

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
November 13, 2012  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Linda Schutz (Vice President), Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Carla Pardue, and Michael Rossini. Alternate Donna Jansen and other East Isles residents were also present.

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

**Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10**

- Sign up for CM Tuthill's e-newsletter by contacting her at [Meg.Tuthill@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Meg.Tuthill@minneapolismn.gov)
- Public hearings for the Mayor's 2013 budget will be: November 28 and December 12, 6:05 pm at City Hall, 350 S 5th St. Projected budget information can be found on-line at the city website ([www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/budget/WCMS1P-097420](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/budget/WCMS1P-097420)), and residents are encouraged to tell CM Tuthill what they would like to retain, increase, cut. Concern was expressed to her about continuing use of tax increment finance (TIF) districts, which depresses property tax revenues for some areas, requiring needed revenues to be generated elsewhere.
- Final yard waste pickup is the week of November 12
- Single-sort recycling is coming to most of East Isles the week of November 26
- The Bridge for Youth received a \$10,000 grant from Xcel Foundation
- Healthier America provided a \$50,000 grant for four Open Streets events in 2013
- Nicollet Ave construction is complete from Lake St to 36<sup>th</sup> St
- The City continues to explore options for reopening Nicollet Ave (at Kmart on Lake St)
- There will be no Meet with Meg in December
- The new apartment building, 1800 Lake, 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 developer had a temporary permit to pump water during construction but that permit has expired. The water has been tested and it isn't polluted but it is changing the water temperature in the lagoon. The City and Park Board are working to resolve the issue.
- Effective July 2013, it will be illegal to sell coal tar driveway sealants in Minneapolis
- A Citizens Advisory Committee continues to study recreational fires in the City
- Tuthill provided a handout showing the average monthly bills for City services (water, sanitary and solid waste) for a typical household for 2012 (\$82.60) vs. proposed for 2013 (\$83.98).

**Commissioner Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, District 4**

- Parade Road has reopened after construction
- The Park Board recently held a design charrette to study the landscape from the northern part of Lake Calhoun to the southern portion of Lake of the Isles. There were some very big ideas proposed such as a land bridge over Lake St. For more information: [www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1398](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1398)
- A Park Board Community Advisory Committee is working on their response to the Southwest Light Rail Transit Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- The Park Board is working on their budget and may propose a levy of up to 3%
- The Mall (near the Walker Library) will be used as a staging area for library construction. Pedestrian access from The Mall to Hennepin Ave will remain open.

## Open Forum

- New sewer project on Lake St from France Ave to Irving Ave (up to 27<sup>th</sup> St) is being planned by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services. Public Information Open House on November 20, 5:00-7:00 pm at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S
- The Smith Triangle committee continues to review survey results
- An EIRA member reported having made contact with the Jefferson Middle School principal, and Spyhouse Coffee Shop, regarding participation by each geared toward efforts to maintain/improve the park, with information about those contacts conveyed to the Subcommittee Chair.

## REPORTS

The Treasurers Report was distributed.

## Zoning Committee

- Nolan Development has a letter of intent to purchase the BP site at 2700 Hennepin for redevelopment (no details available at this time).
- The committee reviewed a proposal for a new development at the corner of James Ave and Lake St (1618 W Lake, 1620 W Lake and 2915 James Ave). The developer would need a variance for height and is continuing to explore options, which may include rezoning.
- The committee is waiting for more information. No action was taken.
- An East Isles resident is requesting support to amend the Minneapolis fence ordinance to include "naturally constructed fences, i.e., hedges".
- Mesa Pizza is requesting support for extended hours
- Kowalski's Market has installed a new fence by their loading dock to help with noise abatement
- The EIRA Board is interested in a primer session on zoning codes, Uptown Small Area Plan, etc. at a future board meeting.
- Next Zoning Committee meeting: November 20, 5 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28<sup>th</sup> St.

## Monica Smith, Staff Report

- President Dan McLaughlin signed the revised bylaws (approved at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Members Meeting).
- NRP Committee update:
  - Members met with Public Works to discuss confusing signage on the Midtown Greenway.
  - The committee is interested in working on the Neighborhood Priority Plan.
  - Next meeting is Thursday, January 10, 7 pm at Grace Trinity Community Church (no meeting in December)
- Expenses to date for the Community Participation Program (CPP) were presented
- Public hearings are being held for the Southwest Light Rail Transit, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Meetings are November 13, 14 and 29. Details are at [www.southwesttransitway.org](http://www.southwesttransitway.org). The DEIS proposes a LRT bridge over Cedar Lake Parkway (through the Kenilworth corridor).
- Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP) is looking for volunteers to help seniors with snow shoveling this winter. Contact [svolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org](mailto:svolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org) or call 612-746-8549 for more information.

## **Green Team**

- Green Team update:
  - The team is applying for an \$8,000 grant from Hennepin County to engage more residents in taking action to conserve energy, reduce waste, recycle, protect water resources and reduce toxicities. The proposal calls for a part-time staff person to coordinate activities and outreach.
  - A green film event is being planned for January 28, 2013
  - The Green Team is connecting with Temple Israel's Sustainability Task Force about the possibility of partnering on green issues.
- The Green Teams of Uptown neighborhoods will meet on December 12, 7 pm at Jefferson School and feature a speaker from Minneapolis Energy Options – a new campaign to ensure that Minneapolis has a strong voice in negotiating its utility franchise agreements.

## **Board Review**

- The Board unanimously approved a motion to pay a user fee of \$500 to Grace Trinity Community Church out of Community Participation Plan (CPP) funds.
- President Dan McLaughlin will send a letter of support to the City of Lakes Loppet (but will not comment on their proposed route for 2013).
- EIRA's president, treasurer and staff will meet to discuss options for EIRA's IRS status.
- An evaluation form for the Semi-Annual Members Meeting was distributed. The evaluation will be sent to other attendees of the Members Meeting for feedback.
- Procedures for BOD and Committee meeting minutes were reviewed:
  - BOD minutes: BOD members who do not attend a particular BOD meeting, would not be expected to approve those particular BOD meeting minutes. It was noted that the EIRA bylaws do not mandate using the "e-mail Reply-All" method of approving BOD minutes, rather it's an option. As noted by a BOD member, Roberts Rules does not preclude an absent BOD or committee member from approving minutes if they serve on the respective body; but a BOD or committee member may choose to opt out of approving minutes for a meeting they did not attend. Non-BOD Committee Chairs do not approve minutes.
  - Consensus on Nov. 13, among BOD members present, was that for members of a Committee, if the committee members did not attend a particular Committee meeting, the absent Committee members would not have to approve those particular Committee minutes.
  - Names of general EIRA members or residents attending EIRA-sponsored meetings need not be listed in the minutes, although the names of BOD members attending particular BOD meetings will continue to be provided, as will the names of committee members attending particular committee meetings.
  - An EIRA member who is not serving on the BOD, or who is not serving on a particular committee, should not be expected to approve either BOD minutes or a particular committee's meeting minutes. However, any EIRA BOD member, EIRA committee chair or committee member, or EIRA general member whether in attendance or not could always seek amendments to adopted minutes, at any time, and the amendments would require approval of the appropriate body (BOD or a committee as may be the case).
  - Specific names of EIRA BOD members, committee members, or EIRA members generally will not be associated with comments made or salient points of a discussion, as the work of the meetings is by nature more collective and collaborative.
  - Committee minutes: Each committee will decide its own procedures for approval of minutes. Once approved, the minutes will be presented to the EIRA Board at its next meeting. NRP Committee and Zoning Committee minutes will be posted on EIRA's

website. EIRA's Zoning & Land Use Committee will likely meet higher expectations for its committee minutes, including approval of minutes by those committee members in attendance, compared to other EIRA committees, given the amount of public attention and sometimes controversial nature of the subjects it addresses.

- It was not intended that the questions raised for discussion and review procedures of minutes, would negate EIRA Bylaws provisions, EIRA custom and practice over the decades, nor be inconsistent with generally accepted practices and contemporary guidance from authoritative sources regarding methods and considerations for taking minutes appropriate to a residents' association, nor preclude reasonable behavior on the part of the minute-taker to seek clarification for a part or portion of the draft minutes from a presenter or commentator on the nature of their remarks to improve accuracy of reporting for a specific a part or portion of the minutes, nor to silence a meeting attendees or EIRA members from providing suggestions regarding minutes they may have seen in advance, nor their seeking amendments to adopted minutes.
- Renewal of the staff contract: McLaughlin will seek feedback from the EIRA Board and make a recommendation at the December BOD meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Next EIRA BOD meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 7 p.m at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28<sup>th</sup> St.