



**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes - For approval at 7.23.20 meeting
July 23th, 2020 6-8:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Brigid Higgins, Cyndi Hovey, Stephanie Brown, Katie Heimer, Nate Rastetter, Shinja Senguptan, Daniel Perez, Nate Broadbridge, Aldona Martinka

Late: Erin Sjoquist

Absent: Sam Pree-Stinson, Justin Kader, Abbie Speller, Jen Kader

Guests: John Champe

Staff: Kaley Brown, Julie Strand

Call to Order at 6:05 pm by Cyndi Hovey

The group was centered by reviewing the Anti-Racism and Discrimination policy, The Standard of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies, and the Board Community Agreements.

Cyndi called for suggested edits. Seeing none **Motion** to approve agenda. **Seconded.** Motion **Carries.**

The board went through a round of introductions, checked in on commitments, and expressed current project interests. Board member project interests included accessibility, support of non-english speaking communities, budget and spending, operations policies, by-laws review, racial justice practices, and establishing shared values around equitable events.

Secretary's Report

Aldona Martinka

Board meeting attendance: 11-0, 1-1, 1-2, 0-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned-2, Terminated-0, Vacancies-10, Total Seats (13 active + 10 vacancies) -23

8 seats are vacant. In review of the attendance policy, once a board member has missed 3 out of 12 meetings they are terminated from the board, but can request to be reinstated. It was suggested that an option be created for members of the board to do other work in exchange for attending meetings.

It was announced that Christine Popowski resigned from the board since the last meeting. A future discussion was proposed on how and when to fill vacancies.

Seeing no questions or changes for the June meeting minutes. **Motion** to approve June meeting minutes. **Seconded.** Motion **Carries.**

Next Board Meeting: August 27, 2020 6:00-8:30 pm on Zoom

Treasurer's Report: Nate Broadbridge



There was an increase in donations in June. Donations are being directed to emergency and relief spending. Neighborhood families are being supported currently through an application process. We are on track to keep that going. We are drawing down the PPP loan.

The contract grant writer has done a lot of research on applications over the last 6 months in addition to writing and applying for grants. The board discussed whether or not to increase the budget for this partnership given the funding landscape, types of work on the horizon for WA.

Motion to approve ending the grant project above the budgeted amount. Motion **seconded**. Motion **carries**.

We are reviewing the fiscal policy with an eye for streamlining processes. A summary statement will be shared at the next meeting. The board tracker is being added to by Brigid. Members interested in fiscal policy review were added.

Neighborhoods 2020 Update-The comment deadline has been pushed back to September 30th. WA will be pushing for more money with other neighborhood orgs. WA will compose a position letter drafted for board approval in August.

Review & Accept June 2020 financials

The June financials were not approved. They will be approved with July at the next meeting.

Anti-Racism & Equity Work and By-Laws Review: Cyndi Hovey

WA is seeking facilitators to review bylaws with a lens on accessibility, anti-racism, and equity. Aldona and Brigid volunteered to continue research.

WA's Anti-Racism commitments were recently added to the website:

<http://www.whittieralliance.org/anti-racism-work.html>

WA is seeking facilitators for community, board, and nonprofit equity workshops. Aldona and Daniel volunteered.

Changes will be sent to the board with a 2-week notice. Approval on large changes will be facilitated at upcoming meetings. The goal is to have the changes incorporated before the next annual meeting.

Special Meeting and Acting Committee Chairs: Cyndi Hovey

There is a discussion ongoing about the Annual Meeting being merged virtually with an Eat Street Festival replacement. That was tabled until more concrete information is available.

The special meeting date is still TBD, but will happen in October or November. The board discussed the possibility of keeping the current committee chairs in place until the next annual meeting (not the special meeting) to give the committees a steady course until the next annual meeting. The chairs electing to extend their seats until the next annual meeting will be proposed at the special meeting in the fall.



Note from Bylaws: Section 5. Terms of Office. All board terms are staggered. Fifteen (15) at-large directors shall be elected to serve three (3) year staggered terms. The five (5) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes at each annual meeting shall serve as directors. A. Five (5) directors shall be elected for three (3) year terms at each annual meeting. B. The Chair of each recognized Board Acting committee, who has been elected in accordance with Article VIII, Section 3, Subsection B, shall remain on the Board only as long as they maintain the committee chair. C. Those elected as Business Association Representatives are elected for a one (1) year term at the first Business Association meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Reports from Acting Committees -

- **Community Issues: Daniel** - Census videos are up on different languages. Print outs are also available. Flyers and postcards are being used to do continued outreach with businesses.
- **Housing Issues: Stephanie** - Focused on working teams model to push different things along. 4 teams/active groups-Unhoused, Anti-displacement, Developer Engagement, K-mart parcel envisioning. Simpson housing, Stevens and 28th, is looking to tear down the church and build affordable housing. WA supported their first steps in the context of the comprehensive plan amendment. A statement of support is now needed for funding applications.

Motion to approve that WA writes a new letter of support for Simpson Housing's new development at 1st Ave

and 28th St. Motion **seconded**. Motion **carries with no oppositions or absentions**.

- **Business Association: Katie** - reviewed our anti-racism work. Updated us that Spend Big on Small is paused, but will be revamping this week and being shared on social media.

Emergency Response Work: Kaley

- Relief fund distribution is going well. Board members were encouraged to [donate](#) to continue this work. We have supported 31 families in the neighborhood so far. Business specific efforts are underway with the Lyn-Lake coalition.
- WA has an Americorps-Vista opportunity, a 1 year internship with a \$5,000 cost plus a housing stipend. All in it usually comes to a cost of \$10,000. If approved the Americorps-Vista member would start work for WA in Jan for 1 year. The application is due August 3. The board and staff are developing ideas for what the member would be able to do for WA. Aldonna added her positive experience with Americorps-Vista. Nate agreed that the program could benefit WA and encouraged that the costs be tracked in the budget as a separate line item.

Business Relationships & Values: Aldona

- WA Values and Accountability
- Worker/Employee Support

WA discussed ways to engage and support workers and business owners that match the organization's values of racial justice and equity. The board discussed the power of public statements and strategic



communication that highlight businesses we do align with. The power of partnership with businesses WA aligns with to effect change was also discussed.

The idea of creating a policy and procedure for these strategic partnerships was proposed including creating a definition of anti-racist business and creating an partnership agreement for future business partnerships.

Additionally, it was proposed that the bylaws be adjusted to broaden the definition of community member to include people who work in the neighborhood.

Board Tracker & Volunteer Sign-Ups: Brigid

Brigid reviewed the board tracker overall and reviewed upcoming projects. It was noted that Nate, Steph, Brigid, Aldonna, and Daniel volunteered to help with policy and procedures, are were added to the tracker.

Announcements, next steps

- Decisions still need to be made for the MRAC grant to fund the Eat Street Festival.
- Kaley will share a doc for board review and project sign-ups for 2020-2021 term.
- Shinjan will join the Executive Committee meeting in August to discuss a communications channel for WA.
- A discussion of the book *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by [Resmaa Menakem](#) was offered up as a board community building activity and/or professional development.
- The creation of an anti-racist resource list was suggested as a first step to building out a part of the website with anti-racism resources and statements.
- WA board members also need to fill out their board experience survey.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.

Adjourn 8:31 PM | Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Strand.