

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
January 8, 2013
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Linda Schutz (Vice President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Tina Frontera, Renee Gust, Carla Pardue, Michael Rossini and Jane Schommer. Alternate Donna Jansen, other East Isles residents and guests were also present.

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

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

- Amore Victoria is hosting a benefit and silent auction for victims of the Uptown condo fire. The event will be January 9, 6-10 pm at 1601 W Lake St
- The Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis will study transit alternative between the Hiawatha LRT and the proposed West Lake Station of Southwest LRT (along the Midtown Greenway and/or Lake St/Lagoon Ave). A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is being formed. Contact Jill Hentges if you are interested: 612-349-7318 or jill.hentges@metc.state.mn.us
- The City is conducting a survey about bridging the digital divide. 12,400 households were randomly selected to participate in the survey.
- The Fire Department is accepting applications for new firefighters.
- The next Meet with Meg is January 14, noon- 1 pm at 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave S.
- The consultant's report is due this month regarding the new apartment building, 1800 Lake, which has been pumping groundwater from the parking garage into the lagoon (the channel that connects Lake of the Isles with Lake Calhoun, just west of the parkway and west of The Mall).
- The Met Council sewer project work will continue through March 2013, in the vicinity of the lagoon, The Mall and Midtown Greenway. Some of the construction work is expected to be loud as they test the new pipes.

Open Forum

- Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean up for the benefit at Amore Victoria.
- Julie Mellum from Take Back the Air attended to request that an alternative be considered for the wood-burning fire at the Ice Skating Party. The event organizers (3 area neighborhoods) are planning a small recreational fire in accordance with Park Board permit and City regulations.

REPORTS

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

- The annual Ice Skating Party will be Sunday, January 27, 1-3 pm at the Lake of the Isles ice rink. (back up date: February 10). Volunteers are needed. Contact nrp@eastisles.org if you can help.
- The Uptown Association invited EIRA to host a table at their Annual Meeting Expo on January 17 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3400 Irving Ave. S. The Board approved funding for two BOD members to attend the event (\$35 per person).

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning Committee

- The next Zoning Committee meeting will be January 15, 5 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street. Agenda will include a proposal for the redevelopment of the BP site at 2700 Hennepin Ave S.

Monica Smith, Staff Report

- The next meeting of the NRP Steering Committee is January 10, 7 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church, including a presentation on Emerald Ash Borer.
- The EIRA Board approved hosting an Earth Day clean up event at Lake of the Isles on April 20th.

Green Team

- The 2013 Green Film Series begins with a showing of *Gasland* (about frac sand mining), January 14, 6:30 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church.
- The Green Team applied for an \$8,000 grant from Hennepin County for community engagement around green issues. Zero Waste Uptown applied for a \$15,000 grant to work on multi-family residential recycling. The grants will be awarded by the end of January.
- Rain garden activities are being planned for March and May.

Board Review

- Responses to EIRA's Fall Members' Meeting survey were distributed.
- The EIRA BOD discussed ideas for the Spring Members meeting. Venue and date options will be explored, along with possible provision of baby-sitting service. The meeting will begin with food and social time. The agenda will include BOD elections, committee reports, EIRA's strategic plan, photo highlights of the year, and a testimonial about the EIRA NRP housing improvement loan program. Elected officials will be invited to speak briefly with a focus on the future.
- Al Rodriguez provided the Treasurer's Report, which included a recap of EIRA expenses and revenue for 2012. Monica Smith presented expenses for the Community Participation Program (CPP) and Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP).
- Dan McLaughlin and Linda Schutz presented information on BOD and committee operating procedures. EIRA Committees were reviewed along with their descriptions which were Board approved, noting some edits to occur. Two new committees are being created: Transportation and Parks & Open Space. People interested in joining one of these committees may contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org. The Nominations Committee has been renamed Outreach & Nominations and is being expanded to include outreach efforts to recruit committee chairs and members and to provide resources for EIRA committees. EIRA committees may work on creating a mission or vision statement to supplement committee descriptions already agreed upon.
- The BOD also discussed committee process questions. Committees have the authority to choose the focus of their work and the BOD may direct a committee to work on a particular issue.
- A committee guidelines document was also presented. The document defines operating policies and expectations for EIRA committees and provides an orientation for new committee members and chairs.
- A draft of a universal sign-in sheet was reviewed. Edits were suggested and a revised draft will be discussed at the February BOD meeting. Specific suggestions for changes/improvement are to be provided to Linda Schutz before January 28, 2013.
- The BOD approved funding for one-third of the costs for Monica Smith to participate in the NUSA conference in Minneapolis (May 2013).

Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP)

- Dan McLaughlin and Monica Smith met with Robert Thompson (Neighborhood and Community Relations) to discuss the next steps for developing our NPP. Robert will work with us to draft a document and serve as a liaison with the Park Board to work on improvements to parkland in the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA BOD meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W.
28th St.