

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors Meeting  
December 7, 2010  
Grace-Trinity Community Church

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

East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA President Mark Lofstrom called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Announcements**

Mark Lofstrom announced that he will be moving from the neighborhood and will need to resign as EIRA President by the end of the year.

**Minneapolis Public Housing Authority**

Rita Ytzen and Cynthia Yuen from Minneapolis Public Housing Authority announced a new program called Mobility Voucher Program. This program encourages low-income families to move to areas non-concentrated by race and poverty as they seek to find safe, decent and affordable housing in an environment conducive to breaking the cycle of poverty. East Isles is one of these neighborhoods. The program is targeting families who are on a waiting list for housing assistance. To qualify for this program, families must maintain full-time employment and commit to moving to and staying in a non-impact neighborhood for a minimum of three years. Eligible families also must have at least one minor child living in the household. A goal of this program is to help connect participating families with resources in the new communities so the families can be successful.

**Leslie Foremen, Aide to Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Councilmember, City of Minneapolis**

Leslie attended on behalf of Meg Tuthill and brought the following updates:

- The second and final public meeting regarding the City's budget will be Monday, December 13, 6:05 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. The Council will vote on the budget after the public testimony.
- Public Works is moving forward with the changes to the Midtown Greenway in East Isles. They will be removing the stop sign for trail users at James Avenue. The stop signs for trail users at Irving and Humboldt will remain in place. Public works will be making some changes to signage and improving lighting at these intersections. Some of the work may not happen until Spring 2011.
- The development at Lake and Knox is moving forward. Demolition of the houses started today.
- Sign up for snow emergency alerts. They are a variety of ways to receive the alerts (including robo calls, e-mail, Facebook and Twitter). Get all the information at the City's snow emergency webpage: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/). The City also maintains the snow emergency hotline: 612-348-SNOW.

- The next “Meet with Meg” is Tuesday, December 14, 12-1 p.m. at the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Avenue. Bring your own lunch. Meg provides beverages and dessert.
- The City is working on a budget deal that may limit the property tax increase to 4.7% (vs. the proposed 7.5%). One way the City may accomplish this is by tapping any un-contracted NRP funds. This could affect East Isles NRP Phase II funding because none of those dollars are under contract. Any NRP funds that are under contract with neighborhoods will remain as planned. We will know the outcome after the December 13<sup>th</sup> budget vote.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

EIRA Treasurer Al Rodriguez gave a financial update.

Bank balances as of 12-7-10 are:

Checking	\$3,827.05
Savings	\$10,036.29
NRP Checking	\$12,112.39

The wine tasting revenue to date is \$850. We are waiting for the check for the money collected at the door (EIRA will receive 25% of that total).

There were no EIRA expenses since the November report. NRP expenses totaled \$620.30, which includes advertising in the *Hill and Lake Press* and Monica’s wages and expenses.

EIRA received \$210 in membership dues and donations since the November report.

### **NRP report, Monica Smith, East Isles NRP Coordinator**

The NRP Steering Committee has been working on a proposal to Center for Energy and Environment to bring their Community Energy Services (CES) program to East Isles. The Committee recommended that we launch the program in March so residents can take advantage of cost saving this winter. The Board voted to approve the date of March 10, 2010 for the energy workshop. We are looking for a venue in East Isles to accommodate about 80 people.

The committee is also working on formatting the raw data from the survey so we have usable information. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

### **US Bank proposal for Hennepin and Franklin**

Mark Lofstrom reported that EIRA’s Zoning and Land Use Committee met with US Bank representatives on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to review their plans to relocate their branch from 2546 Hennepin to the Minneapolis Floral building at Hennepin and Fremont Avenues. They would like to expand their services in a larger space and include parking for employees and customers.

Christine Hobrough, US Bank; Carol Lansing, Faegre & Benson; and Sean Rabroin, HTG Architects presented to the EIRA Board. The project will include maintaining the original structure and the original character of the building on the corner. The greenhouse and garages will be removed to make room for a 15-car parking lot. They will not offer drive-through.

The parcel is currently zoned as residential and commercial. The bank is requesting a minor subdivision of the property to divide the residential from the commercial properties to allow for two driveways for the separate properties (they currently share one driveway). The subdivision will rezone the area for the driveway from R4 to C2. A landscape buffer will divide the driveways. US Bank is not asking for any other CUPs or variances in the project.

US Bank needs approvals on these changes from the City before completing the purchase of the property. They will go before the Planning Commission in January. They hope to open in the new location in late September 2011. US Bank will sell the home on the residential parcel.

EIRA's Zoning and Land Use Committee recommended that the Board support the US Bank project. The Board voted unanimously to do so.

### **Stop sign at 24<sup>th</sup> and Fremont**

There is currently a 2-way stop at the intersection of 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Fremont Avenue. The intersection is confusing and dangerous. EIRA Board voted unanimously to support a recommendation by EIRA's Zoning and Land Use Committee to change that intersection to a 4-way stop. Leslie Foreman reported that Meg Tuthill has not taken a position on the change and that the City Traffic department discourages the use of 4-way stops, as they do not believe that they are safer than a 2-way stop.

Meg Tuthill's office will invite representatives from the Traffic department to attend the January EIRA Board meeting to discuss this option further. Residents surrounding the intersection will be encouraged to attend the meeting to offer opinions.

### **EIRA Board Votes**

The Board has a number of items for review:

- Neighborhood Policing Plan: Al Rodriguez will be EIRA's point person for the Neighborhood Policing Plan. Issues include graffiti and theft from property. We may ask for more patrols through the neighborhood to curtail these problems. If you spot graffiti in the neighborhood, please report it to 311 (e-mailing a photo of the graffiti to 311 is also helpful).
- Al reminded everyone that the Lakes Area Crime and Safety meetings are held the second Thursday of every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Lund's, 1450 West Lake Street (community conference room). The public is invited.

- The Board unanimously voted to make an annual donation of \$750 to the *Hill and Lake Press*. EIRA Board meeting minutes are published monthly in the publication.
- The Board unanimously voted to approved a \$110 donation toward the installation of two additional bike racks at Tao Foods (22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Hennepin Avenue).
- The Board unanimously approved the Bylaws Committee to work on changing the bylaws to meet the current needs and allow for smooth operation for the coming year. Updates may include electronic voting measures and changes to accommodate the new NCR guidelines. The Board approved the committee members: Tina Frontera (Chair), Jane Schommer, Rosita Acosta, Ross D'Emanuele, Nancy Johnston, and Linda Schutz. The next meeting is Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, and all are welcome.
- The Board unanimously approved EIRA's Zoning and Land Use Committee's charge to monitor relevant issues in the neighborhood. The committee will continue to meet quarterly and on an as-need basis as issues arise. The Board approved the committee members: Mark Lofstrom, Jane Schommer, Helen Ackerman, Rosita Acosta, Sue Durfee, Harvey Ettinger, Allan Amis, Karen Carney, Nancy Johnston; and appointed new member Steve Havig.
- The Board voted unanimously to elect Jane Schommer as EIRA President, effective December 26<sup>th</sup>. Jane stated that there is a possibility that she may be moving from the neighborhood in Spring 2011 but will serve as president until such time. The Board will take up the issue of filling the Vice President position in January.
- The Board thanked Mark Lofstrom for his valued service and commitment to the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder, and Tina Frontera, Secretary