

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
September 6, 2011  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (Vice President), Ginna Portman Amis, Sue Durfee, Tina Frontera, Jane Schommer, Linda Schutz, and Joe Sinnott.

Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Open Forum:**

- A resident reported that the fire hydrant on the SE corner of Humboldt and 27<sup>th</sup> froze this past winter. Council Member Tuthill to investigate.
- Suggestion to print coupons for area businesses on the back of the new parking meter receipts.
- Concern about the cutting of vegetation on the south side of Lake of the Isles. Commissioner Tabb will be asked to address at the October Members' meeting.

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

- 80 positions are open on City boards and commissions.
- Mayor's 2012 budget presentation: Sept. 12, noon, Grain Exchange Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.
- Grand opening of the Bryant Ave Bike Blvd: Sept 22, late afternoon.
- Meet with Meg: Sept 13, noon-1 p.m., 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct
- Minneapolis Development Review Customer Service Center will be closed for business on Sept 22. It will reopen at 8 am on Sept. 23
- The Planning Commission is considering eliminating CUP for buildings with 5+ stories. Public Hearing: Sept 19, 4:30 p.m. Room 317 City Hall.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct crime year-to-date: Violent crime up 11%, property crime up 1%. Burglaries are up. Secure first floor window AC units to prevent easy access.
- New liquor stores being proposed for East Isles. Planning Commission will review two applications on Sept 19. Only one will be allowed: restrictions requiring 2,000 ft door-to-door between liquor stores, and 300 ft from churches and schools.

**Bob Kowalski, Kowalski's Market**

Bob Kowalski and architect George Johnson presented a proposal to add a liquor store to Kowalski's Market at 2440 Hennepin Ave S. to offer one-stop shopping for customers. 1,000 sq ft addition on east side of existing building using matching materials. Liquor store and market will have separate doors but will share a vestibule (shopping center designation). Liquor store will be 1,500 sq ft with 80% wine, + specialty beer and liquor. The patio, green space and bike racks will be accommodated and parking will remain as is. May need to reduce glazing below City standard of 30% to protect wine from UV rays. Hours: M-Th 9 am to 9 pm and F-Sat 9 am to 10 pm. Qualified security for the liquor store will be added.

If approved, Kowalski's would like to start construction soon. Neighborhood feedback will be considered.

### **Proposed Liquor Store at 2700 Hennepin**

Paul Abdo was scheduled to present his plan for redeveloping the current BP gas station at 2700 Hennepin as a liquor store. Mr. Abdo did not attend the meeting. The BOD discussed details provided by Abdo in advance of the meeting and independent research by board members. Complete redevelopment of the existing site, 6,000 sq ft one-story stucco building situated on the corner of 27<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin. Parking to the west and south of store. One-way car entrance from 27<sup>th</sup> St and two-way on Hennepin. Abdo would be the property owner, with Hoyt Properties developing the site and Cellers Wine and Spirits operating the store. Concerns were expressed about: traffic and delivery vehicles on 27th St., noise, adequacy of fencing, buffering, type of lighting and security given nearby residential, windows, building materials and texture, sustainability, disposition of underground storage tanks, environmental remediation, etc.

Issue was raised that if a liquor store is not approved at this location, the property may be redeveloped for another purpose and the neighborhood may want to have input on the development.

### **Board Votes**

The EIRA BOD voted to support the Kowalski's proposal (6 yea, 1 abstention).

The EIRA BOD unanimously voted to disapprove of the proposal for 2700 Hennepin based on the information at the disposal of the BOD.

Dan McLaughlin to send an email to CM Tuthill stating the BOD decisions.

Individuals are encouraged to send comments to CM Tuthill as well.

## **REPORTS**

### **Walker Library Update**

Christina Melloh, EIRA's appointee to the Walker Library Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The next CAC meeting will be Sept 8 at 6:30 p.m. On Sept 13, The Park Board will hold the last of three public meetings regarding the Mall/new library. Design options showing integration of the library and the Mall are available on the Park Board website. There is no current plan to integrate the space with the Midtown Greenway. Public comments are encouraged at this phase. Request to maintain a walkway from the Mall to the transit station during construction of the site.

**Triangle Park Renovation** The public hearing for the proposed renovation of Triangle Park is Sept 7, 5:45 p.m. at Park Board admin office, 2117 W. River Rd.

**Social Committee** Thanks to sponsors and volunteers for a successful Ice Cream Social, and to Art Fair pop booth volunteers. The annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be Oct 26

at Calhoun Square. 100% of proceeds of tickets sold in advance by EIRA go directly to East Isles.

### **EIRA Zoning Committee**

No additional zoning committee action. No meeting Sept 13.

### **NRP Report, Monica Smith**

The EIRA BOD unanimously approved submitting ads in the Hill and Lake Press (Sept and Oct).

The CPP guidelines for 2012 funding will be available soon.

East Isles Phase II funds have been approved at 66% of allocation. Fund available: \$255,653.

The NRP Steering Committee presented plans for implementing the following:

- Send Request for Proposals to two agencies to administer home improvement loan program (\$72,600):
  - Below-market interest rate loans for energy efficiency upgrades and exterior repairs.
  - Loan amounts \$2,500-7,500, 5-year terms
  - Four or fewer dwelling units
- Home Security Grant (\$10,000)
  - Maximum grant: \$250 per household for exterior lighting of residential properties. Energy efficient equipment preferred.
  - One-month application period, if interest exceeds funding, a lottery will be held. If not, ongoing first-come, first-served basis.
- Affordable Housing Loan to Nonprofits Assistance Fund (NAF) - (\$72,600)
  - NAF has similar loans with Lowry Hill and CIDNA.
  - NAF would loan to Urban Homeworks
  - 5-year loan, 1-1/2% interest rate. Once repaid, the money can be used for other East Isles priorities.
  - If Urban Homeworks defaults on the loan, EIRA will be repaid by NAF funds.
- Lighting on the Greenway (\$12,000)
  - Install low-level light fixtures on Greenway at Irving and Humboldt. Currently no lighting between James and Humboldt.
- Form an East Isles Green Team.
- The committee is working to leverage Park Board and Hennepin County funds to make improvements to the Mall as the new library is being built.
- Volunteers are needed to help implement additional strategies.

The EIRA BOD unanimously voted to approve the proposed implementation plan.

### **Discussion Items**

- Conflict of Interest forms need to be signed by all Board and committee members.

- For next meeting:
  - Information about speed display box on 2800 block of Irving
  - Follow up on 24<sup>th</sup> St and Fremont intersection
  - Strategic planning for EIRA
  - Board members are requested to tour Smith Triangle in advance of the next BOD meeting.
- Monica Smith's contract renewal was unanimously approved.

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

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder