

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
January 23rd, 2020 6-8:30 PM
Wedge Table Classroom (2412 Nicollet Ave)**

Present: Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Michael Perez, Justin Kader, Katie Heimer, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Aldona Martinka

Absent: Jen Kader, Christine Popowski, Ukasha Dakane

Late: Stephanie Brown, Erin Sjoquist

Staff: Kaley Brown

Guests: David Rubedor, Casey Carl

Call to Order at 6:04 pm by Cyndi Hovey, Vice Chair

Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

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

Board Community Agreements are reviewed.

Secretary's Report

Abbie Speller

Attendance: 3-0, 3-1, 6-2, 2-3, 1-4, 0-5,, Reinstated-2, Resigned- 5, Terminated-1, Vacancies-4 Board Seats: 23

Motion to reinstate Aldona Martinka to the board. Motion **seconded.** Motion **carries.**

Motion to approve the minutes. Motion **seconded.** Motion **carries.**

Next Board Meeting: February 27th, 2020 6:00-8:30 at the Wedge Table Community Room

Finance Committee: Michael Perez

Reviewed November and December 2019 financials (November's weren't ready by the early December meeting). We raised \$2,453 during our fall fundraising campaign. Our last sponsorship check also came after the end of the year.

Motion to accept November financials. **Seconded.** Motion passes.

Motion to accept December financials. **Seconded.** Motion passes.

Guest Speaker: David Rubedor, Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, City of Mpls

The 2020 census is very important because there is a deliberate effort to make sure that certain communities are not well counted. It is important that the count is accurate because Minnesota is at risk of losing a House of Representatives seat. Also the counts directly affect federal funding - about \$2,800 per person/year at risk of being lost. The City predicts if there wasn't any outreach, we would be at risk of being undercounted by about 96,000. Children under 5 are at the greatest risk of being undercounted.

The federal government is not funding the census like they were before (unlike in 2010). The Census Bureau reduced the number of Minnesota bureaus from 8 to 3, making it harder for enumerators to reach people. There is also a lot of negative press about data privacy and the census will be online for the first time this year.

Neighborhood organizations can help spread the word and mobilize people around the census. It would be helpful if we can have flyers and information at our events over the next few months. Trusted Places, Trusted Faces centers will be placed throughout the city as well that will help people fill out the census and there will be interpreters there.

The Minneapolis Foundation also has a \$750 grant for Complete Count Committees.

Guest Speaker: Casey Carl, Clerk of the City of Minneapolis

This year we are doing a presidential primary nomination, not a caucus; there will still be party caucuses on February 25th for state and local level elections.

If you vote early, you need to choose which party you want to belong to. You can only vote for that party. You have to sign a loyalty oath to the party and then you get your ballot. Each party will get a list of who registered for which party.

March 3rd is Super Tuesday. We should also consider registering people to vote at our events.

Board Member Training and Support:

We are still recruiting for the Finance and Executive Committee. Board members are welcome to join February and March meetings to see if they are interested.

2020 Budget and Project Review:

This budget has the 2019 actuals in it. Pieces in yellow need discussion.

NRP funding income is always over budgeted because we get reimbursed for what we spend. If we don't make that amount, it's because we didn't spend it. We also consolidated NRP funds that were previously separated across 3 contracts and budget lines.

Farmers market is going to be the same setup as in previous years after much discussion. Our contribution will be lower this year.

Kaley signed a contract with a grant writing consultant yesterday. They have in depth knowledge of the grant landscape and they are going to help us plan and write grants. It will be \$15,000 for the year and they will work together to make sure they stay in budget. We might not have to spend this amount every year if we can develop a strategic grants plan that we can use as a guide and build up enough grant examples to pull from.

Motion to increase Kaley's salary to 64,500. **Seconded.** Motion Carries.

Kaley's salary increase incurs about \$1,076.25 in other employment taxes and simple IRA match. We do not want to take this out of the farmers market budget so we will draw this from NRP.

Motion to approve the budget as amended. **Seconded.** Motion Carries.

Update on Bylaws

All proposed changes are reviewed one by one; board members ask questions, discuss, and indicate level of support by a fist-to-five process for each one to identify sections requiring further discussion.

There were mixed feelings about lowering the membership age and the board eligibility age from 18 years old. We are still waiting to hear back from the lawyer if there are any legal ramifications.

Article III Section 3- We need to add the option to register with a photo ID if that is the member's preferred verification method.

Article III Section 4 - We should consider adding a procedure to audit the membership list. Exec. will circle back on this.

Article IV Section 2 Subsection B- Stephanie thinks it could be a deterrent for people to run for a committee chair position.

Committees are an entry-level board seat, but this could be more daunting. If a chair resigns or leaves, the committee should be able to elect them. If you want to chair a committee you should have attended one of the committee meetings before.

Reports from Acting Committees

Community Issues: Next meeting is Monday, February 10th. They will be going over the major bylaw changes to get community feedback and hearing a presentation about safety improvements to the existing Whittier/Lyndale bikeway on Blaisdell & 1st Aves.

Housing Issues: Simpson Housing will be rebuilding their facilities to provide more effective services to those experiencing homelessness and providing 24/7 service, supportive housing units above. They are presenting for the 2nd time on February 18th. Lupe Development also presented, and the changes they made were insignificant other than to switch the 2nd affordable project to Phase 3 and the market rate project to Phase 2. The committee ultimately approved both projects after much discussion because two of the three buildings are affordable. Stephanie will outline our concerns about the market rate building in the letter to the planning commission. The letter will be sent to the board by Monday to vote on.

Staff Reports:Kaley Brown

See board packet

Other Announcements

Saturday September 12th is the 3rd annual Eat Street Festival. A reminder that the Annual Meeting is Thursday, April 9th. Next meeting is February 27th at the Wedge Table Classroom space again.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.
Adjourn 8:50 PM
Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.