

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)**  
**Minutes from the EIRA Special Meeting and Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 10, 2019 Grace Trinity Community Church**

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

Alternates not present: John Erlandson

In addition to the board, there were 13 residents in attendance.

Guests: Council Member, Lisa Goodman and Emma Pachuta, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), Senior Planner

**Welcome & Call to Order of Special Meeting:** Ellen van Iwaarden, EIRA President 7:05 p.m.

**Guest Speaker**, Council Member Lisa Goodman, City of Minneapolis.

Vote on the City of Minneapolis budget will take place tomorrow, December 11, 2019.

More than 150 people attended Lisa's December event, *Later with Lisa*. Next month's event will feature a discussion of Historical Landscape Scholar, Frank Edgerton Martin. If you'd like to be added to the list for this event, email Lisa at [Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov)

Snow emergency information is available online. Residents are encouraged to check for parking restrictions to avoid being towed and to remind neighbors to do the same.

Lisa reminded residents that Alkaline batteries are no longer recyclable due to fire hazard and should now be placed in the garbage along with other trash. You can always contact Lisa with questions by emailing her at [Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov) or calling her at: 612-673-2207.

**Guest Speaker**, Emma Pachuta, Senior Planner, MPRB came to talk about the Master Planning for Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake, and surrounding Parks. She brought a map to define the areas under consideration. A selection committee to help select an advisory committee is being formed. The time commitment of the advisory committee will be 18-24 months. Residents asked Ms. Pachuta to share goals of the Master Plan project and whether safety was a priority over beautification. Also, how or if climate change fits into the plan 20-30 years out. Residents asked where the money is coming from to fund this plan and who decides what the priorities are to do with the money. It was answered that the Metropolitan Council approves the Master Plan. Residents also asked whether the money allocated was from the tax base and whether there were plans in place to fix paths around Lake of the Isles that were underwater and in need of repair from overflowing. Ms. Pachuta, new to her role at MPRB, was not able to answer all of the questions, but said she would do her best to find out.

Ms. Pachuta was asked several questions by residents about the status of the Mall Park with concerns expressed about potential volleyball courts and soccer fields replacing native plantings and whether safety of residents would be a priority in the design.

### **Proposed NRP Plan Modifications Passed**

The proposed NRP Phase II Plan Modifications to fund the purchase of security cameras for the public safety of the neighborhood was passed in a vote of 14 in favor, 7 against and 1 abstention. Prior to the vote, a vote to vote was requested and passed. The cameras will be for the use of the Minneapolis Police Department. Amelia Huffman, 5th Precinct Inspector, was present to answer any questions.

The EIRA board had proposed plan modifications to reallocate funds between existing strategies in the neighborhood's Phase II NRP Plan. The funds to be reallocated will come from unused funds, including completed affordable housing initiatives. The modifications shift funds as follows:

#### **\$37,000.00 from NRP Phase II:**

Housing — 2.1.1. Affordable Housing Loan Program (\$3079.49)

Community Building — 4.2.1. Community Building Activities (\$3,000.00)

Community Building — 5.1.1. Services for Seniors and Other Residents in Need (\$1,360.00)

Public Land — 7.2.1. The Mall Improvements (\$1,756.40)

Public Land — 7.4.1. Public Space Improvements (\$26,481.40)

Public Land — 8.1.1. Staff and Administrative Support (\$1,322.71)

#### **\$37,000 to NRP Phase II:**

Crime and Safety — 3.3.1. Crime Prevention Activities (\$37,000)

### **Special Election for the Board**

Emma Erdahl, Chair of the Outreach and Nominations Committee oversaw a paper ballot election to fill the spots of departing board members, Mackenzie Nelson and Kate Svitavsky. An alternate board position also needed to be filled. Five candidates ran for two board spots, with two names on the ballot, one added in absentia and spoken for, and two volunteers from the floor. One candidate for alternate from the floor ran only for the alternate position. Elected to the board were: Molly Simmons and Becky Accettura with Eric Hausman elected as an alternate to the BOD. Their first meeting will be in January 2020 and their board terms will run through April when the next election of directors is held at EIRA's annual meeting.

**The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M.**

**Call to Order of BOD Meeting:** Ellen van Iwaarden, EIRA President 8:50 p.m.

### **President's Report**

President Ellen van Iwaarden reported that Ted Hathaway, the Manager of Special Collections, Preservation & Digitization at the Hennepin County Library has contacted EIRA about donating the historic records of EIRA to the Library's archives. Ellen spoke with Mr. Hathaway to get a few preliminary questions answered. He told her that the Library would take all EIRA's historic records, except for anything containing confidential information (like 1099's for contractors, etc.). Our materials would be available for the public to use at the downtown Library in their special collections area. The documents themselves will be preserved and there will be an on-line finding aid to locate them. Several other Minneapolis neighborhoods have already done this, including Elliot Park Neighborhood, Prospect Park and East River Road Improvement Association, the Central Neighborhood Improvement Association, the Seward Neighborhood Group, and the Whittier Alliance. Ellen estimates that the neighborhood probably has at least 10-12 boxes of historical materials stored either at her home or in the storage locker and believes this Library option would be a good way to ensure their future care and preservation. She recommends that we publicize this opportunity to the neighborhood and plan to put it on the agenda to discuss and decide at our February meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew introduced Rachel Ireland-Henry, EIRA's new accountant. Rachel will be working as a contract employee for EIRA a few hours each month and also works for the West Calhoun and Armitage neighborhoods. Review of the 2020 budget was tabled until next month's meeting due to lack of time.

### **Secretary's Report**

The BOD approved the minutes from the November meeting. Debbie recommended updating and maintaining a list of EIRA's current committees, their descriptions, chairs, members, and contact information, and making this available to all incoming board members and residents.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **East Isles Farmers Market**

Results from the University of Minnesota Farmers Market Metrics Program were to be presented by Debbie Gold, but were tabled until next month's meeting due to lack of time. The FM Metrics Program provides valuable information on attendance, transportation modes, dollars spent before and after the market in the neighborhood, representation of minorities, and more. A survey is going out to East Isles residents regarding the Farmers Market and all EIRA events. The results will help inform the budget for next year.

The following resolution regarding the East Isles Farmers Market was proposed and passed.

The East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) Board hereby resolves to establish a Farmers Market Committee. The Farmers Market Committee will oversee the organization and management of any East Isles Farmers Market events, will hire a Market Director/Manager if approved by the board, and will conduct any fundraising activities for the East Isles Farmers Market events by soliciting sponsorships, applying for grants, or doing other fundraising

activities. This resolution replaces the portion of the Farmers Market resolution of May 8, 2018 that appointed a Market Director, President, and Vice President as the group overseeing the East Isles Farmers Market. The Farmers Market Committee will update the board on their activities in January and February 2020 and will report to the board no later than March 1, 2020, on whether there will be a Farmers Market in 2020. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please email: [director@eastislesfarmersmarket.com](mailto:director@eastislesfarmersmarket.com). The committee will meet only as needed, but not more than 1x per month.

### **Search Committee**

Former Chair, Mackenzie Nelson, has moved and is no longer on the board. Andrew Degerstrom was appointed chair in her place by committee members Emma Erdahl and Andrew Degerstrom. The committee met to discuss the search for a new EIRA coordinator. Work on a possible revised job description and title were presented and discussed. Members of the board requested that more information be gathered from other neighborhoods as a reference point, and that the committee present a before and after comparison of job descriptions to delineate any proposed changes for review.

### **Social Committee**

The annual Ice Skating Party will be held on January 26, 2020 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**There were no items in Open Forum.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 P.M.**

The next EIRA meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 14, 2019, at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street. The East Isles Residents Association invites and welcomes participation by all East Isles residents to every program, service, committee and event. Please sign up for our newsletter at: [info@eastisles.org](mailto:info@eastisles.org)

Submitted by Debbie Gold, Secretary, EIRA Board of Directors