

Community Issues Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14th, 2020— 6:30--8:00pm — Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Christine Popowski, Andrea Lechuga, Krista Pearson, Jordan Hedlund, Nate Broadbridge, Nancy Sjoquist, Wendy Darst, Nick Hutchinson

Staff: Marcus VanderSanden, Oscar Nieves-Rubio

Presenter: Dan Elias, Leesa Kelly, Kenda Zellner-Smith

Welcome at 6:35pm by Marcus VanderSanden, .

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.

Introductions.

Community Updates

Whittier Alliance - Marcus VanderSanden

- Summarized recent work of Whittier Alliance including
 - Highlighted upcoming work and events including May 26th Annual Meeting and Earth Day Cleanup April 24th

Bde Maka Ska Refectory

Dan Elias- MPRB

Dan Elias of Minneapolis Parks and Rec presents on the proposed development at the Bde Maka Ska refectory. While this project is not the Whittier neighborhood it is an important regional project and Whittier is one of the closest parks with programming near the site. Two proposed designs were pitched and elements of both will be incorporated into final design.

Highlights & Questions

Pavillion will likely have two buildings one primary seasonal food service building and one year round MBE contractors follow City of Minneapolis Dept of Civil Rights policy and will be determined once construction plan is generated

Final design is being presented and is available for public input at May 5th meeting of the Park Board Commission.

STB2MTM

Leesa Kelly, Kenda Zellner-Smith

Save the Boards to Memorialize the Movement is a grassroots arts organization that was born in the wake of George Floyds murder and the subsequent artwork and community expression that was put on plywood boards covering businesses. They set out to collect and preserve the artwork to capture the expressive moment in time. Subsequently the Whittier Alliance was also collecting plywood in the hopes to find an appropriate partner. WA ended up donating over 300 pieces of plywood making up many murals from the Whittier and Lyndale area.

STB2MTM Important dates:

May 21st-23rd Phelps Park

June 12th Plywood board exhibit/event in Whittier

Community Safety Conversation

Marcus VanderSanden- WA Staff

Whittier staff member Marcus VanderSanden started by acknowledging potential traumas in our communities and opened the floor to any community member who may want to share or begin a dialogue on community safety.

Leesa Kelly acknowledges that the week has been difficult for her on a personal and project level because their work of collecting and preserving boards in the wake of one tragedy has been all encompassing and it is triggering to see plywood being erected for the same reason as a reminder that the issues of police violence against communities of color are pervasive.

Nick Hutchinson talks about the Whittier Solidarity Network Discord channel and it's potential for keeping people in good communication.

Marcus draws attention to current efforts going on at the City level around alternative community safety initiatives including a screen shared tour of the City's project page drawing particular focus to the Survey option and it's availability in multiple languages. There is potential to continue engaging with this City process and work through this committee.

Chair and Board Opportunities

Marcus VanderSanden - WA Staff

Marcus shares general Whittier Alliance board opportunities and Community Issues Chair position.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Minutes submitted by Marcus VanderSanden.