

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Annual Members' Meeting
April 5, 2011
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Jane Schommer (President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Rosita Acosta, Ginna Portman Amis, Harvey Ettinger, Rose Matthys, Tina Frontera, and Michael T'Kach.

East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA President Jane Schommer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. followed by introductions of each attendee.

President's Report, Jane Schommer

Jane Schommer gave a report on EIRA's activities for the past six months:

- The Zoning and Land Use committee were involved with several projects in the area: CB2, US Bank relocation, Lake of the Isles Renovation Project report, Walker Library, Midtown Greenway and flooding issues in the neighborhood. Jane thanked past EIRA President Mark Lofstrom and the Zoning and Land Use Committee for their work.
- The Social Committee worked on several events the past year including the Uptown Art Fair pop booth, Ice Cream Social, Wine Tasting and Ice Skating Party. Thanks to Social Committee Chair Amy Sanborn and all the volunteers.
- A bylaws committee was formed to review and propose minor changes to the bylaws for operational issues and to comply with new funding requirements. Thanks were extended to the bylaws committee and its Chair Tina Frontera.
- The NRP Committee has been working on planning for Phase II and helped organize an energy efficiency workshop in March. Thank you to Monica Smith, NRP Consultant; Jerome Ryan, NRP Committee Chair and the entire NRP committee.
- Upcoming events include Earth Day clean up at Lake of the Isles on Saturday, April 16th from 9:30 a.m. to noon and Bastille Day Block Party /Kids Parade on Sunday, July 17th.
- Jane thanked the following board members who will not be returning in the coming year: Helen Ackerman, Rosita Acosta, Peter Levine, Mark Lofstrom, Rose Matthys, and Michael T'Kach.

Treasurer's Report, Al Rodriguez

EIRA Treasurer Al Rodriguez presented a financial report.

Bank balances as of 4-5-11 are:

Checking	\$4,954.05
Savings	\$10,37.96
NRP Checking	\$8,219.15

Al provided a handout of account activity for the past six months.

NRP report, Monica Smith, East Isles NRP Coordinator

EIRA has started a new e-newsletter that is currently being sent to members. Please let Monica know if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

Monica thanked Lunds Uptown for the generous donation of refreshments for the meeting.

Community Energy Services

A Community Energy Service (CES) workshop was held in East Isles in March. CES offers a free workshop to teach low-cost, no-cost ways to save energy and money in your home, followed by a customized home visit by two energy professions which includes a blower door test and installation of energy saving materials for a co-pay of \$30. The program is highly recommended by the board. \$5,000 in grant money is being offered to the Minneapolis neighborhood with the highest participation rate. East Isles residents who have not yet participated are encouraged to attend an upcoming workshop in CIDNA or Lowry Hill East.

Earth Day Clean up

East Isles is hosting an Earth Day clean up site at Lake of the Isles and 27th Street on Saturday, April 16 from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Please bring your own work gloves, bags will be provided at the registration table. Please let Monica know if you can help staff the registration table that morning.

NRP Phase II plan

The NRP Steering Committee has been working on the Phase II plan to present for a neighborhood vote at tonight's meeting. For context, Monica mentioned a few of the larger East Isles Phase I projects: \$375,000 toward Lake of the Isles restoration, \$225,000 for pedestrian level lighting on residential streets, and \$118,000 for pedestrian lighting and new trees along the west side of Hennepin Ave.

Monica introduced the NRP Steering Committee members: Jerome Ryan (Chair), Betsy Allis, Judy Enenstein, Harvey Ettinger, Nancy Johnston and new committee members Nate Maschke and Dan McLaughlin.

The committee has been meeting monthly for the past year to plan for Phase II. The meetings were advertised in the Hill and Lake Press and the Southwest Journal. Committee members solicited ideas from residents at social events (National Night Out, Ice Cream Social and Palio) and a survey was mailed to every address in East Isles. The ideas and feedback were used to formulate the plan being presented tonight. The EIRA Board approved the plan in March 2011. A summary of the plan was published in the March Hill and Lake Press, included in an e-newsletter to the distribution lists and is posted on our website.

In December 2010, the City Council voted to freeze 50% of un-contracted Phase II money. NRP is fighting this action. Until it is resolved, we have been advised to plan for

our full allocation. If the City is allowed to freeze the funding, the neighborhood will re-prioritize the spending in our plan.

Monica noted that East Isles Phase II plan was purposely written with out a lot of specifics because a lot of detail can make the plan too restrictive for future needs. Money can easily be shifted between strategies if some programs are more successful than others.

Monica reviewed a summary of the plan.

Total East Isles Phase II Allocation: \$387,253

Housing \$262,000

Housing initiatives are required to be 70% of allocation.

Goal 1: Improve the housing stock in East Isles.

1. Home improvement loans \$110,000

Provide below-market interest rate home improvement loans for energy efficiency upgrades and projects that rehabilitate and/or upgrade the exterior of existing residential structure in East Isles. When loans are repaid, the revenue generated may be reinvested in East Isles NRP initiatives.

2. Improve home security \$15,000

Subsidize the purchase and installation of exterior lighting for residential properties to increase safety by providing grants up to \$250.

Goal 2: Assist in increasing affordable housing within the City of Minneapolis and support non-profit housing projects in East Isles.

1. Affordable housing loans \$110,000

Provide loans for affordable housing development. When loans are repaid, the revenue generated may be reinvested in East Isles NRP initiatives.

2. Support capital improvements at The Bridge for Youth \$27,000

Support additional capital improvements at the Bridge.

Special note: Upon direction from NPR Specialist Robert Thompson, a line item needs to appear in our plan that in 2005, EIRA supported the Bridge in its application for a \$500,000 Affordable Housing Reserve Fund grant. The grant was offered by NRP using funds dedicated to affordable housing (and prior to the calculation of the Phase II allocations). NRP expenditures are required by law to be connected with a neighborhood plan however, the funds did not come out of EIRA's allocation nor did these funds run through EIRA's books.

Crime and Safety \$23,000

Goal: Increase safety and prevent crime in East Isles.

1. Improve the security of residential property.

See housing for details and budget.

2. Improve safety for walking/bicycling \$20,000

Support the installation of light fixtures and traffic safety on the Greenway.

3. Implementing Crime prevention strategies \$3,000

Increase participation in crime prevention activities.

Community Building and Services \$17,800

Goal 1: Increase community building within the East Isles neighborhood.

1. Communication \$10,800

Increase communication with residents through Hill and Lake Press, Constant Contact, our website and U.S. mail (funding for three years).

2. Social events \$3,000

Support social events to encourage community building.

Goal 2: Provide services to assist seniors and residents in need.

1. Services \$4,000

Provide support for agencies that offer services to East Isles seniors and residents in need to maintain independent living.

Environment \$10,000

Goal: Improve the quality of the environment in East Isles.

1. Green Team, Budget to be determined

Build an East Isles Green Team to initiate and coordinate sustainability efforts in our community. No direct costs anticipated this time.

2. Sustainable practices \$10,000

Help East Isles residents to embrace sustainable practices by offering workshops and community events. Also, offer matching grants for implementing sustainable practices such as rain gardens.

Public Land \$38,000

Goal: Improve the quality of public land in the East Isles neighborhood.

1. Natural landscape \$17,000

Partner with Park Board to replace diseased or threatened trees along residential streets.

2. Improvements to The Mall/Greenway \$21,000

Create a reforestation plan to replace evergreens with canopy trees to improve sight lines and safety. Work to obtain matching funds to replace park benches.

3. Joanne R. Levin Park (Triangle Park), Budget to be determined

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is planning a renovation of Triangle Park. MPRB feels they have sufficient budget for the project. This category is a placeholder in case we need to supplement where MPRB's budget may fall short.

4. Lake of Isles, Budget to be determined

No specific plans to date but the Steering Committee wanted to include this in the plan if a need arises in the next few years. Money can be shifted to this strategy if necessary.

Implementation Plan \$36,453

Goal: Plan and implement the East Isles Phase II plan in a timely and efficient manner.

1. Administration \$36,453

Provide staff and administrative support for planning and implementation of the East Isles Phase II plan.

Voting was open to East Isles residents, property owners and business owners. A motion was made and seconded to approve the plan as presented. The plan was unanimously approved (24-0, with no abstentions).

