

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors Meeting
May 3, 2011
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Jane Schommer (Outgoing President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Ginna Portman Amis, Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Harvey Ettinger, Tina Frontera, Linda Schutz, and Joe Sinnott. Rosita Acosta (Alternate) was also present.

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.

Election of New Officers

Jane Schommer stated that she would not be seeking re-election as President of the EIRA Board. Open positions include President, Vice-President and Secretary. Jane asked for volunteers for these positions, there were none. Candidates nominated for Treasurer were Al Rodriguez and Ramon Ramirez Quintero. Al confirmed that he would like to continue as Treasurer. It was unclear if Ramon is interested in the position (he was not in attendance). Al Rodriguez was unanimously re-elected as EIRA Treasurer.

Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Councilmember, City of Minneapolis

Councilmember Meg Tuthill provided the following report:

- Amore Victoria's expansion of business to include a rooftop patio was approved by the City Council on April 29 (10-3 vote). The approval came an amendment that include adding a screen to the west side of the patio and having the deck cleared by 10 p.m. on weeknights and 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Meg opposed the rooftop patio because of the proximity to residential property.
- The Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct Open House will be held Thursday, May 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at 3101 Nicollet Ave.
- Yard waste collection has begun for the season (collected on garbage day).
- The Bryant Bike Boulevard contractor has been selected. Approval by City Council is scheduled for May 13.
- The Greenway will be open during bridge construction.
- The next Meet with Meg is Tuesday, May 10.
- Phyllis Kahn has a bill in the Minnesota House to reinstate NRP funding.
- The state legislature passed a bill clarifying when variances associated with hardship can be granted. Meg will bring more details to next month's EIRA meeting.
- Meg is working on strengthening the outdoor patio ordinance (music and capacity).
- Linda Schutz asked two questions: 1. Updated status of a proposed restaurant slated for the Hollywood Video site (2112 Hennepin Ave So). Meg suggested the Zoning Committees of the East Isles and Lowry Hill neighborhoods work together to address it, since it's located in Councilmember Goodman's ward.

Linda noted that the restaurant owner separately met with the LHENA neighborhood on the east side of Hennepin, the same courtesy should be extended toward East Isles on the south side. EIRA Zoning Co-Chair Steve Havig reported plans and drawings for the restaurant were requested from the proposer but were never delivered and much was already decided regarding it. Linda urged the EIRA Zoning Committee to schedule an informational presentation for the benefit of residents especially living on the north end of East Isles to learn more, as no information was forthcoming from either CM Goodman's office nor Lowry Hill neighborhood despite prior requests. 2. Linda asked for an update beyond a brief description from an April 2011 Star Tribune article about plans for a Casino on Block E. Meg said that nothing has been presented to the City to date.

Michael Cronin, Holiday Station

Michael Cronin came to the EIRA Board in June 2010 with a proposal for electronic signs at the Holiday Station at 2448 Hennepin. Since that time, the City Council adopted new standards for dynamic signs (including where they are allowed and how they operate). Holiday would like to install a dynamic sign to draw more people into the store (vs. just paying at the pump). Holiday meets the new guidelines and will be applying for a conditional use permit to install the new sign. The EIRA Board unanimously voted in support of the dynamic sign at Holiday.

Zoning and Land Use Committee report

The Midtown Greenway Coalition asked East Isles to consider a resolution regarding the new Walker Library and its connection to the Midtown Greenway. Lowry Hill East, CARAG and ECCO have all passed similar resolutions. The Zoning and Land Use Committee reviewed the resolution at their April meeting and is proposing a revised resolution for consideration by the EIRA Board. Linda Schutz asked the Board to consider strengthening the language regarding adequate mitigation for possible motorized vehicles along the Greenway corridor. The Board decided to take the next month to review mitigation research. Linda Schutz will invite Commissioners Dorfman and Tabb and a representative from the library design team to the June EIRA Board meeting.

Carla Rohwedder of 1521 27th Street W. purchased her property in 1969 as a four-plex. In December 2010, Carla was notified she was out of compliance because her property is zoned as a duplex. Carla was seeking a Nonconforming Use Certificate to continue to operate her property as four-plex. The City denied her request and advised that she should apply for a zoning change (from R2 to R3). Carla attended the April meeting of the Zoning and Land Use Committee to address concerns about spot. On April 26, Zoning and Land Use Committee Co-chairs Harvey Ettinger and Steve Havig sent a letter to the City's planning department stating opposition to the R3 rezoning and supporting Carla Rohwedder in reapplying for a Nonconforming Use Certificate. On May 3, Harvey Ettinger received an email from Carla Rohwedder stating that she plans to withdraw her application for re-zoning to R-3 and will re-submit the application for Nonconforming Use. The EIRA Board unanimously voted to support Carla Rohwedder's request for Nonconforming Use. The Board further vote to authorize the Zoning Co-chairs to send a

letter to the City reflecting Carla's intention to re-submit the application for Nonconforming Use the Board's support of that decision.

The Zoning and Land Use Committee is reviewing a request from a Mesa Pizza, a possible new business on Lake Street (between Kinko's and Lunds). The Uptown location would be the third restaurant for this company. They serve pizza, salad and soda (no alcohol). They are seeking a zoning change to stay open until 3:00 a.m., daily (current zoning is 1:00 a.m., daily). The committee will meet with Mesa Pizza in June and report back to the EIRA Board in July.

Bylaws Committee

Tina Frontera, Chair of the Bylaws Committee reported that the Bylaws changes were approved at the April Annual Meeting. Clerical corrections have been made and EIRA President Jane Schommer signed the document. The EIRA Board voted to disband the Bylaws committee (unanimous).

Board Training Opportunities

Linda Schutz spoke with Robert Thompson, NCR staff about conducting training for the EIRA Board. There is no cost for the training and a variety of topics are available. Linda asked board members to review the topics and let her know which topics would be most helpful.

Al Rodriguez, Treasurer and Chair of Crime and Safety

Al Rodriguez passed out a Treasurer's Report. The Crime and Safety Committee has organized Block Leader training for June 16th at Kenwood, 6:00 p.m.

Amy Sanborn, Chair of Social Committee

Amy Sanborn is forming a Social Committee (including Sue Durfee). Additional members are welcome. The committee will begin planning for the Ice Cream Social. Amy asked for approval to select a date (either Thursday, August 18 or Thursday, August 25) and a budget of \$2,000. The Board approved the request (unanimous).

The Social Committee will be scheduling volunteers to staff the pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair. Please let Amy know if you can help. Discussions have begun about a Wine Tasting fundraiser in 2011. Amy needs someone to take over the coordination of East Isles commitment, which includes attending one meeting and coordinating ticket sales/volunteers for the event.

Board Decisions

- In the absence of a president, vice president and secretary, Linda Schutz will send an email to Board members asking for volunteers to rotate as Chair pro tem for the next few meetings. Linda offered to take this role for the June meeting. Someone will need to monitor the president@eastisles.org email address and the mailbox at the UPS Store.

- The Board unanimously approved the following:
 - Pay Monica Smith \$467.50 for work completed outside of the scope of NRP from January – April 2011.
 - Pay Monica Smith to attend Zoning and Land Use Committee meetings and prepare minutes.

The EIRA Board thanked Jane Schommer for her service as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder