

**Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 14th, 2020, 6:30-8:00 pm — Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Nick Hutchinson, Deja' Jendro

**Staff:** Marcus VanderSanden, Robb Larson, Oscar Nieves Rubio

Welcome at 6:35pm by Marcus VanderSanden.

Introductions.

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.

**Public Safety**

- City engagement opportunities
- Discord
  - Increased communications with neighbors
  - We're working on making it accessible and giving it a sense of purpose
  - We can use it as a hub for communication, especially for mutual aid groups and other potential committees dedicated to different areas of concern for the neighborhood
- Traffic flow in Whittier
  - What can be done in the community to increase safety?
  - What do we need permission from the city for?
- Tapping into Nicollet Special Service District (SSD) leadership and increase communication
- Elder neighbor support
- Graffiti
  - How to support businesses and property owners - city fines are unfair given how prevalent it is right now

**Environmental Sustainability**

- Gardening
  - Planters on boulevards, provides aesthetic, environmental and safety value
- Neighborhood clean-ups
  - Map "trouble spots" for litter
  - Build relationships with properties that are problematic about trash
  - Shovel brigade for sidewalks in winter, crowdsourced sidewalk conditions map
- How can we make the neighborhood less car centric and more pedestrian centric?

**Community Building Activities**

- Really Really Free Market
- Eat Street Festival
- Great Whittier Get Together
- Other engagement events
  - Diversity outreach
- Cultural exchanges
  - Iftar dinner
- Civic engagement
  - Get out the vote
  - Mayoral candidate forum

**Other**

- Communication channels

- Discord, making information accessible and understandable
- Getting ahead of schedule on communicating meetings: “day of” reminders not effective
- Alternative storytelling channels: podcast, neighborhood news
- Infographic about public affairs in Whittier, committee progress
- Meeting structure
  - Should we use the standing meeting to engage the community directly, have an agenda-driven meeting to use it for planning
    - It’s good to have structure, but not every meeting needs to be so structured
    - We can use the meetings to set goals for the next month or two months, and check in to evaluate progress
  - Retain opportunity for groups to present to committee
  - Host workshops to facilitate larger conversations

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.**

**Minutes submitted by Robb Larson.**