

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
November 1, 2011
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (Vice President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Ginna Portman Amis, Vaughn Emerson, Harvey Ettinger, Tina Frontera, Ramon Ramirez Qunitero, Linda Schutz, and Joe Sinnott.

Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements:

Monica Smith won a grant of \$333 for East Isles for an Outstanding Contribution Award at the Community Energy Services (CES) Award's Ceremony. Council Member Meg Tuthill won the Ward Award for having 100% participation from neighborhoods in her ward. Congratulations!

A Community Advisory Committee has been formed for Brownie Lake.

Met Council is planning two sanitation sewer projects in East Isles (2012 and 2013). They will be invited present to the EIRA Board (Dec or Jan).

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

- Council Member Gary Schiff is proposing changes to the Conditional Use Permit process for residential development with 5-9 units. CM Schiff will meet with neighborhoods to answer questions and get feedback on the proposal. CM Schiff will be invited to EIRA's December meeting.
- The City is conducting traffic counts at the intersection of 24th and Fremont. We hope to have an update at EIRA's December meeting.
- Although Mesa Pizza is now open for business at 1440 W. Lake Street, the Council's Committee on Regulatory, Energy & Environment, denied its application for extended hours, preferring it establish a track record of operations in Uptown then reapply.
- Kowalski's application for an addition of a liquor store is expected to be approved by the City Council on Nov 4. A spring opening date is planned.
- The zoning committees of EIRA and LHENA are encouraged to work together to consider future redevelopment possibilities and features the neighborhoods' might prefer to see at the site of the former BP gas station (2700 Hennepin Ave S).
- Increasingly residents experiencing congestion are interested in learning about critical parking (permit parking) on their block. For more information contact Tim Drew at timothy.drew@minneapolismn.gov at 612-673-2152.
- The Lakes Area Crime and Safety Committee will meet on Nov. 15, 6 p.m. at Temple Israel. The focus of the meeting will be the recent burglaries in the area.
- Meet with Meg is Nov. 8, 12-1 p.m. at the 5th Precinct, no meeting in December.

- Discussion for a proposed downtown casino is heating up. Much work would need to be done before it can be brought to a vote.
- The Mayor's 2012 budget proposes eliminating 4 Crime Prevention Specialists.
- CM Schiff is proposing an ordinance change to allow liquor to be served at restaurants within 300 ft of churches/parochial schools.

Robert Thompson, Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR)

Community Participation Program (CPP) was established in 2011 to fund neighborhood association throughout the City. Funding comes from frozen NRP dollars. NCR would like feedback on the draft guidelines for next year's program by Nov. 21. Feedback can include the process for the 2011 program as well as opportunities and barriers.

CPP purposes:

- Identify neighborhood priorities
- Help inform city decisions
- Increase neighborhood involvement.

Four steps:

- Organize and complete a CPP submission
- Identify Neighborhood Priority Plan
- Partner with NCR to develop partners
- Implement

Develop a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) – the allocation can be used to fund projects. Plans will show what is important to Minneapolis neighborhoods and help inform City priorities.

Concerns expressed by at least one of the Board members present include:

- 5 NCR staff members working with 71 neighborhoods.
- Execution seems to be missing in the guidelines.
- Funding is subject to NRP rules (i.e. food is not an allowable expense).
- Extent of involvement given neighborhood groups have experienced difficulty engaging residents. Answer: make a good faith effort to involve appropriate stakeholders. There will be a strengthened grievance process for those who may complain, "you didn't approach me."

To best protect the funding in the future: do some good programs and show why neighborhood organizations are important.

NCR will facilitate networking between neighborhoods, conducts neighborhood training, and is planning a conference in Feb 2012.

REPORTS

Social Committee Chair Amy Sanborn reported that the Wine Tasting Fundraiser went well however ticket sales were lower this year. EIRA will receive a percentage of

revenue from tickets sold at the door. Thank you to sponsors: Calhoun Square, Great Clips, Hennepin Lake Liquor, il Gato (Parasole Restaurant Holdings) and special thanks to event coordinator Pat Fleetham. Board members will write thank you notes to the sponsors.

The Board unanimously approved funding the Ice Skating Party on Jan 22 (back up: Jan 29) and advertising in the Hill and Lake Press.

EIRA Zoning Committee The Board approved a motion to have the Zoning Committee investigate seeking funds from events held in East Isles (Art Fair and Loppet). Zoning Committee will also be discussing historic homes and a proposed conservation district ordinance.

NRP Report The NRP Steering Committee interviewed two housing administrators to handle our \$70,000 home improvement loan program. The committee recommends the selection of Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). CEE offers many programs that would leverage our dollars for improvements in the neighborhood and has a strong energy efficiency focus. CEE charges a per loan fee so the committee may recommend adjusting the minimum loan amount to limit our exposure. The Board unanimously approved.

The Board unanimously approved the committee's recommendation of \$2,640 to the Neighborhood Involvement Program's Senior Program that provides low-cost home maintenance, yard and chore services to support seniors living independently.

Communications Committee The Board will investigate establishing a communication committee. The committee should have a clear charge.

Strategic Planning for EIRA

Purpose:

- 3-5 year vision for East Isles
- Seek new funding without NRP
- Evaluate new development (land use)
- Provide background for those outside of the neighborhood

The Board will work on a plan over the next months and present at the spring Annual Members Meeting.

Board members individually ranked a list of neighborhood priorities. The results will be shared next month.

Assignment for next month: identify classic neighborhoods around the world and think about what makes them great.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder