

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes  
December 5th, 2019 6-8:30 PM  
Learning in Style School**

**Present:** Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Jen Kader, Christine Popowski, Michael Perez, Erin Sjoquist, Justin Kader, Katie Heimer, Mariana Arriaza, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadridge

**Absent:** Aldona Martinka, Stephanie Brown

**Late:** Ukasha Dakane

**Staff:** Kaley Brown

**Guests:** Jono Cowgill

**Call to Order** at 6:15 pm by Jen Kader, 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, 5-1, 4-2, 2-3, 1-4, 0-5,, Reinstated-2, Resigned- 4, Terminated-0, Vacancies-4 Board Seats: 23

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

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**Next Board Meeting:** January 23rd, 2020 6:00-8:30 at the Wedge Table Community Room

**Finance Committee**

**Michael Perez**

Kaley had one clarifying question for Stacey on the Facade Grant program service revenue to be sure it wasn't being double-counted, but otherwise the financials looked correct.

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

**Guest Speaker: Jono Cowgill, Minneapolis Parks and Rec. Commissioner for Whittier**

Mayor increased budget for next year but not enough for a lot of additional programming. Park Board is looking to invest more in youth programming and offsetting the effects of climate change. There are also initiatives to increase jobs for younger people, more youth programming, forestry support. They are not going to increase the amount or funding for park police, because they believe better programming and more staff will help keep parks safer.

Finally plans for the Southwest Parks plan will come out in January. Residents should give feedback during the 45 day comment period and the 3 public hearings. There is also the Parkland Dedication Fees due to development. None of it has been spent yet. Currently there is about \$1 million allocated to build assets in Whittier parks. The Park Board has allocated \$450,000 for Whittier Park to use for capital improvements in 2020. Once the Master Plan is passed, some of this money could be used to fulfill those suggestions.

**Board Member Training and Support:**

Start thinking about recruitment for 2020 board members!

## **2020 Budget and Project Review:**

The more grants we get the lower the NRP funds will be, because grants offset the need to use those funds.

2019 Actuals will be available in January.

Grants to other nonprofits (#7020) is much lower than previous years. There aren't any youth grants slated for next year. Our contribution to Calvary for 2020 is reduced from \$6000 to \$4000 in this draft.

There is an opportunity to purchase health insurance benefits for staff through the MN Council of Nonprofits. They are currently enrolling for the January 2020 start, but we just received a quote this week. Exec. will discuss options more in depth in January.

\$5000 consulting fee isn't designated for anything in particular, therefore it should be reduced.

Advertising expenses budget went up because of the possibility of adding advertisements to KALY (East African Programming). We could match the \$2000 we give to KRSM to KALY to increase outreach to the East African Community.

BTAP (Business Technology Assistance Program) is a grant administered by the city, similar to the Facade Improvement Grant Program. There isn't a budget for this but this is something we could easily participate in because we would only administer the grant.

Office buildout is budgeted under Rent. We have consistently been under budget each year so this wouldn't skew things that much.

We could become a Complete Count Committee and receive a grant of \$750 to help get the word out about the census. This could be used for fliers or programming related to the census.

There should be more money allocated to Board training so that board members can possibly seek out training that would be beneficial to the board.

## **Update on Bylaws**

There have been 3 bylaws review meetings so far. The 4th is on December 15th at 2pm at the Wedge Table. There will be a full chart of proposed changes in the board packet in January. We need to clarify which changes need to be voted on by the community and what procedure is best to do that with in advance of the Annual Meeting.

## **Other Previously Discussed Projects**

The farmers market is potentially moving to Whittier Park, but the details are still being finalized.

Volunteer Appreciation Day is next Monday December 9th.

There is a 4D affordable housing workshop on December 12th.

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**Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.**

**Adjourn 8:33 PM**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.**

