

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
December 15th , 2016 6-8:30 PM
Ted Irgen's Home

Present: David Bagley, Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, Mary Gazca, Ted Irgens, Marie E. Listopad, Jesse Oyervides, Araceli Perez, Christine Popowski, Erin Sjoquist, Daphna Stomberg

Absent: Fadumo Abdinur Anab, Osman Abo, Sarah Estey, Laura Jean, Christina Le, Michael Malone, Kenya Weathers

Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Joey Whitesman

Call to Order at 6:45PM by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the December agenda **Carried**.

Comments from the Chair

Erica Christ

- One year anniversary of Ricardo as Executive director. There will be a formal review in January

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Review of October 27th, 2016 and November 17th, 2016 Board Meeting **Minutes**. **Motion** to approve October and November minutes is **Approved**.

Board Meeting Attendance

There is Discussion of the formalities and rules around attendance. Ted has missed 4 meetings so the board must vote to reinstate him. He can not miss another meeting. Osman, who has missed 5 meetings, can be appointed to the board but not reinstated.

Motion is made to reinstate Ted, Unanimous **approval**.

Next month's board meeting: **January 26th**

Executive Committee

Erica Christ

CPP Application Review

Ricardo is asking for approval of the Community Participation Program (CPP) Application. CPP is the money from the city. We are in the second cycle of CPP. There will be one more in 2020 but for only one year. We can not make draws on next year's money but it will not affect our draw requests because the first request will be after March.

There is discussion of the application. Several typos are identified so Ricardo will edit formatting errors. The only new part of the application is section 5 "Work with city departments and other jurisdictions." There is a comment that the application does not outline what NCR will do to support WA. WA could use translation services but NCR has been slow in getting these done. Geri offers services. Araceli additionally can help with non-legal translation.

The estimated budget is assessed:

- The budget is based off former years but there are changes from healthcare benefits to retirement for staff. The utilities budget decreased slightly, communications and outreach budget is increased. Professional services is also lower. CPP is half of WA's total funding,

most is in staff expenses. CPP is still \$40,000 short from covering all staff expenses. The city doesn't like all CPP funds going to staff.

- Ricardo explains neighborhood priorities are mandated by the city but the city doesn't help fund these priorities (or a very little amount is given). The whole funding system might be restructured around these neighborhood priorities in 2021. They are saying things could be done by a different organization if not the neighborhood. Discussion on Whittier's funding and ranking citywide for funds follows. Funding amount is based on size, density, population, area, and poverty-Whittier hits all these marks. The Total allotment was \$392,000 for the last three years. Whittier population: at height of neighborhood was 16,000 in 2000 and is under 14,000 today.

Ricardo looking for motion to approve. **Motion** to approve CPP Application is **approved** pending stylistic editing.

Finance Committee

Andy Cohen

November, 2016 Financial Statements: The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed.

Discussion of November Financial Statements:

We have not received reimbursements for several things. We are owed almost \$150K from the city. Dan, the bookkeeper has been busy but things are now getting straightened out. The Youth micro grant and NRP 22203 reimbursements have been submitted so \$74,000 of what we owe is accounted for there. We additionally have other motions to review to remedy what we owe tonight. Cash balance is down as result. Receivables are higher, everything else almost identical to last month. For November's PNL-We under-planned by a \$1,000 also due to reimbursement timing. Expense-wise we are \$7,000 under. We are \$11,000 under in budget partially due to decrease in fundraising.

Fundraising discussion: How do we fundraise question? Usually through Annual Soiree but because of transition to new ED and the event space no longer being available we tabled the event. Several fundraising events are planned for next year. Also end of the year letters after this meeting. Additionally, this year Zeus Jones offered proceeds from its Eat Street Cookbook to the WA. First run all proceeds go to us. Second run & third run will cover cost with profits going to us.

Motion: The Board accepts the Whittier Alliance November, 2016 financial report. **Motion approved.**

2017 Budget Overview - Ricardo & Andy

Ricardo proposes the revised 2017 budget and answers questions.

Ricardo: I took our expenses, which are fairly concrete, and income (from reimbursements) to make this budget. To cover the difference, I adjusted NRP2 dollars. CPP dollars are within \$1,000 of current year for the proposed 2017 budget summary.

Discussion of the revised 2017 budget follow with the following key points and questions:

- How likely is it we will raise \$60,000 in fundraising (this year \$15,000 was the goal) This is contingent on grants for projects.
- This year we have written 5 grants but didn't get any. Ricardo considers 1 in 10 a success. If we don't get money we'll shift funding from NRP- **just for the oral history project**. We are considering the same legacy grant for future phases of the oral history project.
- Oral History Project will end with exhibit an Hennepin history project and web-based deliverable.
- The scope of future phases of the Oral History Project- i.e. documentary/book- is uncertain if funding doesn't come in.
- We plan to get businesses to contribute to the Eat Street anniversary (\$4,000). Food donation considered in-kind not real cash.
- Other fundraising goals- bike cops and neighborhood fundraising. Lyndale spent \$8,000 for bike cops this year. We have \$35,000 left in NRP for program but we want to fundraise to continue it after 3 years.
- There is \$15,000 in the budget for working to answer the neighborhood question of how we will fund ourselves after 2020. Hiring a state level "lobbyist" or receiving training to be our own lobbyist are possibilities. This would require teaming up with multiple neighborhoods.
- Overall doesn't change much from previous years.
- Whittier farmers market and Big Ideas Grant- The consensus seems we want to help but in an uncommitted dollar amount capacity at this point. Emily, who organizes the market would speak at a meeting. Money they were asking about was in part to pay for sound permits. Big Ideas Grant: \$4,000 for several grants. Board wants to get ideas from what other neighborhoods are doing. There is a recommendation of lumping them into a new line item and dole out funds in January and February. Keep dollar amount the same for both- combined \$9,000
- **January Agenda:** get more info. On farmers market and big ideas
- Contract money for event coordinator not in previous budget. Ricardo- funding will come from business contributions for eat street 20th anniversary/ Whittier's 40th. Non-staff to be hired specifically for event.

There is a brief explanation of passthroughs from past budgets and how we are treating them as both income and expense now which inflates the 2017 budget but it is actually similar to previous budgets because of the accounting style changes with passthroughs.

Motion to approve budget with changes of combining farmers market and big ideas into one line-item. **Motion** to approve 2017 budget **approved**.

City Reallocations

We are shuffling from underspent to overspent line items because the city wants things reconciled.

Two motions:

1. Move funds from employee benefits to professional services
Motion approved unanimously
2. Move funds from graffiti to reopening Nicollet
Motion approved unanimously

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Mike Malone

Gentrification and Affordable Housing Discussion

- Rex 26 update- Lisa Bender was unaware of the developer's plans being approved. Bribes apparently offered by the developer to neighbors. The development passed the planning commission 8 to 1. Jim Dowds has a contract to move all four houses on the property. Ricardo should follow up to see if the houses can be moved to Whittier lots. There is brief discussion of where these houses should be moved to in the neighborhood (vacant lots). Mary suggests Jordan neighborhood needing houses as well.

Ricardo briefly discusses Monday's CI meeting on affordability and gentrification. The format of this CI meeting was group work. Positive feedback from everyone but also concern there was a missed opportunity to use the meeting to facilitate affordable housing complaint survey questions (ran out of time).

Business Association

Andy Cohen

Volunteer Appreciation & B.A. Mixer replaced regular meeting.

Crime and Safety - No updates, haven't met

ESTF - Presented at volunteer appreciation event. In mid-January they will have additional meeting on a Saturday to welcome new people. Ricardo would recommend making ESTF a committee since there is lots of energy in the group. Comment that a task force has a beginning, middle, and end and so with the ongoing work of this group, transitioning to a committee makes sense.

Staff Reports:

Reports from Paul and Ricardo are in the board packet.

Camilla is meeting Saturday to work with Somali community members for affordable housing survey questions.

Old & New Business:

Fall Fundraiser

- Fundraising letters will be signed after the meeting adjourns.

Adjourn

8:09PM

Minutes submitted by Joey Whitesman.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

Erica Christ, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary