

Community Issues Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 19th, 2019— 6:30--8:00pm — Whittier Park

Attendees: Greg Schmidt, Christine Popowski, Crystal Audi, Michael Perez, Elie Farlat, Jeremy Striffler, Joanna Krause-Johnson, Annie Flynn, Felino de la Pena, Wendy Darst, Willow Kreibich, Mary Gazca, David Bagley, Kaamil Dakane, F. Glazer, Laryssa Stolarskyj

Speakers/Guests: Hunter Jones, Lt. Westermeyer, Chris Kartheiser, Matthew Durdahl, Dave Hutchinson, Ann Goldmeyer, Chris Lutter-Gardela

Staff: Kaley Brown, Fartun Ismail, Marcus VanderSanden

Welcome

Welcome at 6:30pm by Kaley Brown, Whittier Alliance Executive Director.

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.

Motion to Approve Agenda. Seconded. Approved.

Motion to approve November Minutes. Seconded. Approved.

This is the first CI meeting since November due to Volunteer Appreciation Party in December.

Announcements/Community Comments & Discussion

Community Updates

Kaley Brown- Whittier Alliance, Executive Director

Whittier Alliance has hired two new full time employees. Emanuel Tekle has filled the Organizational Sustainability Manager position. His primary objectives will be to diversify WA funding sources to ensure WA's long term financial stability in addition to bolstering and coordinating WA's volunteer base. Fartun Ismail has filled the Community Outreach Coordinator position. Fartun most recently worked in a volunteer capacity with Frayeo, a non-profit based out of Karmel Mall, working primarily with the East African community as a housing navigator. She looks forward to using her experiences to increase Whittier Alliance connection to the East African community and looks forward to getting to know the community at large better.

Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting, March 26th, will be held at MCAD this year.

- Will be seeking to fill 5 new board positions. Applications are available online at whittieralliance.org or people are welcome to stop by the Whittier Alliance office. Deadline for application is February 8th.
- There will be a community vote on the proposed 2019-2024 Whittier Alliance Strategic Plan
- There will be a community vote to reallocate City funding contracts to align with updated strategic plan goals

Becky Lewis - Park Director at Whittier + 7 area parks

2019 Winter programming is under way

- Basketball is kicked off meaning less open gym time which can make it difficult for programming
- Adaptive, inclusive program for health and fitness on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
- Pottery - \$5 charge for adults; all drop-in basis (no pre-registration required)
- Wednesday the park has a naturalist facilitate activities topics include animal life, conservation and other outdoor based topics. Free snowshoeing day January 23rd
- Gardening program starting again this summer there is indoor growing in spring/winter for transplanting in warmer months
- Futsal Society is back in action- Thursday nights \$5 charge
- Friday and Tuesday are drop in teen nights
- Free dinner and snack after school every day for all students up to age 18
- If MPS is closed, Park opens at Noon including snow days

Hunter Jones- Reading Partners

Reading Partners is a national organization working with K-5 students who are not reading at grade level. They offer 1:1 volunteer opportunities with students to follow a curriculum to help the student get to grade level reading proficiency. They are looking for up to 20 volunteers for Whittier International.

- If student is not reading by 4th grade level then they statistically fall behind permanently
- Needs are not being met by classroom structure
- Experience is beneficial to for both students and mentors
- Site coordinator is in the classroom with you the whole time to provide support

Interim Community Issues Board Chair Election- Kaley Brown

The Whittier Alliance Community Issues Committee is in need of an interim Chair person until a new election is held in April the meeting following the Whittier Alliance annual meeting. The primary duties of the CI Chair include:

- Lead CI meetings
- Help coordinate agenda
- Attend Whittier Alliance monthly Board meeting

New format for CI in 2019 will feature different sectors of Whittier Community issues every month- next month the meeting will host a community workshop on racial justice and identifying white privilege. Topic ideas for subsequent months include Immigration, a Community Iftar for folks to share a meal and learn about Ramadan and Islam. This is a good opportunity for a trial run if anybody is interested in the position in April.

Open floors to nominations. No nominations are brought forth.

Standard election will be held in April for the next full term.

Green Crescent Public Art Project- Ann Godfrey, Christopher Lutter-Gardela

The Green Crescent- part of 35W at 94 construction project. It is a trail and park on the west side of 35w at Lake Street. It will be a connection between the upcoming Lake Street Transit and Midtown Greenway. It will feature an asphalt bike trail and pedestrian trail, sloping up to lake street from Midtown Greenway.

Retaining walls along I-35W will feature “wave walls” as public art component as decided by the community. Project managers have been working closely with steering committee to decide artistic direction of the project. Steering committee members have conducted extensive community outreach. The outcomes of that process is the desire for a Gateway or wayfinding feature that includes light.

Goals of the project

A welcoming space for all
Space that explores and supports ideas of connection
Bold iconic gateway
Inspirational
Grand and timeless artistic gesture
Durable in order to benefit Minneapolis for years to come

Construction timeline

East retaining wall- in progress
West wall- March 2019
Seeding- Summer 2019
Grading- Fall 2019

Lake Street Transit Station- unknown end date in 2021

Chris is the selected artist. He is an interactive sculptor wh created the Wolf and Moose interactive sculptures featured at Loring Park Holidazzle. The primary direction from steering committee he received is that movement is tantamount. Keep traffic flowing through the area. Want to promote this as an area of connection. This is reinforced thematically by waved retaining walls. The strongest feedback from the community was an installation to celebrate diversity of four bordering neighborhoods and that celebrates nature. Chris decided to use the nature theme and use creatures that lived here before colonization, representative of the biomes of Minnesota. Use animals to represent human attributes.

- Bison - Strength, resilience
- Elk - Love
- Black Bear - water and healing

Directive was to be iconic; these will be large scale installations that would create a signature for the project and be a landmark public art piece. They would be very large representations that would feature lighting and interactive features of light and naturalistic features.

Sketches of ideas and designs were passed out to attendees for feedback.

Blaisdell Protected Bikeway Extension- Chris Kartheiser, City of Minneapolis Public Works

Chris is the Project Manager for the upgrade of existing bike infrastructure on Blaisdell from Franklin to Lake. This corridor is part of the City's protected bikeway master plan. Complete network with east/west connections at 26th and 28th. Goal is to enhance comfort of bike facilities by increased separation from cars. There is an existing bike lane along this corridor. This project will be to increase and reinforce the buffer between bikes and cars by installing ballards separating the bike lane from traffic.

Details

- Franklin to 26th - 6ft bike lane 2 ft buffer
- At 26th - 7ft bike lane with 5ft buffer
- Project will reduce travel lanes by several feet on Blaisdell Avenue by several feet, however they were above standard
- Will not reduce any parking capacity as it is improvement of already existing infrastructure

Timeline

- Engagement- Presently
- Design- Doesn't require much engineering - new lines and ballards installation
- Installation- sometime in the summer; exact date is TBD
 - Will look to not impede traffic
 - Installation will happen overnight

Concerns/Questions/Comments

-What is the goal with bike lanes?

-Every other block is a bike path

-“Protected bikeways” are very intentional. Goal is to be continuous to protect bikers and provide full network. Bicycle counts for 11 years with data back from 2007 shows that bike lanes have gone up there has been an uptick in bike traffic.

-Physical barriers have been shown to increase driver safety, reduced speeds among other more cautious factors

-Concern over the parking situation regarding bike lane relationship with parking spots on Nicollet on 26th

-Concerns regarding signage and right of way

-Connection to LaSalle goes from unprotected to protected

-All these directives are products of research, community engagement and following the City Master Plan. Speed is the primary factor in crashes of all kinds of traffic, bike-related and non, and bike infrastructure is proven to reduce traffic speeds to accepted limits.

- Vision Zero- get to zero traffic deaths by 2027
- Vision Zero Action Plan is currently being drafted.

Dave Hutch- Hennepin County Sheriff-Elect

Happy to have won a closely contested election and is eager to get to work. Primary focus in a district like this is to do a better job of communication with MPD and support them.

Points of priority for Sheriff's office moving forward:

- Immigrant interaction - people must feel safe to report crime in their communities
- Addiction, opioid response - will partner with HCMC among other healthcare professionals
- Mental Health - had meeting today to adopt partnering patrol officers with mental health professional

Questions

-Explain the legal rules that allowed deputy sheriffs to go to North Dakota pipeline?

A: Had agreement with those jurisdictions for emergency aid, Governor Dayton allowed it.

-Will not send people out of county for non-emergency or non-life saving situations

-How big is your team

A: Deputies 817 with clerks and other administrative Sheriffs departments employs 1,100

Departments in Sheriff Office

- Water patrol division
- Criminal
- ESD
- Jails and Courts
- Warrant Service Civil Service
- Transport
- Administrative

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved.

Adjourned 7:49pm

Minutes submitted by Marcus VanderSanden.