

**East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)  
Minutes from the EIRA Special Meeting and Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Grace Trinity Community Church**

Board members present Ellen van Iwaarden (President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Debbie Gold (Secretary) Becky Accettura, Julia Curran, Emma Erdahl, Mike Erlandson, John Grochala, John Morrow, Molly Simmons

Board Members not present: Steve Havig. Alternates not present: John Erlandson

Guests: Council Member, Lisa Goodman, Alberder Gillespie, Census Project Lead, and Casey Carl, City Clerk

**Welcome & Call to Order:** Ellen van Iwaarden, EIRA President 7:00 p.m.

Introductions and welcome to two new board members, Becky Accettura and Molly Simmons.

**Guest Speakers,** Council Member Lisa Goodman, City of Minneapolis, Alberder Gillespie, Census Project Lead, and Casey Carl, City Clerk.

Guest Speaker, Council Member Lisa Goodman notified the neighborhood that Minneapolis now has an open portal for health inspection reports. The public can access reports on all restaurants online here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/inspections/foodinspections>

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.

This month's Lunch with Lisa event on January 29th from 12-1 p.m. will be held at the U of M in Terrence Murphy Hall Room, 252, and will feature a discussion of Historical Landscape Scholar, Frank Edgerton Martin. February's event will feature a presentation on climate emergency by John Dunlap, a 7th Ward Resident. If you'd like to be added to the list for these events, email Lisa at [Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov)

Guest Speakers, Alberder Gillespie, Census Project Lead, and Casey Carl, City Clerk came to discuss the 2020 census process and early voting. The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future, as federal funding, grants, and other support will be distributed to communities nationwide based on Census data. For more information on the upcoming Census, visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)

Early voting starts Friday, January 17th, 2020. Did you know that Minnesota has the longest early voting period in the nation at 46 days? Super Tuesday is March 3, 2020. Minnesota is holding a presidential primary for only the 5<sup>th</sup> time as a state and for the first time since 1992.

**President's Report**

Ellen reminded everyone that the annual Ice Skating Party will be on January 26, 2020, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and asked any volunteers to be in touch with Chair, Amy Sanborn. The board elected Mike Erlandson to serve as interim Vice President until new elections take place at the

annual meeting in April 2020. A new format for the EIRA website BOD page was discussed. It was agreed that a 1-2 sentence bio for each board member should be sent to Ellen for posting.

Andrew and Ellen attended the neighborhood 2020 meeting on behalf of EIRA held by the City. Ellen reported that the Neighborhoods 2020 meetings were a great opportunity to meet other neighborhood leaders and work together with staff from the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) to focus on how neighborhoods work with the City of Minneapolis. We also learned more about what the City will be expecting neighborhoods to do with the City funding we receive, which this year will be the same amount received as last year. The City is looking to the neighborhoods to create inclusive communities where the neighborhood boards reflect the demographics of the neighborhood. The City will also be expecting the neighborhoods to do equity work by identifying inequities in our communities and working to rectify them. Ellen encouraged the BOD to think about inequities in our neighborhood and consider, for a later agenda, how we might be involved in working to eliminate them.

Ellen also reported that the survey to the neighborhood regarding the Farmers Market and our other events had 105 responses—more than any of our other surveys. Those responding were overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the Farmers Market with close to 90% saying they attended the market more than one time. The call for volunteers to help on the Farmers Market Committee was also a success, with several new volunteers joining the Farmers Market Committee.

Results from all events polled are as follows:

East Isles Farmers Market 88% would like the market to continue. 12% Don't Care.

Ice Skating Party 64% in favor. 37% Don't Care.

Earth Day Clean-up 82% in favor. 19% Don't Care.

Ice Cream Social 73% in favor. 23% Don't Care.

Super Sale 61% in favor. 35% Don't Care.

Annual Wine Tasting Event 51% Don't Care. 37% in favor.

The board discussed the upcoming EIRA annual meeting and the idea of a possible venue change to accommodate a larger group. A planning committee for the meeting is being considered.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew presented the 2020 Budget to the Board. The Board adopted the following motion: Approve the 2020 EIRA Budget at a total of \$87,744 and authorize the Treasurer, in consultation with the President and relevant Committee chair, if applicable, to make budget neutral amendments without Board approval.

Andrew also presented the 3rd Amendment to EIRA's CPP Contract. The Board adopted the following motion: Approve the Third Amendment to NRP Funding Agreement C-42485 with the City of Minneapolis, increasing the contract by \$30,243 for a new contract total of \$120,973, as amended.

### **Secretary's Report**

The board approved the minutes from the December 2019 meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### **East Isles Farmers Market**

Debbie Gold updated the BOD on the first Farmers Market Committee meeting that was held in December. The committee believes that the EIFM supports and furthers the mission of EIRA to build community, promote green spaces, activate an underused park and foster neighbor relations. Further, the committee believes the market supports inclusivity, diversity, entrepreneurship and an equitable marketplace. The EIFM is strongly supported by neighborhood residents. The EIFM is a net contributor to the East Isles Residents Association budget and represents the largest source of incoming, unrestricted funds. **The committee recommends the continuation and development of the East Isles Farmers Market provided they can find and hire an experienced market manager.**

The committee appointed co-chairs. Co-chairs of the East Isles Farmers Market Committee are Debbie Gold, EIRA BOD + former FM director and Steve Havig, EIRA BOD + sponsor. The co-chairs will organize and seek input and approval from the committee. The chairs will directly supervise the market manager. While both current co-chairs are on the EIRA BOD, the committee was in agreement that future appointed chairs **need not be members of the EIRA Board of Directors** but must be EIRA residents, per the EIRA Bylaws. The committee may, in the future permit a single chair, in which case the chair and one interested representative from the EIRA BOD would supervise the market manager. The Farmers Market Manager job description was discussed and approved by both the committee and the BOD. It will be posted on multiple job boards. The committee recommends keeping sponsorship levels the same as they were last year. Benefits associated with those levels will be reviewed at the next meeting. The committee recommends continued membership in the Uptown Business Association at the Silver level. The committee updated line items on the 2020 budget to present to the BOD for approval allow for a \$10,000 line item for a market manager as well as \$1000 for a contract accountant or bookkeeper.

The committee asks the BOD to amend its Bylaws to enable the inclusion of non-East Isles residents as voting members of the committee. No non-resident may chair the committee; however, the committee believes that the inclusion of interested stakeholders such as vendors, business owners and other nearby neighborhood residents who support the market would add a valuable perspective and broader vision to the ongoing success of the market.

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. For more information, contact [director@eastislesfarmersmarket.com](mailto:director@eastislesfarmersmarket.com)

### **Search Committee**

Andrew updated the Board on the Search Committee's progress, noting that the Committee has scaled back the position to align with previous Coordinators, and that the position would be posted soon.

### **NRP Committee**

Chair, Mike Erlandson presented an update on the Levin Triangle Park shade structure (in progress), the security cameras (he is talking to local businesses to get contributions toward this project). So far, Xcel Energy has donated \$1,000 as has the Uptown Business Association.

### **Outreach and Nominations**

Chair, Emma Erdahl led a discussion on last month's elections and ideas for improving our election process and procedure. More discussion will take place at the next committee meeting on February 6, 2020.

### **BET Committee**

Andrew gave an update on the proposal for a new two-family condominium project at 2208 Irving Ave S. The project needed several variances, which EIRA submitted a letter recommending approval. The variance applications were scheduled to go before the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) on Thursday, January 9. City staff recommended denial of all variances, and the project team withdrew their variance applications before the ZBA meeting began. The project team is hoping to make modifications to the design and resubmit at a later date.

### **Open Forum**

The board asked Treasurer, Andrew Degerstrom to provide additional information related to the new director's insurance policy.

### **The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.**

The next EIRA meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 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