

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting
September 11, 2012
Bridge for Youth

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

President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Michael Mechtenberg, Transit Planner, Metro Transit

Mr. Mechtenberg attended the meeting to discuss the Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis. This study will determine the benefits, costs and impact of implementing a transitway along either the Midtown Greenway or Lake Street to improve East/West transit. Metro Transit is just beginning the study, which is expected to take approximately two years and result in a recommendation for a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) transitway.

- Modes of transportation being studied: enhanced bus, dedicated busway, streetcar, and light-rail transit (LRT) on both the Midtown Greenway and Lake St (between the Hiawatha LRT and the proposed W. Lake Street station of the future Southwest LRT).
- Select residents and area stakeholders will form a Stakeholder Working Group to work with the Technical Advisory Committee (staff from city, county, MnDOT, Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit). EIRA will be invited to have representation on the working group.
- The Midtown Greenway bike path will remain.
- Contact Monica Smith, nrp@eastisles.org to receive an electronic version of the presentation.

Open Forum

- Walker Library closing event: Saturday, September 22 at 10:30 a.m. (the library will close at 6 p.m.) Construction of the new library will begin this fall.
- Dan McLaughlin and Harvey Ettinger represented East Isles at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Parade Road. Construction to be completed in November 2012.
- An EIRA Board member phone list will be distributed to the BOD.

Robert Thompson, Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR), City of Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis provides funding to neighborhood organizations through the Community Participation Program (CPP). NCR is requesting some revisions to EIRA's bylaws to better comply with the CPP requirements relating to increasing open participation of East Isles residents, and since EIRA is a resident-driven neighborhood association, to enhance EIRA's efforts to provide residents with greater opportunities for influence, inclusion, involvement, and sharing of information. Proposed language changes will be reviewed by EIRA BOD and committee chairs and made available to EIRA members 10 days prior to the final vote at the Semi-Annual Members' Meeting on October 23. EIRA also needs to resolve its status with the IRS regarding 501(c)(3) vs 501(c)(4).

Board Review

- A preliminary agenda for the strategic planning session was reviewed.
- The Semi-Annual Members' Meeting will be Tuesday, October 23, 7 p.m. at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th Street. Agenda will include guest speaker Minneapolis parks historian David Smith, Smith Triangle survey results, and voting on bylaws revisions and neighborhood priorities. The Board approved funding for refreshments.
- Funding request from The Bridge for Youth will be reviewed at the October 9th BOD meeting.

REPORTS

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning Committee

- The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be Tuesday, September 18, 5 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St. Agenda items will include: new home construction at 2449 Girard Ave S; renovation of property at 2225 E. Lake of the Isles Pkwy (a locally designated individual historic landmark) and the related public hearing on September 24, 4:30 at City Hall, 350 S. 5th St, Room 317; and possible development at James Ave and Lake St (1618 & 1620 W Lake, and 2915 James).
- Zoning Committee members met with Central Bank and City staff regarding the BP site at 2700 Hennepin Ave S. The bank has a potential buyer interested in developing the property for retail space. The buyer was not identified.

Renee Gust, Smith Triangle, 2339 Hennepin Ave S

The results from the Smith Triangle survey will be presented at the Oct 23 Members' Meeting.

Richard White, Membership Committee

- 75 membership forms have been returned to-date.

Monica Smith, NRP/Staff Report

- Thank you to Amy Sanborn and the Social Committee for a successful Ice Cream Social.
- The new lighting on the Greenway has been installed.
- The Park Board is planning a Design Charette for the landscape between Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles. A Public Visioning Open House will be held in the evening of Tuesday, October 9 (time and location to be announced). This meeting conflicts with the October 9th EIRA BOD meeting. Options are being explored to start the EIRA meeting earlier to allow for participation in both events.
- The NRP Committee has cancelled its October meeting. The next meeting will be Monday, November 5, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St.
- Watch for road closure for sewer construction on East Calhoun Parkway (between The Mall and Lake of the Isles) and the westbound lane of The Mall between James and the parkway.

Green Team

- The September 8 Super Sale was a success with 39 households participating.
- Upcoming Green Team events (RSVP to nrp@eastisles.org):
 - Joint Uptown Green Team meeting on September 12, at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.
 - Lighting Workshop, September 17, at The Bridge for Youth, 1111 W 22nd St
 - Rain Garden Basics, September 22 at 2781 Humboldt Ave S
 - Rain Garden installation, October 6 at 2781 Humboldt Ave S

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

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

Upcoming EIRA meetings: BOD meeting Tuesday, October 9, 6-7:30 p.m (note time change) and the Semi Annual Members' Meeting, Tuesday, October 23, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St.