

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors Meeting
June 7, 2011
Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Linda Schutz (Chair Pro Tem), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Ginna Portman Amis, Vaughn Emerson, Tina Frontera, Harvey Ettinger, Tina Frontera, Dan McLaughlin, Jane Schommer, and Joe Sinnott.

EIRA Chair Pro Tem Linda Schutz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member, City of Minneapolis provided the following report:

- Young trees on Irving Ave S. were vandalized over the weekend. The police caught the suspect. Impact statements from residents are encouraged.
- Uptown is adding 21 taxi stands in the Henn-Lake-Lagoon bar/restaurant area.
- Open Street Minneapolis will take place on Sunday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Lyndale between 22nd and 42nd.
- Uptown Market opens this weekend.
- Meet with Meg is Tuesday, June 14, 12-1 p.m. at the 5th Precinct.
- Mesa Pizza would like to open a location at 1440 W. Lake St. They will meet with the East Isles Zoning Committee June 14 to ask for support to be open until 3 a.m. daily.

CM Tuthill authored an ordinance amendment about outdoor dining: requiring that establishments turn off amplified music by 10 p.m. (patios can, however, remain open until their allowable closing times) and set and enforce capacity for their patios. This will allow better enforcement by police and Regulatory Services. Please email opinions to CM Tuthill and Mayor Rybak before the June 17th City Council vote. If residents notice restaurant seating blocking sidewalks, contact CM Tuthill's office.

CM Tuthill offered to help obtain information about a new restaurant opening in Lowry Hill (in Ward 7). Addendum to 6/7/11 meeting minutes: (Lowry Restaurant, 2112 Hennepin, proposes 167 customer seating inside and 36 outside on seasonal patio, proposed daily hours 6:00 a.m. -2:00 a.m. inside and 6:00 a.m.-midnight outside. Public hearing June 22, 6:00 p.m. Kenwood Rec Center gym, contact Greg.Buenning@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-3851).

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner Anita Tabb

(1) Based on receipt of online survey results, concepts were developed for Triangle/Joann Levin Park renovations and introduced at a June 6 kick off meeting. Concepts will be further refined for the next meeting: June 28, 6:30 pm, Kenwood Rec Center (information on the Park Board website); (2) Parade Road is scheduled for repaving Fall 2011; (3) Met Council work on a sewer project will include deepening the channel between Isles and Calhoun; (4) Park Board resources have focused on clean up from May's tornado on the North Side, delaying routine maintenance elsewhere.

Lois Lenroot-Ernt, Capital Projects Office, Hennepin County Library

Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman presented information on three topics: (1) the new Walker Library; (2) its integration with the Mall and the Greenway; and (3) transit options (SW LRT, streetcars, and busses).

Hennepin County has \$12 million for a new Walker Library. The County asked for citizen input by forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC created a vision for the new library that was used by the Designer Selection Committee's architect selection process. Vincent James and Associates was selected and is now in the preliminary design phase.

The new building will be a single level with a two-story presence and underground parking. There will be a multi-purpose room incorporated into the library.

A County project team is working on traffic management, site planning, and demolition studies. The team is cooperating with the Park Board on access-egress and easement matters involving parkland (the Mall). Park Board will coordinate, publicize, and hold meetings regarding parkland changes. No funds are currently identified for development of the Mall area, only for restoration.

The design team is considering how the library will relate to the Mall and the Greenway. Access to the library is important, and may need to accommodate future access to the Greenway.

The next meeting of the CAC will be in September followed by October community-wide Open House to present design concepts for feedback from neighborhoods. Construction will begin mid-2012 and the new library will open in late 2013.

The federal government has not yet approved the Southwest LRT. The County expects a federal decision in late July, release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Fall 2011 and needs approval to begin preliminary engineering.

The SW corridor was the selected route for LRT based on the condition that there will be a cross-city connection to the Hiawatha line. The County purchased the Greenway for the purpose of transit.

The Met Council is studying transit possibilities. An Alternatives Study will begin year-end 2011, to consider streetcars on the Greenway or on Lake St along with bus-related improvements, and to obtain public input.

Residents expressed concerns about livability issues regarding transit on the Greenway. Commissioner Dorfman reported that nothing is certain about the future of transit on the Greenway. Options are being considered but no agency (City, County, Met Council) has committed to taking the lead as owner/operator. LRT is not cost effective on the Greenway and buses and streetcars present other challenges.

Resident Melissa Anderson wants to be a part of any ongoing discussion, committee process on transportation matters.

Committee Reports

Al Rodriguez, Crime and Safety Committee Chair welcomed everyone's attendance at a Block Leader Social on June 16th at Kenwood Park, 6:00 p.m. The EIRA Board of Directors approved a \$50 donation for refreshments.

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee Chair reported that the committee met to begin planning the Ice Cream Social for Triangle Park (Wed. Aug. 17, with rain date of Aug 18). The BOD approved up to 15 hours of staff time to support the event efforts and a membership drive. Al Rodriguez will maintain the membership list. The Committee will be scheduling volunteers to staff the pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair (Aug 5-7).

Monica Smith, NRP Coordinator encouraged attendance at summer Community Energy Services workshops; it helps East Isles compete for participation grant dollars.

The NRP Policy Board approved our Phase II plan on May 23. The plan will go to City Council for approval in June. The NRP Policy Board is proposing that the \$2.6 million in previously frozen funds be divided among neighborhoods previously restricted to 50% of allocation. There is a 45-day comment period. The NRP Committee will make a recommendation at the July BOD meeting.

EIRA received a \$5,000 advance on its NCR contract. Al Rodriguez (Treasurer) and Monica Smith will review expenses and present a report at the July BOD meeting.

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning and Land Use Committee Chair

The Committee will meet Tues, June 14, 5:00 p.m. at Grace Church to review a request from Mesa Pizza, 1440 W. Lake St., to remain open until 3 a.m. daily. Reapplication for a nonconforming use certificate (1521 27th St W.) is scheduled for public hearing, June 9 at City Hall. (Addendum to 6/7/11 meeting minutes: approval was granted.)

EIRA BOD decisions included unanimously approving:

- Running an ad in the June Hill and Lake Press.
- The dates for 2011/12 calendar for meeting of the EIRA BOD (no Aug meeting due to National Night Out) and EIRA Members' Fall and Spring annual meetings.
- Dan McLaughlin's election as EIRA Vice President.
- Chair Pro Tem volunteers for BOD Meetings (July, Linda Schutz; September, Dan McLaughlin).
- The Conflict of Interest policy was distributed to BOD and committee chairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder