

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
September 26th, 2019 6-8:30 PM
Wedge Table (2412 Nicollet Ave)

Present: Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Jen Kader, Christine Popowski, Michael Perez, Erin Sjoquist, David Bagley, Aldona Martinka, Justin Kader, Katie Heimer

Absent: Stephanie Brown, Mariana Arriaza, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge

Late: Ukasha Dakane

Staff: Kaley Brown

Guests: Dean Caldwell-Tautges

Call to Order at 6:10 pm by Jen Kader, Chair.

Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

Board Reinstatement for Ukasha Dakane and Eat Street restaurant wage theft fines added to the agenda.

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

Board Community Agreements are reviewed.

Secretary's Report

Abbie Speller

Attendance: 4-0, 9-1, 2-2, 1-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-1, Resigned- 3, Terminated-0, Vacancies-7 Board Seats: 23

Motion to reinstate Ukasha Dakane to the Board. **Seconded.** Motion **carries** unanimously.

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

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 24th, 2019

Finance Committee

Jen Kader / Kaley Brown

Reviewed August Financials. The new NRP contract is in place.

Youth micro grant was closed out in the consolidation process, but funds are still available to fund youth programming when a new granting structure is developed.

Motion to approve August financials. **Seconded.** Motion passes.

Farmers Market Update

Dean Caldwell-Tautges

Dean Caldwell- Tautges presented updates on the farmer's market season.

They hit record highs for vendors and volunteers this year. Attendance was up from last year, but the season was shortened due to

poor September attendance in the past.

This year they added community programming such as yoga classes, clothing swap, school supply drive, bike tune-ups, etc.

They had 33 vendors and 11 have never sold at a market before. The church gives them a lot of items they need; breaking down barriers to participation.

Dean surveyed vendors to see what they would like to see more of. Most wanted more food and fresh produce options.

If the market were to continue they would consider moving to a more public location or changing the day of the week. People have also suggested making it a more food-oriented event, with classes and programming for the community. Moving it offsite could impact Calvary's role (they would need more stakeholders).

Ideally, the board and Calvary should make a decision by November 30th.

Update on Policy Changes

Jen Kader

Taskforce will be created to review by-laws, financial procedures, and Standard of Conduct policy.

Housing Issues Committee

Stephanie Brown

Security deposit and background check ordinance passed. Misdemeanors cannot be used as grounds for denying a lease within 3 years and felonies for 7 years with the exception of violent crimes. The maximum deposit is now 1 month's rent. The ordinances do not apply to properties with under 15 units (possibly counts towards properties spread out amongst multiple houses?) Aldona will check on questions and report back.

Door-knocking is needed in the southwest corner of the neighborhood because there is a lot of development happening there. In particular, the Lupe developments are very large, and we should engage neighbors around this issue.

Business Association

Many Eat Street restaurants are facing issues with wage theft fines. Whittier Alliance would like to connect with businesses to understand and offer help in ways possible (connect with not just business owners, but also the employees.). This could be an opportunity to educate business owners and employees on wage laws and their rights. Marcus could help facilitate but doesn't have the capacity to take this on independently.

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown

Staff reports can be found in the board packet.

Board Member Training and Support

Cyndi Hovey

We will go over the skillshare results next meeting. Cyndi also created an action items tracker for things people commit to in board meetings to help us all stay on track.

Eat Street Festival

Jen Kader/Kaley Brown

We won't know the final numbers until get the Q3 and Q4 reimbursement requests approved by the City. We still have about \$5000 in expenses but also are waiting on \$5000 in sponsorship and vendor payments. There are a number of expenses that we won't have next year such as event equipment. This year we will likely have about \$14,000-15,000 net from this event.

Marcus, Ukasha and Fartun did a great job with recruiting East African vendors.

The volunteer process was more streamlined this year. Communication with businesses and property owners could be improved for next year by beginning outreach earlier in the year and facilitating more group info and input opportunities.

We moved the event to Sunday because Saturdays caused a hit to businesses with dinner reservations, but attendance was down this year compared to last year.

Development Updates

Stephanie Brown/ Kaley Brown

A neighbor who appealed the 26th and Blaisdell development has now filed a lawsuit against Yellow Tree and the city. There appears to be little merit to the lawsuit and could be a delay tactic. Best case scenario the suit gets dismissed in early June. There was a roundtable at the ReDesign Summit around what the joint community-use space in the building could look like, what features would make it welcoming and functional for multiple types of organizations, groups, community members, events.

Kaley has been meeting with other Lyn-Lake stakeholders, and they want a third party consultant do reimagine what elements could/should be included in the RFP in order to make the site a true destination that provides community benefit and also supports local businesses. They do not have confidence that current developers in the Twin Cities market will answer the RFP with enough innovation to create a desired final project.

25th and Grand project is on hold until the 2040 plan fully goes into effect.

Members were given a copy of the Lake Street developments survey, and they will be doorknocking this weekend around the area.

The WA now has a standing meeting with Ward 10 office primarily around housing.

Other Updates

2020 Annual Meeting planning is starting. Board members should try to recruit candidates they believe should run. There could be a total of 5 seats up for election.

December meeting will be earlier due to the Christian and Jewish holidays at the end of the month.

Next meeting will be at Vertical Endeavors or MCAD. Kaley will update everyone when it is decided.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.

Adjourn 8:32 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.