

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2019 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Park

Present: Erin Sjoquist, David Bagley, Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Stephanie Brown, Kim Fishman, Mariana Arriaza, Jesse Oyervides, Aldona Martinka, Jen Kader, Justin Kader, Christine Popowski, Ukasha Dakane
Absent: Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Michael Perez, Sam Kjellberg, Kim Fishman

Late:

Staff: Kaley Brown

Guests:

Call to Order at 6:06pm by Jen Kader, Chair.

Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

Motion to add the following items to the agenda

- Sustainability Committee
- Recording meetings

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

Board Community Agreements.

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Attendance: 13-0, 4-1, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned-0, Terminated-0, Vacancies-6 Board Seats: 23

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

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 27, 2019

Finance Committee

Jen Kader / Kaley Brown

Reviewed April Financials. Nothing was out of the ordinary. CPP funds will be reimbursed in the next week. Q1 Reimbursement Request was included in the board packet for your review.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Community Iftar to be held on May 31st at Whittier Rec Center at 7:30 PM. Whittier Alliance is providing food from Holy Land. The park is paying for the supplies.

Business Association

Kim Fishman / Kaley Brown

Kim Fishman has appointed Katie Heimer and Sam Kjellberg to the empty BA seats. Katie Heimer will be helping to organize a Business Association Happy Hour in July.

Housing Issues Committee

Stephanie Brown

Housing Issues Committee has already approved all 3 developments.

Development Review & Vote - 318 W Lake St: New building for G & L furniture. Will become strictly commercial. Potential for another tenant to share the space.

Motion to endorse Housing Issues Committee vote of approval and accompanying position letter. **Seconded. Motion carries unanimously.**

Development Review & Vote - 28th & Garfield:

Yellow Tree is submitting the formal application this week. Management company is allowing tenants to live in a similar building in the neighborhood with comparable rents for the remainder of their leases.

Motion to endorse Housing Issues Committee vote of approval and accompanying position letter. **Seconded. Vote:** 13 in favor. 1 opposed. 1 abstention. **Motion carries.**

Development Review & Vote + Potential Office Relocation - 26th & Blaisdell.

After long negotiations with the developers the Housing Issues committee has agreed upon the following:

- Volunteering rental rebate credit for tenants electing to participate. Whittier Alliance would work with participating organizations and verify volunteer hours with them each month.
- A jointly used bike lounge and community space on the first floor that would be accessible through the WA's office and that we can reserve for events and programming.
- An office space for the Whittier Alliance at below market rent in exchange for managing the community space programming and volunteer rebate program.

Housing issues committee has written a draft letter of support. The board did not approve the letter of support at this time. Many board members would like to add some of the issues we see to the letter (number of stories and lack of affordability). Yellow Tree has not yet submitted their formal application to the City. Further discussion is warranted about the idea of the Whittier Alliance moving into a new development and the fact that this would be one of the largest developments in the neighborhood to date.

No vote held; further discussion needed.

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown

Fartun has chosen to take 12 weeks at ½ pay. Kaley received a quote from a short term disability insurance provider. The board supported purchasing such a policy.

The board supports a \$1/hour wage increase for Marcus VanderSanden in addition to a \$1000 bonus for all of the hard work he has been/will continue to do.

Whittier Alliance to institute summer office hours. Staff will work their 40 hours before noon on Friday.

Neighborhoods 2020 will move forward despite request by many neighborhood organizations to delay it until an independent consultant could come and review the framework.

2019-2020 Project Reports:

Volunteers continue to help sort through basement. Interested volunteers can contact Abbie Speller.

Board members are welcome to doorknock with Ukasha for next Friday's Iftar.

Treehouse Mural Update: Melody wasn't the artist who fixed the mural. She thinks she could get some artist volunteers to help her fix the mural.

CURA: Map the neighborhood project will begin in June; meeting is scheduled with CURA staff to begin planning.

Neighborhood design guidelines: Stephanie and Nate Broadbridge met with a consultant. The cost was \$4000 and we are still deciding if this is something we want to do.

Old and New Business

Kaley spoke with the attorney provided by NCR. It would cost \$350 for her to create a background check template. The attorney would conduct the background check and provide a thumbs up or down. Soft credit score, tax liens, bankruptcy, loans, and criminal history are factors that will be taken into consideration. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. There are concerns about this being an exclusionary practice that could deter people from running from the board.

Taping of meetings and committee meetings was discussed. This would be helpful for board members who cannot be present or members of the community who want to be aware of what's discussed in meetings. It currently isn't allowed per our standard of conduct policy. We discussed setting parameters so all are aware that meetings are being recorded. No official decision was made. Further discussion warranted.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.

Adjourn 8:28 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.