

**EIRA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, 9/18/19 7:00 p.m.  
Grace Trinity Community Church  
1430 W 28th Street

**Minutes**

Board members present: Ellen van Iwaarden (President), Mackenzie Nelson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Mike Erlandson, John Morrow, John Grochala, Emma Erdahl, Steve Havig, and Julia Curran

Board Members not present: Debbie Gold (Secretary)

Alternates not present: Kate Svitavsky and John Erlandson

Guests: Elizabeth Shaffer, President, Friends of Thomas Lowry Park, Craig Wilson of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), and East Isles resident Eric Hauseman.

**Welcome & Introductions:** 7:00 by Ellen van Iwaarden, President

**Guest Speakers:** Elizabeth Shaffer, President, Friends of Thomas Lowry Park

Elizabeth Shaffer gave a report on the fundraising efforts of Friends of Thomas Lowry Park. The group intends to raise \$250,000 in order to reconstruct the Seven Pools water feature and historic fountain. The full project, a public/private collaboration, will cost \$750,000 and include a complete replacement of the pool masonry, new underground plumbing, a new pump vault and a recirculating pump. The work will be done by the Park Board. They hope to begin work on the fountain in the spring of 2020. Elizabeth Shaffer distributed flyers indicating where one may donate to the Friends of Thomas Lowry Park.

Craig Wilson, the Bryn Mawr/East Isles/Kenwood-Isles/Lowry Hill neighborhood representative to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), gave a report on the status of the CAC's recommendation process for the Southwest Area Parks Master Plan. He reported that the previous night at the CAC's meeting a recommendation regarding The Mall park in East Isles was voted on and passed. The official board comment to the CAC and the Park Board was read aloud at that meeting. That comment can be found on the EIRA website [eastisles.org](http://eastisles.org). The plan that the CAC will recommend to the Park Board will include the plaza, play area, Midtown Greenway connection, shared use woonerf/flexible market street, gardens, and pedestrian crossing improvements. It will not include sand volleyball or multi-use playing fields. The plan proposes eliminating some of the east-west roads and the parking in the park between Irving and East Bde Mka Ska Parkway to create more passive green space.

Craig expects the final plan the CAC will recommend to the Park Board to be available after the CAC's next meeting on October 7. Any future comments or feedback on the design the CAC is recommending for The Mall park should be directed toward our Park Commissioner Jono Cowgill and the official Park Board comment website ([link](#)). The EIRA board will keep the neighborhood informed of the plan that is recommended and of comment opportunities through emails, the website, and social media.

**President's Report:** Ellen van Iwaarden thanked everyone for their participation and help in getting the neighborhood to comment on the proposed changes to The Mall park. She also proposed that the board consider a retreat this fall or winter to discuss some of the governance issues that the comment process tested. The board will begin work to schedule that retreat immediately. At the next meeting she will lead a discussion to determine our process and the job description for hiring a new neighborhood coordinator.

### **Committee Reports**

**NRP Committee:** Mike Erlandson gave a quick update on the effort to add a shade structure to Triangle Park. Community members are invited to attend the first planning meeting for the shade structure on Monday, September 30 at 5:00 p.m. at Grace Trinity Community Church. He also gave a brief introduction to the topic of using some NRP funds to purchase security cameras for the police to use in the neighborhood, a project that the NRP Committee has been working on.

**Social Committee:** The board discussed the recent Ice Cream Social and Super Sale and thanked Michael Gold, who organized the Ice Cream Social, Shelly Itman, who organized the Super Sale, and all the volunteers who helped put on those successful events.

**Farmers Market:** no report

**Built Environment & Transportation Committee:** Andrew Degerstrom presented a request from The Bridge for Youth, asking the board to support their application for a conditional use permit to increase the number of youth they can serve. They are planning a remodeling project which will allow them to serve 21 additional youth. The board discussed and voted to support their permit application. Andrew will draft a letter of support for Ellen to sign and send to the City.

**Nominations & Outreach Committee:** Emma Erdahl informed members present and guests that the next meeting will be October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those interested in participating should email [info@eastisles.org](mailto:info@eastisles.org) and request information.

**Open Forum:** No discussion

### **Action Items**

The board voted to hire an independent contractor to help with accounting and bookkeeping needs.

The board voted to appoint Kate Svitavsky, an alternate, as a new member of the board to fill an open board position.

The board voted to support The Bridge for Youth's conditional use permit to increase the number of youth they can serve, allowing them to serve 21 additional youth.