Bylaws Committee

Tina Frontera, Chair of the Bylaws Committee outlined the proposed changes to the bylaws:

- Members are no longer required to pay dues (to meet requirements for NCR funding).
- Change from one vote per household to *one person, one vote*.
- Change the wording regarding the date for the Annual Meeting from specifying that the meeting be held in the third week of April to “*during the month of April*”.
- Change from requiring four officers to “there may be *up to* four officers.”
- Inserting a clause that the EIRA Board will choose its officers.
- Inserting a clause to allow for electronic voting of EIRA Board meeting minutes.
- Specifying that committee members must be residents (with the exception of the NRP Steering Committee where non-residents are allowed to serve).
- Specifying that board members may not be compensated for their work on the board.
- Clarification on wording regarding financial oversight of contracts.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed changes to the bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.

Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Councilmember, City of Minneapolis

Councilmember Meg Tuthill provided the following report:

- The City has eight crews working to repair potholes. The City recently received \$1 million for this purpose. Please call 311 to report problem areas.
- Street sweeping will begin the week of April 12th so watch for no parking signs to be posted.
- The Minneapolis Charter Commission is accepting application (deadline April 8th). Check the website or call the Clerk’s office at 612-673-3358.
- In December, the City Council froze \$12.7 million in NRP Phase II funds. They recently released \$2.7 million back to NRP to be equitably reallocated to neighborhoods.
- Regulatory Services approved the Mobile Food Vendor ordinance. It goes to the full Council later this month. This would allow for mobile food vendors on private lots in Uptown (locations: Mosaic, Cowboy Slims and the lot behind TCF bank Lake Street).
- Amendments for Urban Agriculture will be reviewed by Zoning and Planning on April 6.
- The next lunch with Meg is Tuesday, April 12th, 12-1 p.m. at 5th Precinct.
- Meg encouraged people to call her office with questions or concerns.

Brian Elliott, District Director for Congressman Keith Ellison

Brian Elliott stated that the purpose of Congressman Keith Ellison's District Office is to help 5th District constituents navigate federal bureaucracy as well as to actively support the work of Rep. Ellison. Please contact the office by phone (612-522-1212), via the website or visit the office in NE Minneapolis.

Congressman Ellison has been serving on the Financial Services Committee as well as working on housing programs and working to avoid a shutdown of the federal government when the current budget is set to expire on April 8th.

Anita Tabb, Commissioner, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Commissioner Anita Tabb provided the following information:

- Maps for proposed milfoil harvest for 2011. Lake of the Isles is included.
- The Park Board is working on a long term plan for transforming the Mississippi riverfront. A firm has been selected to work on the framework and to select the initial project to begin the transformation.
- An upgrade on the Park Board website features a combined listing of activities happening in all of the parks.
- Parade Road will be repaved this year.
- Triangle Park renovation: The Park Board is in the process of hiring a consultant to help with the \$250,000 renovation of the park. Community engagement will be included in the planning process. The community will be invited to a visioning session to share ideas. Commissioner Tabb is gathering email addresses of residents interested in being involved in the process.

Tim Springer, Executive Director, Midtown Greenway Coalition

The Midtown Greenway Coalition has been meeting with neighborhood organizations regarding the new Walker Library as it relates to the Greenway. The Community Advisory Committee for the new library created a visioning document that calls for a site design that incorporates green space and enhances the connection to the Mall Greenway.

The Greenway Coalition is asking the Board to consider a resolution stating "East Isles neighborhood recommends physical connections that seamlessly integrate the following four public places should be thought through before changes to any of them move forward: the proposed Walker Library, a future rail transit station down in the Midtown Greenway, Hennepin Avenue, and The Mall."

The Board will review this request at the May meeting.

Election of Board of Directors, Nominations Committee Chair Linda Schutz

Linda Schutz thanked 2011 Nominations Committee members Jane Schommer and Nancy Johnston for their service and introduced the candidates for positions of Director on the Board of Directors and Alternate to the Board of Directors for the 2011/12 EIRA

Board. Linda also presented a hand out with information about each candidate. The candidates for Board Member are: Sue Durfee, Tina Frontera, M. Vaughn Emerson, Harvey Ettinger, Dan McLaughlin, Ginna Portman Amis, Al Rodriguez, Ray Ramirez-Quintero, Jane Schommer, Linda Schutz and Joe Sinnott. Candidates for Alternate are Rosita Acosta and Laura Rosenthal.

According to protocol, EIRA President Jane Schommer made three calls for floor nominations. There were no floor nominations at which point the nominations were declared closed by the president. Jane Schommer made a motion to accept the list of candidates for election to the EIRA Board of Directors; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Jane congratulated the new board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder