

EIRA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

MINUTES

Board members present:

Ellen van Iwaarden (President), Mike Erlandson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Becky Accettura, Emma Erdahl, John Grochala, Steve Havig, John Morrow, Molly Simmons

Guests present:

Lisa Goodman, Ward 7 City Council Member
Jono Cowgill, Park Board President and District 4 Commissioner
Meg Forney, Park Board at-large Commissioner
Marion Greene, Hennepin County Board Chair and District 3 Commissioner
Frank Hornstein, Minnesota State Representative District 61A

1) Welcome:

President Ellen van Iwaarden called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2) Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

- Bus Rapid Transit Pilot along Hennepin Avenue and the Future (learn more [here](#))
- Monthly Luncheons with Lisa will move to Zoom starting July 2020 (to learn more and sign up for Lisa's newsletter, contact Judy Sherin at judy.sherin@minneapolismn.gov)
- Due to COVID-19, there's been a financial loss of \$175 million in revenue, therefore the City Council is looking at ways to cut \$60 million in the next financial cycle - hiring freeze, salary freeze, and freeze on capital. There will be a public hearing on [Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m.](#)
- Response to the murder of George Floyd and the next steps regarding public safety and the Minneapolis Police Department (read the resolution [here](#))

3) Jono Cowgill, Park Board President and District 4 Commissioner

Park Board President and District 4 Commissioner Cowgill gave the following announcements:

- COVID-19 Park Board Response - closed parkways to vehicles until mid-July, some parkways may be open sooner, to get the latest updates visit the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board [here](#)
- Budget Impacts and Loss of Revenue due to COVID19 - voluntary furloughs and wage freezes. Expect it to continue with budget cuts
- Response to the murder of George Floyd - reform to change the color of park police uniforms, remove Minneapolis Police Department officers from being officers at events in the park

- Homelessness Encampments in Powderhorn Park - working with city council and governors to address housing, safety issues, and services they need

4) Meg Forney, Park Board at-large Commissioner

Park Board at-large Commissioner, Forney announcements and park planning project updates:

- Several ways the residents can be part of the planning process:
 - [Cedar-Isles Master Plan](#)
 - [Cedar-Isles Master Survey Monkey](#)
 - [Cedar-Isles Online Virtual Mapping Tool](#)
 - [Parks for All \(MPRB Comprehensive Plan\)](#)
 - [Southwest Service Area Master Plan](#)

5) President Ellen van Iwaarden Report:

2019-2020 Highlights - Ice cream social and ice skating party, 2nd season of the East Isles Farmers Market, began planning for a shade structure in the Joanne R. Levin Park, updated election procedures, financial procedures, progress having most of the work done in the committees, 8th annual SuperSale, supported Bridge for Youth, improved public safety by removing buckthorn, worked with the community to install security cameras along Hennepin Avenue in high crime areas, giving historical records to the Hennepin County Library for their special collections and hired a new neighborhood coordinator

6) Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom Report:

- Farmer's Market - hired an accountant to assist in the 3rd season
- Completed a 990 and accountant assisted with that
- Budget 2019-2020 is approximately \$88,000. 48% of that is our administrative budget, 9% is special events, 43% is the Farmers Market.
- Sources of Income - Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Community Participation Program, Farmers Market vendor fees, sponsorships, and merchandise, sponsorships for other events and donations from residents

7) Marion Greene, Hennepin County Board Chair and District 3 Commissioner

Hennepin County Board Chair and District 3 Commissioner, Greene announcements:

- Hennepin County lobbying at the legislature regarding police reform
- COVID19 Update - Hennepin County was given federal funding and that was used to support small businesses and nonprofits, rent assistance, unemployment assistance, and people who are experiencing homelessness, affordable housing, youth to have access to wifi, summer youth activities, elections and to vote by mail
- Sign-up to receive Marion Greene's [newsletter](#) for news and resources

8) Frank Hornstein, Minnesota State Representative District 61A

Minnesota State Representative District 61A, Hornstein announcements:

- Special Legislative session - due to Governor wanting to extend peacetime emergency

- Police Accountability is what the legislature is spending the time on during the special session (over a dozen bills in the house)
- Another session to be held July 12th
- To receive updates, visit Hornstein's [website](#).

9) NRP Committee Chair Mike Erlandson Report:

- Recently and over the years NRP Committee has given funds to refresh the warming house, park benches, Grace Church Community Garden, 28th Street bicycle corridor, and the shade structure at Joanne R. Levin Park.
- Last year focused on public safety - cleaned up overgrowth at Lake of the Isles and funded public safety cameras along Hennepin Avenue

10) Outreach and Nominations Committee Chair, Emma Erdahl Report:

- Developed formal election procedures
- New formal election procedures will be used in this year's election

11) BET Committee Chair Andrew Degerstrom Report:

- New Duplex Project - 2208 Irving Avenue South requesting variances
- BRT coming to Lake Street ([METRO B Line](#)) and Hennepin Avenue ([METRO E Line](#))
- Reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue from Douglas Avenue to Lagoon to begin in 2023

12) Farmers Market Chair Debbie Gold Report:

- Market is in its 3rd year, starts next Thursday runs through September 13th
- This year the market will be smaller due to COVID19, it is considered an essential service and will follow the Department of Agriculture COVID19 guidelines

13) Green Team Chair, Ellen van Iwaarden Report:

- Earth Day clean-up canceled this year because of COVID19, EIRA has again adopted a portion of the Greenway to maintain, the Green Team hopes to educate residents about lake water quality

14) Explanation of recommended changes to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, President Ellen van Iwaarden (recommended changes herein incorporated as Exhibits A and B)

- Establish an Executive Committee
- Use new election procedures in the elections
- Clarify that officers and directors will not be compensated
- Establish that a majority of the board members must be adults
- Non-resident committee members (anyone can serve on the committee)
- Added a provision that EIRA can have its annual meeting remotely
- Articles of incorporation - language changed to include necessary provisions to support EIRA's application to become a 501(3)(c) nonprofit corporation

15) Board Elections, Introduction of Candidates, Outreach and Nominations Committee Chair
Emma Erdahl:

- Explanation of Balloting
- Candidates introduced themselves

16) Closing Remarks and a reminder to vote electronically, President Ellen van Iwaarden