

Community Issues Meeting Minutes
Monday, Sep 12, 2016 — 6:00-7:30pm — Whittier Park

Attendees: Greg Schmidt, Mary Gazca, Marie Listopad, Michael Malone, Galen Ryan, Jo Ann Musumeci, Willow Kreibich, Curtis Wilson, John Bly, Lourdes Francisco, Christine Popowski, Felino de la Pena, George Bly, Rae Bly, Edsel Ammons, Erica Christ, Carl Valdez, D'ana Pennington, Chad Pennington **Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Paul Shanafelt, Camilla Fartun Jamal **Presenters:** John Bly, Curtis Wilson, Lourdes Francisco
Ricardo opened the meeting, Reviewed the standards of conduct,

Welcome

Welcome at 6:12 by Ricardo McCurley. Agenda was reviewed. Standard of conduct policy was reviewed. **Motion** to approve the Agenda **Carried**. Introductions were made. Minutes from 08-2016 CI meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve 08-2016 CI meeting minutes **Carried**, w/amendment: Replace term "Astro Turf" with "artificial turf."

Announcements/Community Comments & Discussion

Nominated Michael Malone for CI Chair, Elected 10-0-2.

10th Ward - development at Lake and Lake st, will not finalize plans until developer meets with neighborhood but is not available Sept or Oct; large 100+ unit building with subsidized housing. Did development at Nicollet & Franklin, Whittier asked them to make a more attractive building.
-26th and Lyndale site going ahead with soil testing although the development plan was rejected.
-Steeple People site development may be revisited.

Whittier Taskforces

Crime & Safety - upcoming meeting on Monday, Sept 19
Environmental Sustainability - Bike Fair - gave out helmets to kids, food, free bike tune ups. Next meeting is Wednesday, Sept 28.

Rain Gardens

Curtis Wilson & John Bly, Metro Blooms

Master Water Steward - Started at Minnehaha Watershed to help manage storm water issues; next step is to take a program to engage communities on what a watershed is and where the water is going and keep it clean before it enters our rivers and lakes. A project is being installed on October 1 at 2422 Pillsbury from 10am-4pm. Come volunteer, have snacks, learn about rain gardens, activities for the kids. Black Forest has a stormwater system. Many examples in Whittier.
Tips for installing your own rain garden: Don't be deterred by the overload of information. Call on a Master Water Steward about your options. What makes a good rain garden plant - a native perennial like black eyed susans with very deep roots. Transform impermeable surfaces by directing water. Will they take the auto pollutants? Rain gardens have a living microbiomes which will break down the pollutants. Where does watershed district fit in the bureaucracy? It's complicated. Developers are required to have a water management plan. We are all being taxed for the stormwater coming off the land. Can get tax credits for building a rain garden but there are problems getting that done.

November Election

Lourdes Francisco, City of Mpls

The City is urging eligible voters to get registered and know where the polling places are. We can help by door knocking. September 25th is National Voting Week to distribute information and help register voters. Nicollet Open Streets is offering two location to register to vote. People aren't interested in voting this year because of the candidates and not liking them. Why have the polling

places changed? Trying to reduce waiting times. Looking for people to register voters at the Farmers Market. Really helps to talk to people. September 23rd early voting. Door knocking is the best way to influence the shape of policies. Need more election judges, especially those who speak Spanish, Hmong and Somali. Requirements for absentee voting. Registered voter, no ID required. Information at voteminneapolis.gov.

Old and New Business

Paul Shanafelt & Ricardo McCurley

Open Streets - Whittier has been invited to bring businesses to the event. Music stage and cultural events. Street closed all the way from K-Mart to 46th Street. Need volunteers for set-up, tear down, informing residents.

Friendly Fronts - Idea formed after noticing a lack of communal spaces at apartment buildings on Blaisdell. Musicant Group and Whittier Alliance collaborated with Blaisdell Housing and Common Bond tenants/property management. Workshops held to generate ideas to turn front yards of these buildings into community spaces. Ideas included places to sit while kids are playing, games, and lighting. Six buildings have been set up. Paul gave addresses. Buildings include the old Whittier School (Whittier Community Housing) and 4 other buildings on Blaisdell and 1 on Pillsbury.

Whittier Anniversaries - 40th year of Whittier Neighborhood and 20th year of Eat Street in 2017. Jeremy Eggers wrote an article in 1997 referring to Eat Street. People could buy and lease inexpensive property on Nicollet and many immigrant entrepreneurs did just that and opened restaurants. A streetscape plan was put into place and the Eat Street name stuck. How do we celebrate? WA incorporated in 1977. Better neighborhood signs for Whittier. Publish a history of the Whittier neighborhood. Take over Whittier Park. Street Fair.

Other

Octoberfest at Black Forest Inn starts Sept 23rd.

Estrella Apothecary and Spa - free massages for cancer patients.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:22pm. Motion Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marie Listopad