



Whittier Alliance 2010 Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 2011 5:30-8:30pm

Whittier International Elementary School

Letter from the Board Chair Erica Christ

Welcome to the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting! Thank you for choosing to engage in the events of your neighborhood and your neighborhood organization!

2010 saw some exciting changes. The property on 26th and Nicollet finally sold and the renovation and restoration of those buildings is underway. Construction has begun on the development at 28th and Lyndale. Best of all, the HCMC Whittier Clinic opened in the fall! While we are still burdened with many vacant commercial properties and depressed property values, these new projects promise to attract more new businesses and residents.

Looking to the future, the Whittier Alliance is midway through a strategic planning process to set the course for the organization for the next 3-5 years. We have our sights set on being a world class neighborhood. We've been asking you (and ourselves) what that means. I encourage you to listen up at meetings for updates on the plan or check our website.

Also, I encourage you to think of yourselves not only as residents, property owners or business owners, but as citizens. Many important changes are afoot that could dramatically affect life in Whittier – property taxes and property values among other things. Please make an effort to get involved in the issues facing the neighborhood, city and state. Learn about the process behind city and state actions and communicate with your elected officials. The more informed we all are, the more clearly we can be heard by those we elect to represent us.

Lastly, please join me in expressing gratitude to our skilled and dedicated Executive Director, Marian Biehn. We are lucky to have her and her staff working for the neighborhood, making it possible for the rest of us to participate fully in the work and fun of the Whittier Alliance.

Whittier Alliance Executive Director Report Marian Biehn

Much of the visible work of the Whittier Alliance is in the day to day response to the needs of the Whittier neighborhood: facilitating an improvement loan to a rental property or home owner; referring a new business to a commercial property; funding a youth program, planning a neighborhood clean up, advocating to the City—all good work that helps build community and a sense of security. The less visible work of the Whittier Alliance is in taking the long view and developing policies and plans that will position the Whittier neighborhood well in the future and in times of transition.

2010 can be viewed as a time of transition for the Whittier neighborhood and Whittier Alliance. Although the transition we are facing is not the ideal situation, it presents an opportunity to creatively set and accomplish neighborhood goals and find new sources of funding.

In 2010, the process of transitioning from the 20 year, highly successful Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) - the independent governing body which funded and oversaw neighborhood identified initiatives, development and action plans - to the Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR) - a department of the City of Minneapolis - was initiated. Along with the change in the “parent company” comes the significant change in funding and possible self determination. The City's NCR department will not fund neighborhoods or neighborhood identified needs as broadly as did NRP. Whittier's NRP Action Plan focused on Housing, Business & Local Economy, Safety, Youth and Community Building. Work in these areas will continue until the current funds are depleted but funding for these and other goals will not be replenished.

In anticipation of this change and to proactively determine our future, the Whittier Alliance initiated a Strategic Planning process in 2010. Funding newly identified goals will be an issue but planning for Whittier's growth and development is key to retaining the unique characteristics that differentiate us from other neighborhoods and will prevent us from slipping into the delinquency of the past.

So in this time of transition our best course is to 1st: keep on keeping on; and 2nd: plan. We need your help in the planning, the doing, and the funding. Take part in supporting your neighborhood by participating in the day to day work of the office. And your financial support will be needed to implement neighborhood identified long term goals and to retain autonomy in our work and decisions.

I want to thank the Whittier Alliance Board for their thoughtful deliberation and decisions on issues and their support of the Whittier Alliance staff. A special thanks to the Executive Committee and their leadership on the Strategic Planning. Thank you to Becky Neamy who worked as our Community Organizer and Jessica Rosenberg as Administrative Asst. The Whittier Alliance is a small office in a big neighborhood. The work is never ending and we might get tired but we won't quit serving the Whittier neighborhood!

