



WA Business Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Wedge Table 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Attendees: Grant Rockwood (Real Estate/Health Insurance Agent), Paul Jablonski (Nicollet Car Wash), Angela Ritchie (Wedge Table), Denise McAlpin (NUWAY), Erica Christ (Black Forest), Jesse Oyervides, Martha Nemesi (Learning in Style), Andrew Nordick (Nordick Law Firm)

WA Staff: Dan Stanton, Kaley Brown, Marcus VanderSanden

Introductions/Call to Order

Call to order at 3:35pm by Andrew Nordick, Business Association Chair.

Agenda is reviewed.

Minutes from November BA Meeting are reviewed.

Introductions.

Host Highlights - Wedge Table

History

- Opened in 2015, used to be Vietnamese Grocery

Layout

- Back of building is 24 -hour bakehouse and large industrial kitchen
- Community Rooms to rent out for free twice a month - community groups, nonprofits

Events

- Free yoga - wednesday/saturdays
- Coffee panels, farm panels, free events
- Calendar that lists all events on wedge website

Overview

- Grocery
- Cafe
- Supporting local farmers, organic
- Wholesale baked goods

Current News & Events

Good Grocer is moving to Nicollet and 26th (next to Christos)

Simpson Church (28th & 1st Ave) will be demolished, starting in the Spring - offices first floor, shelter in the bottom

- Ordinance passed that homeless shelters do not need to be tied to a church
- It won't be a church with a shelter but a shelter that allows space for the congregation

Health Insurance open enrollment ends in a few days - free consultation with Grant Rockwood

Whittier Alliance Environmental Sustainability Committee working with LHENA on campaign - low salt diet

- Raising awareness about the amount of road salt that gets put on the ground in the winter → pollutes our waterways and lakes

- LHENA board member Joe received a grant to put out educational materials
- WA has been canvassing spaces to provide education

Whittier Alliance is also working on a neighborhood safety and street harassment campaign, hopefully culminating around June in a series of events

- Desire to have some kind of communication available for businesses to hand out to new employees
- Set of resources to help get new residents acclimated and help keep them safe
- Potential idea: window decal that helps people know that businesses are a safe space
- *Is this something that businesses would be interested in distributing?*
 - Wedge Table: it would be beneficial to hand out to employees
 - Suggestion: a positive message would be helpful rather than negative message initially to new residents
 - Whittier Alliance spoke with MIA, Children’s Theatre Company - they would consider distributing to their visitors
 - Would be beneficial to utilize social media heavily
 - Be wary of focusing too heavily on victims

Revisiting car break-ins at Wedge Table from last month

- There have not been any break-ins recently after that surge

Graffiti resurgence in neighborhood

- WA has graffiti removal tools in the office
 - Businesses are welcome to use them

Hennepin County Recycling Program - Mallory Anderson

Overview

- Outreach program around residential food waste
- This team makes sure businesses are comfortable with general recycling
- Also offer a *grant program* to help businesses implement organics
- Provide signage for business’ recycling, compost and trash
- Offer free site visits to businesses to inform owners and employees about the organics and recycling processes
 - Hennepin County can do 15-minute or one-hour presentation on how waste systems work to help offices/businesses improve organics and recycling process
 - *Can do multilingual site visits*

What Can and Cannot Be Composted/Recycled? Tips for Composting and Recycling

- If there isn’t an EPI Certification on the bottom of the product (for example: plastic-lined paper starbucks cups), it is trash
 - Plastic-lined papers are exempt in Minneapolis, which confuses businesses
 - Be thorough skeptic when approaching this
- Don’t crush cans - sorting machines are built for 3D items - the flat can could get into a different stream (cardboard)
- Keep lids on
 - “Golf Ball or smaller”
- Cartons are recyclable
- How clean do things have to be for recycling?
 - A rinse is all you need
 - If there is still a substantial amount of liquid, pb etc, it will become trash - needs to be empty

- Pizza boxes - compost
 - Clean parts can go in the recycling
 - Highly food contaminated paper can compost
- Aluminum foil must be larger than golf ball to be recycled
- Egg cartons can be composted
- Batteries → Hennepin County

Whittier Alliance Strategic Plan Focus Group

WA is in strategic planning process, currently setting up meetings

World Cafe style focus group - February 12th, 6-8pm at Whittier Park - open to the public

Also, publishing all the questions online once they are finalized

Please share on social media - [Facebook Event](#)

Old & New Business

Whittier Alliance is working on reissuing the Whittier Dining Guide

- Tweaked the layout for usability
- Working with Zoe from the small business team at the City to get updated business listings
- WA will send out a draft to businesses listserv to feedback

Meeting adjourns at 4:45pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Stanton