

EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7 pm

Online via Zoom

MINUTES

Board members present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Erik Anderson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Laney Barhaugh (Secretary), Becky Accettura, Natasha Dockter, John Erlandson, Rod Lauture

Staff present:

Jenna Egan, Coordinator

Guests present:

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council, Ward 7
Ellen van Iwaarden, Green Team Chair

1) Welcome

President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2) Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

- No Lunch with Lisa in March
- Lunch with Lisa will resume on April 28 at 12 p.m. via Zoom. Special guests are Kelly Matter and Emily Bastian from Avivo. They will be sharing an inside peek into the innovative and newly created Avivo Village, an indoor community of 100 secure, private dwellings, or "tiny houses," created to provide shelter to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the variance at 2833 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy.
- Hennepin Avenue reconstruction designs are available for public comment. Council Member Goodman is a proponent of delaying construction due to COVID, civil unrest, and utilities construction.
- The City of Minneapolis is sending out information and updates regarding the Chauvin trial. The City's Joint Information System will be sending out regular

communications with the most recent and up-to-date information, including information that can be copied and pasted into neighborhood newsletters and social media. The City is adding all neighborhood organizations to this list. NCR will host weekly meetings with neighborhoods, Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m., from March 10 - June 15 (the frequency and time may change).

- COVID-19 emergency rent and utility bill assistance is available for those that qualify. While you can't be evicted for not paying rent during Governor Walz's executive order, rent is still due. When the order is lifted, people owing unpaid rent could be at risk for eviction. To apply for RentHelpMN or find more information, visit renthelpmn.org or call 211. The 211 help line has dedicated multilingual staff available to answer questions about RentHelpMN 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- Sign up for the Ward 7 newsletter at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-7/newsletters/>

3) Green Team

Green Team Chair Ellen van Iwaarden provided the following update:

- The Minneapolis Park Board is not staffing Earth Day Clean-Up this year. The Green Team would like to have the event. They would coordinate the event, recruit volunteers, board members, and neighbors to clean up Lake of the Isles and the neighborhood, starting at East Lake of the Isles Pkwy and 28th St on Saturday, April 24 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- There is a budget already approved for this event.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 4:

Motion to approve the East Isles Earth Day Clean-Up event on Saturday, April 24, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. *Motion by Erdahl, seconded by Dockter. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.*

4) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting on February 9, 2021. *Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Barhaugh. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.*

5) President's Report

President Emma Erdahl provided the following report:

- Reviewed RFPs for the Rebranding and Strategic Planning. Will review in a closed session of the meeting.

- Erdahl and Egan will be attending weekly NCR meetings regarding the Chauvin trial. Information will be shared from these meetings with the neighborhood.
- Current board members are invited to run for another term at the upcoming EIRA Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Please consider running again and encourage your friends and neighbors to nominate themselves.

6) Staff Report

Neighborhood Coordinator Jenna Egan gave the following report:

- East Isles Trivia Night is Monday, March 29 at 7 p.m. Please register if you have not already. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevukf9cZA--c7CzvOUPiPezQprRZFXR4t3fsoJze6lLQFOyA/viewform>
- Candidate forum discussion. Do we want to host a City Council candidate forum for Ward 7?
- Neighborhood Slack channel through the City of Minneapolis will be available for all to use.
- Postcards for the Annual Meeting have been mailed.
- Seeking volunteers to help flier the neighborhood to encourage more people to attend the Annual Meeting and Trivia Night.
- Neighborhoods are inviting rent control specialists to their neighborhood meetings. Would we like to do that?

7) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom announced that the March 2021 Finance Report will be emailed to board members.

8) Built Environment and Transportation Committee (BET)

BET Committee Chair Andrew Degerstrom gave the following report:

- The Executive Committee adopted the following resolution regarding a variance request at 2833 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy:

Resolution 2021R-10: Resolved that EIRA recommends to the City of Minneapolis that it approve an application for a variance from the front yard setback requirements for the construction of a porch and staircase for the two-family dwelling located at 2833 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy based on the following findings:

1. Practical difficulties exist in complying with the ordinance because of circumstances unique to the property. The unique circumstances were not

created by persons presently having an interest in the property and are not based on economic considerations alone.

2. The property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner that will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and the comprehensive plan.
3. The proposed variance will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity. If granted, the proposed variance will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public or of those utilizing the property or nearby properties.

Further resolved that the Chair of the Built Environment and Transportation Committee is authorized to write a letter to that effect.

- The South Hennepin Reconstruction Stakeholder Advisory Committee is working with neighborhoods to send out a joint postcard regarding the listening session and where to seek more information.
- There will be no BET Meeting in March.
- April BET meeting will include a presentation on the Hennepin South reconstruction project from City of Minneapolis project staff and will include an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
- The February BET meeting included presentations on the following:
 - Bde Maka Ska Refectory Rebuild project: Daniel Elias, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.
 - 2021 Improvements at The Mall: Colleen O'Dell, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

9) Outreach and Nominations Committee

Outreach and Nominations Committee Member Emma Erdahl gave the following updates regarding the 2021 Annual Meeting:

- The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- Elected officials that have been invited and are planning to attend are Lisa Goodman, Jono Cowgill, Meg Forney, Marion Greene, Frank Hornstein, and Scott Dibble.
- Improv comedy performance is planned.
- First of two postcards have been mailed out.
- Erik Anderson volunteered to work on flier design.

10) Discussion Items

The following items were discussed:

- EIRA will look into hosting a Ward 7 candidates forum in partnership with the other lakes area neighborhoods, possible dates of either April 28 or April 29.
- People attending the Annual Meeting will be able to submit questions in advance for the elected officials. Andrew Degerstrom will look into adding that option in the Eventbrite registration.

In accordance with EIRA Bylaws Article IV, Section 14, the remainder of the meeting was held in closed session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

11) Strategic Planning & Branding Consultants

The following actions were taken regarding agenda item 11:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-11: Resolved that EIRA accepts the proposal from INspiring SIGHT for strategic planning consulting services and that Emma Erdahl, Erik Anderson, Andrew Degerstrom, Laney Barhaugh, and Becky Accettura are authorized to negotiate a contract. *Motion by Accettura, seconded by Degerstrom. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.*

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-12: Resolved that EIRA accepts the proposal from Brandography for branding and graphic design consulting services and that Emma Erdahl, Erik Anderson, Andrew Degerstrom, Laney Barhaugh, and Becky Accettura are authorized to negotiate a contract. *Motion by Accettura, seconded by Degerstrom. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.*

12) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jenna Egan