Board of Directors – Serving in 2010

Officers

Erica Christ, Chair
Erin Sjoquist, Vice Chair
Tom Bissen, Treasurer
Laura Jean, Secretary

Standing Committee Chairs

Maurice Battle, Community Issues
Erica Christ, Business Association

At Large Members

Michael Tupper	Anthony Carchedi
Laura Jean	Erin Sjoquist
Felino de la Peña	David Bagley
Karl Antolak	Christina Le
Larry Ludeman (R)	Jesse Oyervides
Daphna Stromberg	

Business Assn Representatives

Erica Christ	Rachel Lewis
Elizabeth Grzechowiak (R)	Lisa Vecoli
David Schuster	Maurice Battle

R = Resigned during 2010 term

Staff

Marian Biehn, Executive Director
Becky Neamy, Community Organizer
Jessica Rosenberg, Office Coordinator



Whittier Alliance Community Organizer Report Becky Neamy

The Whittier Neighborhood is known as the International Neighborhood. With such a diverse population there have been many opportunities to create partnerships with individuals and organizations that represent this diversity. Through these partnerships we as an organization have been able to connect with members of our community to promote neighborhood involvement and the Whittier Alliance in the 2010 year.

Whittier Alliance partnerships and collaborations in 2010:

Restorative Justice alternative community service for minor offenders
Block clubs, Police, SSCO, probation officers, city attorney, CCP/SAFE
and Law Enforcement for crime and safety related issues
American Intercontinental University student, neighborhood businesses
for the 2010 Whittier calendar project
Campus Group-Youth Serving Agencies
Partnership with Calvary Church, Bolder Options, and Homework and
Hoops for youth outreach
PPL organizers for outreach to residential rental buildings
HCMC Whittier Clinic grand opening
Plymouth Church, for Franklin and Nicollet (FAN) Fair
Parade of Community Gardens
Fallout Art-Fest
Faith-based organizations

Whittier Alliance 2010 Events

Sidewalk Shovel Shuffle - Snow Shoveling Day
Dog Days of Whittier
May Day Soirée Benefit for the Neighborhood
Multi-neighborhood Wine Tasting Fundraiser
National Night Out – 12 parties in Whittier!
Youth Field Day- School Supply Give Away
Whittier Elementary School Carnival
Somali Independence Day
World of Whittier Family Fair
Neighborhood Clean Up events
Greenway Clean up event
Clinton Field Park Ice Cream Social and Sing-A long
Tasty Excursion - Eat Street Excursion
Whittier Green Fair
Minneapolis School Board Forum
Rental Property Owners Seminar

Rental

Business Association Erica Christ, BA Chair

The Business Association meets regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. A different business hosts each meeting and the starting time – morning, lunchtime or late afternoon – is determined by the host business. Each host business has a few minutes in the spotlight at the top of the meeting. It's a great way to get to know our business neighbors, celebrate our successes and join in supporting our common goals for a vibrant neighborhood.

Meeting topics range from city-wide issues to individual business changes and plans. Topics included: Hennepin County Medical Center's Whittier Clinic, the Storefront Project, the 35W access project and related transportation issues, planning and evaluating the Eat Street Excursion (Whittier businesses Happy Hour event) and the HCMC grand opening event, Whittier dining guides, Façade Improvement grants, development on 26th and Nicollet, commercial real estate in Whittier, the Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines and the Whittier Alliance Strategic planning process. Additionally we heard from Scott Wende about creating an Energy District, city representatives about the Special Services district and the Minneapolis Streetcar Study, and we enjoyed the regular attendance of our 5th precinct police representatives.

We welcomed many new businesses to Whittier and sadly said goodbye to some old friends. In the current economic climate, it is more important than ever to support your neighborhood independent businesses.

We welcomed the following new businesses

- Kem Café
- Ly's Donuts
- TruStone Financial
- Whittier Clinic HCMC

We said goodbye to some Whittier businesses

- Arise Bookstore
- Lyndale Antiques
- Sacred Rearrangements
- Azia, A26, and the Caterpillar Lounge

We thank our host businesses in 2010: Hennepin History Museum, El Mariachi, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 7th Day Adventist Church, Azia Restaurant, Lyndale Tap House, Franklin Lofts, Rainbow Chinese Restaurant, CVS/Eat Street Flats, Pay Day America, and Christos Greek Restaurant.

