

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 25, 2018 6-8:30 PM**  
**Whittier Park**

**Present:** David Bagley, Christine Popowski, Christina Le, Andrew Nordick, Scott Melamed, Erin Sjoquist, Laura Jean, Martha Nemesi, Mary Gazca, Jen Kader, Chafoxey Mitchner, Geri Jerez, Araceli Perez

**Absent:** Carrie McCabe-Johnston, Michael Malone

**Late:**

**Staff:** Dan Stanton, Kaley Brown

**Guests:** N/A

*\*The Meeting began at 6:06pm informally. However, the meeting was not called to order, nor did any voting take place, because quorum had not been reached\**

**Meeting Agenda Edits**

- Mariano Espinoza, NCR Latino Outreach Specialist, will not be present; "Municipal ID" will be taken off the agenda
- We will not be covering December Financials
- Adding Recent Developments discussion to "Old and New Business"

\*Those present reviewed November Board Meeting Minutes while waiting for quorum

**Call to Order** at 6:13pm by David Bagley, Board Chair, once quorum was reached. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

**Motion** to approve agenda with changes. Seconded. **Motion Carries.**

**Comments from the Chair**

David Bagley

N/A

**Secretary's Report**

Erin Sjoquist

**Terminations:**

- Kenya Weathers - Kenya missed 3 meetings, did not respond to email/letter sent by WA Staff, and did not attend the following board meeting
- Jesse Oyervides - was reinstated at the October Meeting but then missed the following
  - He has submitted a Board application to run for 2018

**Vacancies:**

- 6

**Reinstatements:**

- 5

- Jen Kader
- Jesse Oyervides
- Michael Malone
- Christine Popowski
- Ger Jerez

November Board Meeting Minutes are reviewed:

**Motion** to approve minutes. Motion **seconded**. Motion **Approved**.

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**Next Board Meeting:**

February 22, 2018

**Executive Committee**

David Bagley

**Finance - Christina Le:**

**November Financials**

End of Nov. Cash Balance: \$515,420

In November, everything was caught up reimbursement-wise

Balance Sheet - Sunrise Checking went up to \$131,233 - very healthy

Trustone Financial is savings account

Nov. Profit/Loss by performance

Jan-Nov. Net Income: under budget by \$25,000

As a result of challenges early in the Fall and then subsequent organizational challenges, Stacy (accountant) had to spend a lot of work going over financials → lead to difficulty looking over December's

- She is working with Kaley to properly code certain budget lines
- This has also lead to an increase on account budget line

**Motion** to approve November 2017 Financials. **Seconded. Approved.**

**December Financials**

Because accounts were reimbursed, moved operating \$50,000 to Trustone account

End of Dec - \$503,980.52

- On Nov. Financials, there are two Sunrise accounts, but we don't have access to the second one yet. So, this figure is incorrect.

- \$658-worth of items still need to be reconciled from Nov. Financials.
- From years ago, to open a Trustone account, we needed to add \$5 -- Stacy has added this into financials

#### Profit & Loss by Class

Whittier Fundraising - Figure that is something like \$9000 -- this total is incorrect, because some of previous year's fundraising rolled into January's financials. So, this total will be less overall.

- Sunrise Bank is closing

***\*December Financials will be approved next month\****

#### **2018 Budget - Kaley Brown**

Broken down into three main categories:

- Income
- Expense
- Program and Events

#### **Highlight of Main Changes from Last Year:**

Income:

- 1st two lines (4010, 4100) - working on increasing grants
- 4015 (CPP) - \$143,000 received from Contract Amount + roll over from last year
- 4035B - 22203 (CPP and NRP)
- 4071N - Renamed "Event Fundraising"
  - 2017 had a lofty budget; these events never materialized
- 4078, 4079 (Youth Grant and Facade Grant) - These programs are done in 2018
  - Youth Grant is over, but this year we had 13 applicants and we are awarding 4
- \$346,000 - Income
  - Difference between this and 2017's budget is because of the inflated fundraising goals of 2017 and end of youth grant and facade improvement

Expense

- 1st couple pages: most are remaining the same (bills)
- Page 35
  - 8114, 8116, 8141 - Event Supplies, Mailing Services, Postage, Copying Lines
    - These are linked to the Program and Event Budget
- Page 36
  - Rent and Xcel
    - Budgeted significantly more in the case of rent increase (Apartment Shop)

Program and Events

- Colors correspond to Budget Key
- What we're going to do this year

- Programs
  - Highlight programs that are different from last year
    - Entrepreneur Course Scholarships
      - Approved in 2017 by the board but never implemented
  - Community Organics Composting Program
    - Allows renters to compost
    - LHENA has a partnership with the Wedge Co-op (9 bins)
      - Through the City; neighborhood association subsidizes (\$18 for first bin, \$9 per bin after that)
      - Partner with local businesses that will house the bins
      - They have been in talks with Angela Ritchie, Manager at Wedge Table
      - Many of the participants are in Whittier - no restriction for who can do it (as of November, already 350 people participating)
      - *Question: what bucket of money will that come out of?*
        - There are NRP buckets where it could come out of
  - Fundraiser
  - Eat Street Fundraiser
  - Volunteer Program
    - Develop formal volunteer program
      - Have the WA Farmers Market table always staffed
      - Costs are primarily devoted to t-shirts for volunteers
  - Strategic Planning
  - Street Harassment and Safety Campaign
    - Prior to his leave, Ricardo hired on two interns to help with design
    - Met with a variety of partners to gain feedback on how the campaign will include all neighborhood partners
      - Self-defense training
      - Mural
      - Bystander training
      - We have identified a grant that could cover a majority of the cost - Bush Foundation Grant - Community Innovation Grant
        - Prioritize Community-based organizations
        - As staff went through the applicability, our program checked off a lot of the boxes
      - Around 1st week of June for deadline
      - Want to pitch other partners for supplemental funds at the end of the month to offset the cost of the project
      - What is the partner grant?
  - Open Streets
    - Budgeting for presence at Lyndale Open Streets
  - Talking with Becky Lewis at the Park to play a movie at Washburn Fair Oaks Park
    - Could also get popcorn donated potentially
      - Discussion re: Renter Block Party

- Kaley had idea to modify Great Whittier Summer Get-Together, which happens right around the time of National Night Out
  - Turn energy of great whittier summer get-together into renter block party at the park
  - Same budget line at Ice Cream Social
  - ***Proposal to keep it inclusive to both renters and homeowners, rather than specifying that it is specific to renters only***
- *Note about BA*
    - Currently, it's felt that the BA has not been the most effective
    - Struggling to find full agenda monthly
    - *Kaley proposing to do BA Meetings quarterly - spend more time developing more effective agendas, etc*
      - *Need to figure out by Annual Meeting; this is the time to make a change to Committees*
      - *Time of meetings might be issue, too*
      - *This will not affect the budget*

**Last three things on the 2018 Budget are items proposed to be cut:**

#### *Calendar*

- Someone had offered to do the whole thing, minus the costs of printing
- Also, it allows us to reach every household in Whittier
- Going through Budget, Kaley struggled to find an application to Strategic Plan
  - We could spend this money to better reach out to the neighborhood
- The Calendar helps spread awareness about the Whittier Alliance
  - If we do not continue, we have to find an alternative outreach piece
- Can we offer businesses ad space - businesses purchase a month - pay for the costs
  - Neighborhood picture w/ business logo
  - \$1000 per page would cover the cost
  - Don't need to budget for it if we can cover the costs this way
- Final outcome:
  - We will not fund this program
  - However, we still want to implement it if we can get volunteered design and business buy-in

#### *Somali Job Program*

- Discussion
  - Something that Camilla was working on, but how can we support this?
  - Strengthen partnership with Tasho Community - work collaboratively with them
  - Not something that we have to allocate budget items towards
  - Calvary also does tutoring; we can promote this aspect - Wednesday nights, they provide dinner for volunteers and the children
  - *Final decision:*

- *We will not continue this program*

*Put Tasho's volunteer needs in the Newsletter for this month*

#### *School Supplies Giveaway*

- We will not be doing that this year
- The church always does this

**Motion** to approve 2018 Annual Budget for Whittier Alliance. **Seconded. Approved** unanimously.

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#### **Board Elections and Annual Meeting**

- *Annual Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 28th at Whittier International School - 5:30-8pm*
- 5 seats up for election
- Deadline to submit an application is Friday, February 16th at 5pm
  - Applications can be found on the [Whittier Alliance website](#)

#### **Candidate Meet and Greet was last Wednesday at Wesley Andrews**

- Five people attended. Four of these attendees are prospective board applicants.

Laura Jean and Erin Sjoquist are up for reelection

All BA Chairs are 1 year terms

- Votes are taken at the BA Meeting

*Note: coordinate office hours for those that can't get to the office during work hours to submit application*

#### **Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions**

#### **Community Issues**

Scott Melamed

#### January CI Meeting

- Starbucks donated cookies, coffee and tea; WA provided cocoa
- Becky Lewis from the Park talked about winter events
  - Offering many, many programs
- 5th Precinct Inspector and Crime Specialist
  - Crime is up
- David spoke about board elections
- Solar Coop Speaker - Virginia Rutter
  - Information Session at LHENA's office (2909 Hennepin Ave, 2nd Floor)
  - [Facebook Event](#)

*Next CI Meeting - World Cafe-style Focus Group - Whittier Park, 6-8pm*

- Questions being asked are ones that anyone can answer; if you live here, if you spend time here, you can answer these questions
  - *Reiterate this in promotion*
  - [Facebook Event](#)

## Business Association

Andrew Nordick

Met at Wedge Table

- They offer many programs
- Meeting itself was sparse content-wise
- Hennepin County Recycling Program was there
  - Overviewed basics
  - Can provide site visits to local businesses
- Low Salt Diet
- Good Grocer is moving to 26th and Nicollet Ave, building on the lot next to Christos
  - Owner, Kurt, has been fairly withholding about information
  - One-story building
  - *WA reach out to Kurt Vickman with WA Design Guidelines*
    - *Also, reach out to City and Ward 10*
  - *Good Grocer is thinking potentially to include apartments on the second floor*
- Simpson Church (28th St) is being torn down
  - Footprint will stay the same
  - MPLS ordinance changed: shelter can now be standalone
    - However, the shelter will accommodate the church congregation weekly
  - *Ask Steve Simpson if building materials will be salvaged*
- More Graffiti in the neighborhood

## Environment

Christine Popowski

No meeting this month

Did Volunteer Appreciation Party

Next Meeting: Solar Co-op Information Session - Wednesday, January 31st

- Question for Virginia Rutter: Can businesses participate in solar co-op?

## Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown, Community Engagement Manager:

### Overview of past two months

- Accounting and Finance - big chunk of time with budget and making sure everything is paid for
- Fundraising and Grants - processing reimbursements this month
- 2018 Review Panel for Youth Grants - award letters and denial letters are out

- 2017 Facade Grants - wrapping up
- Street Harassment and Safety Campaign
- Strategic Plan Updates
  - Focus Group Dates have been sent out via email to board but also included in the packet
  - First of 7 was conducted yesterday - Business Focus Group
    - Well attended
  - Saturday February 10th at Springhouse Ministries (Renters Focus Group)
  - Board members can reach out to people that they know in order to help with populating the meetings
  - *Staff will reshare the links to the strategic plan focus group folders*
    - In each packet is a flier with invitation language
    - There is also an outreach sheet; board members should update with invitations
  - *Make sure to have child care at Latino and East African Focus Groups*
    - *Working on also having translators set up*
  - *Translate questions*

## Old & New Business:

### Developments

- Good Grocer
- 19 E 26th
  - Tax-forfeited property
  - On the list to be discussed at city level - Feb. 14th
  - Proposals to purchase by City organizations have to be submitted by feb. 12th
  - Have to wait till August 31st so that the owners have time to redeem the property
  - City will use that value to give it up for auction
  - We don't know price yet
  - As of now, the property is office space on the first level and residential on the 2nd
  - *Do we want to notify the city that we may be interested?*
    - *We should express interest formally, then evaluate the numbers*
    - *We can also find out if we are a City organization*
  - *If we were to buy a building, we can't use any of the NRP or CPP funds to maintain it*
- 510 East Lake St (Lupe Development)
  - Morgan Luzier from LynLake Bus District reached out
  - The Developers contacted her; they are already going forward at the planning commission
  - Morgan wants to ask Lupe if they will *send us their designs*
    - *Ask them to come to February BA Meeting, open it to the public*
- REX26
  - Zoning and Planning Meeting on Monday
  - Proposed changes
  - Danny at Common Roots has been working with LHENA
    - Will be looking to create conversation/discussion around what buildings they want to see on Lyndale



- Denied FAR Variance 4:2
  - Developers have a week to appeal
- Ronna Village (29th and Pleasant) - Sabri Property
  - Eliminate basement parking garage
  - Revise 2nd floor from senior apts
  - Revise to allow 3 and 4-bedroom apartments
  - 121 → 113 units
  - Add floor

**Adjourn**

**8:31 PM**

**Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.**

Meeting Minutes Approved on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Bagley, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary

