

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
February 1, 2012
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (Vice President), Vaughn Emerson, Harvey Ettinger, Tina Frontera, Ramon Ramirez Quintero, Jane Schommer and Linda Schutz. Alternate Rosita Acosta was also present.

Vice President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Announcements

Due to a full agenda, strategic planning will be rescheduled until next month.

Dan McLaughlin, Harvey Ettinger, Ben Ganje and Monica Smith met to discuss redesigning the East Isles website. Contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org if you are interested in helping.

Guest speakers from the Midtown Greenway Coalition: Executive Director Soren Jensen and Minnesota GreenCorps member Michelle Beaulieu

Metro Transit is planning an alternatives analysis to study transit along the Lake Street and Greenway corridors (rapid bus, streetcar and light rail) from Hiawatha LRT to the proposed Southwest LRT (W. Lake St station near Whole Foods).

The Midtown Greenway Coalition has been supporting transit on the Greenway for many years and is advocating for a streetcar (with tracks imbedded in grass). They feel a streetcar will make the Greenway better and offer a sustainable mass transit option. The Coalition is asking EIRA for a resolution to support the Coalition's position.

A number of East Isles residents who live near the Greenway attended the meeting to share their concerns about a streetcar option. The East Isles stretch of the Greenway is unique because of three at-grade crossing (very close to housing).

The EIRA Board did not vote on a resolution. More information is needed and a number of issues need to be considered regarding the impact on the neighborhood.

Open Forum

Dan McLaughlin would like ideas for improving Smith Triangle (Hennepin at 24th St).

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

- CM Tuthill continues to work with restaurant owners on an outdoor patio ordinance.
- It has been reported that the Uptown Theater will be adding liquor, but they have not yet applied for a liquor license with the City and it is unclear if they may want to have a rooftop patio in the future.
- The owners of Heidi's will be opening a restaurant in the former Duplex space at 2516 Hennepin.
- Bar Louie is being proposed for 1348 Lagoon (Mozaic). They plan to have 400 seats including 150 on a patio. Tuthill is requested that the patio close at 12:30 a.m. on weekend (vs. the requested 2 a.m.) The Public Hearing is February 6, at 6 p.m. The City neglected to send a notification of Public Hearing to EIRA. Tuthill has requested that all four neighborhood associations be notified about anything in Uptown.
- Tuthill has two concerns about the Urban Agriculture proposal: the lack of height restrictions for hoop houses (plastic growing houses) and the number of days per year residents will be allowed to sell produce from their homes. Inquiry was made if proposal would better address poorly enclosed compost piles which attract animals and the response was "no." A public hearing will be held in March. Contact CM Tuthill for a copy of the Urban Ag proposal. Tuthill encouraged the EIRA Board discuss further at the March meeting and comment on the proposal.
- Tuthill recommends that the neighborhood consider what type of business we would like to see at the BP site (2700 Hennepin) and she will advocate for what we want (nothing is currently being proposed).

REPORTS

EIRA Zoning Committee

Co-chairs Harvey Ettinger and Steve Havig reported on two properties in East Isles.

- 2841 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy: an application is in with City for a new home on the vacant lot, no variances are being requested. The property owner will be invited to EIRA's March meeting.
- 2844 Irving: homeowner is seeking an expansion of nonconforming use and three variances for an addition to the duplex. Public Hearing is February 6, 4:30 p.m.
- Committee co-chairs committed to including property addresses on EIRA BOD agendas that are distributed in advance.

Social Committee

- The Ice Skating Party held last month was a big success (250 people attended from East Isles, Kenwood and Lowry Hill). Thanks to Isles Bun & Coffee for donating treats and hot beverages and to SQSA Parade Figure Skating Club for demonstrations and mini lessons. Special thanks to Chair Amy Sanborn and all the event volunteers.

- Wine Tasting fundraiser: \$1100 was raised from East Isles ticket sales plus \$1274 for our share of the tickets sold at the door. The Board unanimously approved event marketing expenses for Pat Fleetham (\$25).

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met Feb. 1, addressed administrative matters, will ask BOD members to supply one reason about "why" they serve, invited BOD members to ask neighbors or friends to consider serving on the BOD, and anticipates providing known "registered" candidate names to EIRA members at least five days before the April 17th Spring Annual members meeting per the bylaws (and not sooner than 30 days beforehand). Any one interested in being on the BOD, running for election contact nrp@eastisles.org for more information.

NRP Report, Monica Smith

- Neighborhood and Community Relations is holding a conference on February 11, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Board members and residents are invited to attend.
- Lake of the Isles will be a site for the Park Board's Earth Day clean up on April 21.
- East Isles and East Calhoun will investigate sharing a mailbox at the UPS Store since Monica Smith is staff for both neighborhoods and develop an operating policy regarding (un)authorized access. Each neighborhood currently rents a box for \$335/year.
- The Board unanimously approved funding for ad in the February Hill and Lake Press.
- The NRP Steering Committee is working on a mailing to go to residents introducing the new NRP programs.
- The Board unanimously approved offering the housing loan program on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Copies of the Community Participation Program expenses were distributed to Board members for review.

Green Team

- The Green Team is working on a multi-unit composting partnership with Lowry Hill East, ECCO and CARAG. East Isles is looking for buildings interested in being part of a pilot program (condos preferred).
- Next event: backyard composting presentation on March 9, 1-3 p.m. at Kenwood Isles, 1425 W. 28th Street, Terrace Room. All are welcome.
- Next meeting: February 13, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

Board Review and Vote

- The December 2011 meeting minutes were amended by deleting the following: "CM Tuthill will introduce an ordinance change in 2012 to require permits be obtained for recreational fires in Minneapolis."
- The Board approved the following meeting schedule:
 - EIRA Board meetings for March and April: Tuesday, March 6 and Tuesday, April 3

- Annual Members' Meeting: Tuesday, April 17
- **Important notice:** Beginning in May 2012, the EIRA Board will change their regular meeting day to the second Tuesday of the month.
- The Board did not have enough time to discuss the Uptown Association's request for a letter of support.
- The 5th Precinct is considering a Law Enforcement Group for Uptown. Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams to a future board meeting to discuss the idea in more detail.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder