

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
April 3, 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 7:02 p.m.

Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member, City of Minneapolis

- Redistricting for City Council wards has been finalized (effective after the November 2013 elections). East Isles will move to Ward 7 (currently represented by Lisa Goodman).
- Urban Ag ordinance was approved with a few amendments: Hoop houses will be restricted to 6½ ft on properties with 1-4 dwelling units (12 ft allowed for larger properties) and sales will be limited to 15 days per year with a running maximum of 72 hours. Items that did not pass: soil testing requirement, anaerobic digester and chickens in schools.
- Proposed Trader Joe's, 27th and Lyndale: The property is not zoned for a liquor store. To be allowed, the zoning would need to be changed from C1 to C2. CM Tuthill does not support a zoning change for a specific business given relatively recently adopted small area plans, and because zoning is forever.
- Tuthill has decided to vote for the stadium plan.
- Yard waste pick up and street sweeping begin the week of April 9
- Bar Louie (proposed for Mozaic, 1348 Lagoon Ave): City staff recommended 1 a.m. closing for Wed-Sat for the outdoor patio, but the City Council Regulatory, Energy & Environment committee offered an amendment for 2 a.m. closing (opposing Tuthill).
- Tuthill supports Namaste Café's (2512 Hennepin Ave) request for a liquor license.
- Mesa Pizza (1440 W Lake St) was denied their request for extended weekend hours.
- Tuthill suggests that East Isles be proactive about what type of development the neighborhood would like to see at the site of the closed BP gas station (2700 Hennepin).

REPORTS

Zoning Committee

On April 5, the Zoning Committee will meet with Namaste Café about their request to change their license from Class E wine strong and beer to Class E liquor. The committee will also meet with Mesa Pizza.

The committee wants the Board's feedback on a possible request from Lowry Hill to move the Thomas Lowry statue currently in Smith Triangle park (2330 Hennepin) located in East Isles to Thomas Lowry Park (previously called Seven Pools Park) in the Lowry Hill neighborhood. The Board had mixed opinions but would like a proposal for consideration. Dan McLaughlin is meeting with Commissioner Tabb and will get her opinion and report back to the Board.

Public input is sought for a proposed 13-story apartment building on Lake St at Thomas: Monday, April 9, 6 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave. For more information:

<http://cidnalanduse.wordpress.com/>

Regarding the BP site, the Board suggested soliciting ideas from nearby neighbors, considering what type of business would fit well and thinking about traffic patterns. The Zoning Committee will discuss and bring ideas back to the Board.

Nominations Committee

A full slate of candidates has been assembled. At its April 3 meeting, by motion and majority vote, the Nominations Committee arrived at a recommended slate of candidates for the EIRA general membership to consider for election to fill the 11 positions of director to the EIRA Board, and two positions of alternate (each for a 1-year term). Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on April 17.

NRP and Staff Report

- The next NRP Steering Committee meeting has been changed to Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m. at Grace.
- Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) has agreed to remove volunteer trees and bushes on their property just south of the Greenway between James and Humboldt. Once complete, the NRP Committee will investigate using NRP funds to do some plantings to improve the area.
- Harvey Ettinger proposed a partnership with EIRA NRP, Hennepin County and the City to fund additional lighting on the East Isles section of the Greenway. Hennepin County has agreed, waiting to hear from the City.
- Park Board will be doing an inventory of boulevard trees in our neighborhood and identify areas for additional plantings for the Fall 2012.
- Housing loan program and home security grants have each had two applications to date.
- City Council approved the next phase of Community Participation Program (CPP), July 2012 – December 2013. EIRA's funding is \$37,530. Application information will be available soon. The Council also approved allocating \$860K of remaining NRP administration dollars to bring all neighborhoods to 70% of Phase II funding. EIRA will receive an additional \$15K to be funneled through the CPP process.
- The Board unanimously approved changing the Registered Agent on EIRA's Secretary of State registration to "None."
- Public information meeting for the Cedar-Isles Sewer Improvement Project is April 10, 6:30 at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.
- A rabid bat was found at Lake of the Isles on March 25. See your doctor if you had contact.
- The EIRA Board unanimously approved the annual contribution of \$750 to Hill and Lake Press and an ad for the April issue.

Green Team

- Earth Day clean up on April 21, 9:30-noon at Lake of the Isles at 27th.
- Honor Earth Day event at the Grace Garden on the Greenway at James Ave, April 21, 11-2. Sponsored by the Green Team and focusing on composting.
- Presentation on March 29 focused on promoting organics recycling as the quickest, easiest and cheapest way to reduce fossil fuels/greenhouse gasses.
- EIRA requested that the Uptown Art Fair institute organics recycling.

Board Review

- Annual Meeting is Tuesday, April 17, 7 pm at Grace-Trinity, 1430 W 28th
- The Board would like more information about art wrapped utility boxes and bike racks in Uptown before committing funds.

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

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder