

EIRA Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 7 pm
Online via Zoom

MINUTES

Board members present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Erik Anderson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Laney Barhaugh (Secretary), Becky Accettura, Rod Lauture, Larry Lamb, Natasha Dockter, Mike Erlandson, Peter Mason, Brian Milavitz

Staff Present:

Jenna Egan, Coordinator

Guests: Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council Ward 7

Jennifer Waisanen, Fifth Precinct Community Crime Prevention Specialist

Neighbors

1. Welcome

President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Resolution to hold April annual meeting virtually, in-person, or hybrid

- a. Executive committee will propose an agenda
- b. Jenna will handle arranging guest speakers

Discussion: Milavitz recommends having the annual meeting in-person and at Grace Trinity Community Church. Anderson recommends in-person and a hybrid model. Will assist in exploring a hybrid model at the church and encourages other board members to assist with the planning. Also recommends that EIRA continues to have the voting process online. Degerstrom would like to see a spaced out option if in-person. Does not recommend Isles Bun where the annual meeting has been held in the past. Can make a decision by the March board meeting to make a final decision. Erdahl, is there enough time to reserve the space, reach out to speakers and finalize the details. Anderson recommends we proceed as if we are going to be meeting in-person. Accettura, different levels of hybrid, would this be one-way? Were we thinking of one-way streaming? Anderson, let's see what the church offers. Degerstrom prefers one-way streaming because of the ramifications if things go wrong. Egan will reach out to the church to see if they would be open to in-person and having the capability for a hybrid model.

3. Approval of [December](#) and [January](#) Minutes

Degerstrom moved for approval of the December meeting minutes adding an amendment to include the record of the electronic vote approving the \$15,000 for the Loppet Foundations to purchase a snowmobile to groom the trails. Barhaugh seconded the motion. Approved with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

Degerstrom moved to approve the January meeting minutes with amendments to change the date and to include Jenna not Jenny. Barhaugh seconded the motion. Approved with 8 ayes and 0 nays. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair, Andrew Degerstrom gave the following announcements:

- a. [February 2022 Finance Report](#)
- b. [FY 2021 Finance Report](#)

Degerstrom moved to approve the February 2022 Finance Report. Motion seconded by Anderson. 9 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Degerstrom moved to approve the FY 2021 Finance Report. Motion seconded by Erlandson. 9 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Discussion: Degerstrom, regarding contracts the NRP Phase II includes the amendment to add communications, neighborhood boundary signs, and community building activities. We also hadn't finished our 2022 budget before the end of the year, so we put all \$15,000 of the Neighborhood Network Fund in staff expenses, then would amend to move the \$15,000 into different categories according to what we approved in our budget. That amendment will be coming through the City. The City is waiting to close the CPP funds for all neighborhoods before the move on the amendment, where they will add an additional \$5,000 to the Neighborhood Network Fund. The February 2022 Finance Report reflects what is currently contracted, not what it will look like after the amendment. The FY 2021 Finance Report

5. Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council, Ward 7

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

- a. Lunch with Lisa is canceled for February. Will send information on the next Lunch with Lisa scheduled for March 30th soon. Will tour the Alden Smith House.
- b. Redistricting Public Hearing on Feb. 9 at 7 PM and Feb. 24 at 4 PM. Currently the draft maps have no changes for East Isles Residents Association.
- c. The City has allocated \$16.5 million for 300 affordable housing units. Hopefully will support those unsheltered and in housing crises. Also working with the state on funding other housing projects.
- d. The Community Connections Conference date has been changed to Sat. May 21. Learn more <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/inclusive->

[community-engagement/conne](#)

- e. The City Council will vote on Thursday Mayor Jacob Frey's nomination of Margaret Anderson Kelliher as the new director of the Public Works Department for a four-year term.
- f. Following the Feb. 2 fatal police shooting of Amir Locke, City Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, chair of the Policy & Government Oversight Committee, invited nationally recognized experts to present on research pertaining to police procedures and no-knock warrants. The focus of the committee presentation was to gain insight on current policies and next steps to guarantee the effectiveness of these policies. Presentations included information from Rachel Moran, associate professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, University of St. Thomas law student Sarah Murta, and civil rights attorneys Ben Crump, Jeff Storms and Antonio Romanucci. Watch the meeting - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fp_A42_CpOk.

Discussion: Erlandson, what are the updates on Hennepin Ave. Reconstruction Project? Goodman, public comment closed on Jan. 31. Staff will go through the feedback and use process by the Mayor, and then decide if they will go with one of the plans, or alter one of the plans. Then goes to the City Council and the decision then goes to the Mayor if he approves or vetoes. Reconstruction is planned for 2024.

6. Jennifer Waisanen, Fifth Precinct Community Crime Prevention Specialist

Jennifer Waisanen, Fifth Precinct Community Crime Prevention Specialist gave the following announcements:

- a. Community Crime Prevention Specialists were moved out of the Police Department and into the Neighborhood Community Relations Department last year. Still office out of the 5th Precinct and work with the officers there.
- b. Down 10 Crime Prevention Specialists, hoping to fill those positions in the next couple of months.
- c. 67 Block Captains in East Isles are registered in the database, some are 2 to a block.
- d. Violent crime is up in East Isles. In 2020, 30 violent crimes were reported. In 2021 there were 54 violent crimes reported. This mostly includes burglaries and assaults. Robberies, carjackings and auto thefts are also high. So far this month, there have been 12 auto thefts and two car jackings and robberies so far this month. 5 robberies and 2 carjackings in January.
- e. Anyone can also register their camera at : <https://www.minneapolis.gov/resident-services/public-safety/police-public-safety/security-camera-registration/>

Discussion: Erlandson, what can neighborhoods do to improve and promote public safety? Also what are the trends in crime for East Isles. Waisanen, block captains' contact information is confidential and we do not give their info out, but can send emails on behalf of an individual or organization to the block captain. Can connect with Sandra in Outreach who is working on an East Isles Block Captain list. Lauture, what is being done by a person that car jacks multiple times? Waisanen, the police arrest the car jackers. The county attorneys are the ones that have to change the laws. Neighbor,

there is a carjacking victims advocacy group. Milavitz, what can we do as a board to support safety and crime prevention? Waisanen, a lot of crimes are crimes of opportunity - not locking doors, leaving the car running. Safety rebates are great. Security cameras help with determining suspects. Lights help. Burglaries are down since people are working from home. Having neighbors/block groups walking the neighborhoods. Lowry Hill is doing a buy back program with the police department. Erlandson, let's create a page on our website or a list with safety and crime prevention information for our neighbors. Waisanen, will send information to Egan to add to our website. Residents can contact Waisanen at jennifer.waisanen@minneapolis.gov.

7. BET Committee Update: Andrew Degerstrom, Committee Chair

BET Committee Chair Degerstrom gave the following announcements:

- a. Recommendation that EIRA send a letter to the City regarding the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction stating that 1) EIRA has not taken a position and 2) highlighting the outreach work that EIRA has done around the project.

Degerstrom moved to send a letter that EIRA has not taken a position and to highlight the outreach work EIRA has done. Motion seconded by Mason.

Discussion: Erlandson, not an advocate for sending a letter when we are not taking a position and we missed the deadline. Milavitz, not appropriate to send a letter if we are not taking a position. Lauture, 50% of those who commented about the project didn't live in the neighborhood. I think it's important to send the letter and those who make the decisions can decide. Anderson, let's hold off on sending a letter. Degerstrom, what about withdrawing the part about not taking a position, and sharing the outreach work that we did? Mason, maybe wait to see what the City decides before sending a letter?

Degerstrom withdraws motion.

- b. Recommendation that EIRA send a letter to Walgreens expressing concern about why the 27th Street entrance is always locked and ask that they take steps to address the issue.

Discussion: Mason, Walgreens in violation of what they were contracted to do. A letter should be sent. Erlandson, concerned about their safety and maybe they have hours when that door is open? Neighbor, should hold them accountable, and ask them why the door is closed? Let's understand the 'why?' of why their door is closed. Lauture, seems that door is closed for rampant shoplifting. There's the agreement and the reality of the world. Anderson, compelled by the letter, expresses gratitude for the building after the looting. Doctor, in support of sending the letter. If Walgreens is having issues they should be more communicative. They have struggled to be a good neighbor in the last two years. They can afford to hire more staff and keep the doors open. Mason, they knew they were supposed to have both entrances open. They

are in violation of everything they said. Laurture, send a letter and then what happens?
Degerstrom, hope is to take a straight answer, and to assist in making that door functional. Then debate what next steps to take if it's not open. This issue has been going on since 2016.

Motion by Degerstrom to send a letter to Walgreens expressing concern about why the 27th Street entrance is always locked and ask that they take steps to address the issue.
Seconded by Mason. 10 ayes, 1 nay. Motion passed.

9. Open Forum

- a. Degerstrom - BET Committee next Tuesday at 7 PM via Zoom, brief update on The Mall Improvements from the Park Board.
- b. Degerstrom - Name change is official! East Isles Neighborhood Association. Roll out the logo and new name at the same time.
- c. Erlandson - Goal of April 1st to get Public Safety and Crime information on East Isles website?
- d. Barhaugh no longer lives in East Isles and stepped down from the board.
- e. Erlandson - security grants, can residents apply annually?
- f. Milavitz, Loppet received the snowmobile. Foundation greatly appreciated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jenna Egan