EIRA Board of Directors: Donna Jansen and Laura Rosenthal. McLaughlin called for any additional floor nominations. There were none so the nominations were closed. The slate of candidates was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.  
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

The next meeting of the EIRA Board will be Tuesday, May 8, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> St.