The Business Association sends up to five representatives to the Board of Directors, two from for-profit businesses, two from non-profit businesses and the BA chair. Thank you to our 2010 Business Association representatives to the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors: For profit: Elizabeth Grzechowiak, Azia Restaurant; David Schuster, Lost and Found. Non profit: Lisa Vecoli, Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Rachel Lewis, Washburn Center for Children.

Please join us this year! We have many exciting projects in the works. Our group encompasses non-profit and for profit, industrial and service oriented, big institutions and small, family-run stores. Residents and property owners are welcome to attend our meetings as well. Whittier is a great place to live, work and run a business!



Community Issues

Maurice T Battle, Jr., Community Issues Chair

The monthly Community Issues Meeting continues to draw support from residents and individuals interested in continuing to improve the quality of life and livability of the Whittier Neighborhood, and hearing about neighborhood topics.

We were able to consider the following Development Proposals as well as a number of Informational Presentations regarding issues of interest to and impact on Whittier Neighborhood residents.

Development Proposal Reviews

Source Fallout - Request for non-conforming use, 2601 2nd Ave. S
2610-2612-2614 1st Ave S - Request for Certificate of Non-Conforming Use for a commercial use of property in R2B
El Mariachi - Application for upgraded liquor license from Class E to Class B
Creation of Task Force to work with Whittier Community School and Mpls and Whittier Park and Rec Center to develop facilities agreement for the use of the community center
Inn at Karmel - 2910 Pillsbury Development
2509 Clinton Ave - certificate of appropriateness from HPC for window replacement and deck reconstruction
2833 Lyndale-The Murals - signage variance
2910 Pillsbury-Karmel Plaza - site plan review for 3rd floor self-storage addition and 4500 sq. ft. 1st floor additional retail space
Salem English Lutheran Church-Lyndale Green - Conditional Use Permit for 63 units
2548 Pleasant Ave S - Center of Light Order of Christ Sophia – request for change of Non-Conforming Use
HCMC-request for sign variance at Whittier Clinic
2805 Grand Ave S - request for non-conforming use, 3rd unit in duplex
2706-08 Pleasant Ave S - request for rezoning from R2b to R3
2017 Grand Ave S - rezoning from R2B to R3
2903 Lyndale Ave S - Heidi's Restaurant – request for Class E Liquor On-Sale License
2848 Pleasant Ave S - Karmel Village – Conditional Use Permit for 18 additional residential units
2528-48 Nicollet Redevelopment - site plan approval
2902-04-06 Garfield Ave S - zoning change from I1 to C3A
2902-04-06-08 Garfield Ave S - Site Plan for Balance Fitness Studio
NRP - freeze of 50% of un-contracted Phase 2 funds and reallocation of said funds

Informational Presentations

Whittier Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines
Information regarding Bedbug Infestations from Environmental Pest Management Systems and the City of Mpls Health Dept.
Darrell Washington Whittier Resident and PTA Member addressed concerns regarding reserving space in Whittier Community School for Whittier residents
Emerald Ash Borer presentation by Anita Tabb 4th District Park Representative
35W Access Project
Legislative Update – Rep. Karen Clark
Proposed Charter Change presented by Common Cause
DJR Architects presentation regarding Azia block
NCR and NRP
2901 Lyndale-Heidi's Restaurant – Public Hearing for Class E liquor license
Whittier Strategic Planning – Development of 3-5 year Whittier Plan

Reports from Neighborhood Task Forces

NRP Steering Committee
Historic Preservation Task Force
Strategic Planning Task Force

Community Comments & Monthly Updates

5th Precinct and Community Crime Prevention Reports
Councilman Robert Lilligren

Resource Development

Marian Biehn

The Whittier Alliance depends on fundraising to help supplement the annual budget and allow for expenditures that are not covered by other funding sources. We thank everyone who has financial contributed or has made an in-kind donation to the Whittier Alliance. In a very practical way your generosity is reinvested into the neighborhood.

Gross Income from Fundraising in 2010

May Day Soiree Live & Silent Auction Neighborhood Benefit	\$14,102
Multi-Neighborhood Wine Tasting	440
Fall Solicitation	<u>5,390</u>
Gross Fundraising Revenue	\$19,932

The fundraising income represents financial revenues received in the form of a direct contribution or through support of one of the Whittier Alliance fund raising events. However, numerous businesses and organizations generously donate goods and services to various Whittier Alliance events. These in-kind donations help defer the cost of an event or are key to fundraising for the Whittier Alliance.

Our Generous Contributors in 2010—Thank you! Thank you also to our contributors who wish to remain anonymous.

Andrew Baird	Brian & Pahoua Hoffman	David & Margaret Lucas	Eric Plotner
Andrew Ellis	Carla McGrath & Cole Rogers	David Bagley	Erica Christ
Andrew Mogendorff	Carol Fisher	David Schroth	Erin Sjoquist
Avis Hoffman	Charles Sass	David Schuster	Evelyn & Alan Ingber
Barb Lickness	Crawford Merz Anderson	Debbie Evans	Harriet McCleary
Becky Olsen	Dana E C Fox	Elizabeth Grzechowiak	Jeffrey M. Nelson
Bonny Ford	Daphna Stromberg	Emma Mogendorff	Jeffrey Spencer



Jen Nagel
Jesse Oyervides
Jill Vecoli
Jim Roscoe
Josephine Musumeci
Kate Nettleman
Lana Barkawi
Larry Ludeman
Laura Jean
Lori A Chu
Marilyn Anderson & Robert
Caddy
Mary Vetscher

Mary Webster
Michael Tupper
Michaela Ahern
Nancy St. John
Paula & Cy DeCosse
Paula Horan
Rebecca Neamy
Rob Davis
Robert Miller
Scott Neamy
Shirley Bernu
Thomas & Diana Scott
Tod Skallerup

Tom Bissen
Tony Hull & Jill Hamilton
Tracy Lindgren
Verne Greenlee
Wendy Darst
AAUW
Electric Fetus
Franklin Bank
Girard Management
Great Tapes
Hennepin County Medical
Center
Hess, Roise & Company

Irving Properties
It's Greek to Me
Just In Case
Kleinman Realty
Mint Properties
Once Upon a Crime
Park Nicollet Health Services
PSR Properties
Rainbow Chinese Restaurant
Rose Manor Apts
Stevens Community
Association
Wedge Community Co-op

Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Implementation Marian Biehn

Phase 2 funds provided to the Whittier neighborhood and administered through the Whittier Alliance influence the operations, programs and initiatives of the Whittier neighborhood. The funds are dedicated to the neighborhood identified priorities of Housing, Safety, Youth, Business and Local Economy and Community Building. With the input and the oversight of the NRP Steering Committee, the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors and NRP, funds were contracted and put to work in the neighborhood. The full NRP Phase 2 Whittier Action Plan and a financial ledger are available for viewing in the Whittier Alliance office.

Housing: The Center for Energy and Environment administers Whittier's NRP housing loan funds. The **Rental Rehab and Renewal (3R) Loan** offers a pool of \$350,000 at 3.5% interest for 10 years to both owner and non-owner occupied rental housing in Whittier. The 3R Loan program is a life line for rental property owners for critical and curb appeal improvements to rental properties. In 2010 two 3R loans were made for a total of \$62,500 of rental housing improvements in the community. Six single family home owners have accessed \$63,700 in home improvement funds through the Whittier **Single Family Home Improvement Loan**. The interest rate is very low and there are no income level restrictions. The loan is open to owner occupied Whittier single family and duplex homes. Hess Roise continues to work with the Whittier Alliance as consultants on a **historical preservation guide** which will assist property owners in making historically appropriate decisions when doing renovations or rehab to their home or building. The **Hewson House at 2008 Pillsbury** was nominated by the Whittier Alliance and was named to the "Ten Most Endangered Properties in Minnesota" by Preservation Alliance of MN. The Hewson House escaped the dismantling and sale of its historic architectural features and is now in the process of restoration and historic designation.

Business & Local Economy: Whittier restaurants and retail shops participated in multiple **Eat Street Excursions**. The Excursions were in participation with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Third Thursday event. The Economic Growth Center-formerly the Whittier Community Development Center-which administered the NRP **2% Commercial Revolving Loan Fund** closed in the fall of 2010. The loan funds have been returned to Whittier's NRP Business funds pool. Approximately 20,000 **Whittier Dining Guides** were printed and distributed in partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Community Building and Safety: The **2010 Whittier Calendar** reached 8000 homes and businesses in Whittier. The calendar featured Whittier businesses as well as the community meeting dates and neighborhood resources. The calendars are a practical tool for promoting the Whittier neighborhood. Events such as Dog Days, Block Club Potluck, the Ice Cream Social at Clinton Field Park and the Fall Clean Up brought people together within the neighborhood. **Block and Apartment Clubs** received grants from the NRP Safety funds to sponsor National Night Out parties. Several **Safety Seminars** were held in apartment buildings. Tracking crime stats and participating in the Law Enforcement Group (LEG) has been an effective tool in identifying problem areas and reducing crime. Neighborhood impact statements are regularly submitted to the court system on chronic offenders. Homes and businesses have received partial grants for **graffiti removal and prevention** and free graffiti removal supplies have been made available to Whittier residents and businesses.

Youth: Youth programming funds provided **swimming lessons** for 80 Whittier youth in the summer of 2010. **Youth micro grants** were awarded to Old Arizona, Jabbok Family Services and McPhail Center for Music to support outreach and programming to Whittier youth. **Field Day** provided a range of athletic events for 60 Whittier youth ages 4 to 12 in August in Whittier Park.

Implementation: The Whittier NRP implementation funds support the operations of the Whittier Alliance. Operational expenses such as rent, utilities, and communications (phone, copy machine, fliering, postage, etc). The Whittier Alliance operates on a very lean budget. See the budget insert for all income and expenses.

Whittier Alliance
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Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: 612-871-7756
Fax: 612-871-0650
Email: info@whittieralliance.org

Stay Informed: For timely updates on neighborhood meetings and events, sign up for the Whittier e-groups by going to www.whittieralliance.org



Finance Committee, Tom Bissen: On a monthly basis the Finance Committee meets to review the income and expenses of the Whittier Alliance with our accountant. All incoming funds and invoices are identified with an account number to track against the annual budget. Professional oversight of the Whittier financials is provided by Romer & Company. In 2010 an audit of the 2009 Whittier Alliance financial position, activities, functional expenses and statement of cash flow and an audit of the accounting practices and procedures was performed by an independent consultant of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The audit showed the Whittier Alliance was in compliance. A copy of the State Auditors Report is available in the Whittier Alliance office.

WHITTIER ALLIANCE
January – December 2010 Financials

BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2010

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSES

INCOME

NRP Phase II Funds	124,232
Other Donations	100
Citizen Participation	2,000
WA Fundraising	19,831
Miscellaneous Income	775
Interest Income	188

TOTAL INCOME **\$147,126**

EXPENSES

Personnel Expenses	\$92,670
Mileage	2
ADP	1,731

Professional Services	3,887
Bank Fees	23
Copier	2,869
Computer	1,570
Printing	4,101
Food/Beverages	78
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Donations	475
Insurance-Liability/Workers Comp	1,545
Operating Expense	12,310
Office Supplies/Furniture	1,631
Bulk Mail/Postage Meter Expenses	4,587
Recognition-Volunteers/Staff	350
Community Meetings	377
Housing Related Programs	93
Volunteer Training	240

Fundraising	3,428
Design Guidelines	1,170
Whittier Community Events	161

TOTAL EXPENSE **\$133,299**

NET ORDINARY INCOME **\$13,827**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$118,962
Accounts Receivable	44,924
Total Current Assets	\$163,886

Fixed Assets

Property & Equipment	\$3,437
Accumulated Depreciation	-3,437
Total Fixed Assets	0

TOTAL ASSETS **\$163,886**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Employee HSA	\$70
Deferred Revenue NRP	15,889
Deferred Revenue BA Tasty Excursion	653
Graffiti Removal	1,003
Façade Improvement Grant	387

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$18,002**

NET ASSETS/EQUITY

Net Assets \$132,057

TOTAL LIABILITY & NET ASSETS **\$150,059**

Special those who gave in-kind donations to the Whittier Alliance in 2010

1st Ave
3 River Regional Park
A Slice of New York
Adagio Holistic Therapies
am 1500 KSTP
American Swedish Institute
Ann Viviano
Anthony Carchedi
Aveda Institute
Azia
Bachmans
Barb Lickness
Barry Gerst, DDS
Becca Leather
Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream
Bethlehem PPL
Bibelot Shop
Bikram Yoga
Black Forest Inn
Black List Vintage
Blaisdell Manor
Bob's Java
Bolder Options
BP Petroleum
Brave New Workshop
Bryant Lake Bowl
Calvary Church
Caravelle – Pho 79 Restaurant
Charles Glasgow
Children's Theatre Company
Chit and Chat Productions
Christina & Binh Le
Christos
Cities Limousine
CLEAR Body & Home
Clinton X Corporation
Community Action Energy Services
Councilman Robert Lilligren
CVS/Pharmacy
Dakota Jazz Club
D'Amico
Denny Kemp Salon Spa
Dominique Bereiter
Dunn Bros Coffee - Lyndale
Ecopolitan
Erica Christ
Erin Sjoquist
Essence of Thyme
Eye Care Assoc
Falafel King
Fire on the Greenway Gallery & Ceramic Studio
First Christian Church
Flashback
Fogo de Chao
Franklin Nicollet Liquors
French Meadow
Fuji Ya
Galactic Pizza
Grand Casino - Mille Lacs & Hinkley
Guthrie Theater
Head to Toe Salon & Boutique
Hell's Kitchen
Hennepin History Museum
Hyatt
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Hyjek Chiropractic
Illusion Theatre
Ingebretsens Scandinavian Gifts & Food
It's Greek to Me
Izzy's Ice Cream Cafe
JB Hudson Jewelers
Joanne Neamy
Jungle Theater
Junior's Cheesecake
Kalahari Resort
Knit Nix by Becca
Knox Jewelers
Kurt Nelson & Erin Sjoquist
LA Fitness, Uptown
Lake Wine & Cheese
Landmark Theatres
Latino Roundtable
Laura Jean
Lyndale House Antiques
Ly's Donuts
MCAD
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Mill City Museum
Minneapolis Park and Recreation
Minnesota Timberwolves
Minnesota Vikings
Miss Bertha's Flowers
MN Orchestra
Mn Pro Paintball
MN Twins
moto-i
Needle Felted by Bonz
Nice Ride MN
Nook and Cranny Concierge Services
North Prairie Tileworks
Northern Clay
Old Arizona Studio, Inc.
Omega Event Services
Organic Village Market @ City of Lakes Waldorf
Pancho Villa
Park - Lake Car Wash
Peter and Jen Lawton
Quang Restaurant
Rainbow Chinese Restaurant
Rainbow Foods
River Lake Chiropractic
Riverview Theater
Rosa Werthwein
Scott Neamy
Sebastian Joe's
Shuang Hur
Sonny's Ice Cream/Crema Café
Spyhouse/The Bad Waitress
St. Paul Saints
Starbucks
Sunrise Cyclery
Tanek Architects
Target Center
The Alt
The Bulldog
The Egg & I
The Lost & Found
The Lyndale Tap House
The Museum of Russian Art
The Produce Exchange
The Splendid Table
Truong Thang Grocery
Vine Park Brewing
Walker Art Center
Westin Galleria
Wuollets Bakery
YMCA-Blaisdell

Save the Date! May Day Soirée—Thursday, May 5th



Join your friends and neighbors for the
11th Annual Benefit for the Whittier Alliance
May Day Soiree

featuring

Live entertainment

Fantastic auction and raffle!

Lots of fun, food and beverages

5:30-9:00pm

Blaisdell Manor 2322 Blaisdell Avenue
Information & reservations: 612-871-7756