

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Park

Present: Andrew Nordick, Jen Kader, Christina Le, Martha Nemesi, Michael Malone, Christine Popowski, Laura Jean, Mary Gazca, Geri Jerez, Scott Melamed

Absent: David Bagley

Late: N/A

Staff: Kaley Brown, Dan Stanton

Guests: Viswa Challa

Call to Order at 6:14pm by Laura Jean, Vice-Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Agenda is reviewed.

Addition to agenda:

- Add update on ED search

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

Comments from the Chair

Laura Jean

N/A

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Attendance overviewed.

- Chafoxey will be added to resignations; she resigned today.
- We have lost a significant amount of board members this year.
- Why is this?
 - Lots of new people?
 - Board trainings haven't been as comprehensive in past years
 - ED transition could have played a part, as well
- How can we encourage more board participation?
 - Make time at the next board meeting to discuss this

February 2018 Meeting minutes are reviewed.

Motion to approve minutes. Motion **seconded**. Motion **Approved**.

Next Board Meeting:

April 26, 2018

Executive Committee

David Bagley

Finance - Christina Le:

Everything was on track in February

Received reimbursements in February

Motion to Approve February Financials. Seconded. Approved.

Contract Reallocation - Kaley Brown

We also need to notify the public about this; will be moved to agenda for April Board Meeting

AM & Board Elections

- Volunteer Duties
 - See: handout noting volunteer duties
 - If anyone has a major conflict with something they are signed up for, note to the office and we can switch things around
 - *Note:* Araceli can do takedown
- Board Registration
 - **As soon as the registration opens at 5:30, all board members need to register immediately**
- *No campaign materials inside meeting room*
- If you're on Facebook and haven't rsvp'd to the [Facebook event](#), please do
- Good Neighbor & Good Business Award
 - 1 Neighbor
 - Morgan Luzier for her hard work on neighborhood developments
 - 2 Businesses
 - NuWay House
 - Good Grocer
 - **Motion** to support Good Grocer
 - Provide community with good resource
 - **Seconded.**
 - Background information about Snyder Mansion & NuWay:
 - WA advocated for boutique hotel or embassy; wanted to get it nationally registered
 - Historic building
 - WA did not want this housing in the area because of concentration of this type of service in the neighborhood
 - Comment: NuWay and Denise have been fantastic this year; have welcomed BA multiple times and been very accommodating

- Does NuWay serve the community?
 - Yes, NuWay opens themselves up to events, has been good stewards of the community
- **Motion** to support Good Grocer:
 - 7 - For
 - 0 - Opposed
 - 3 - Abstentions
 - **Approved.**

2017 CPP Report - Kaley Brown

- Annual Report → NCR
- Has to be approved by the board
- Ariaiah said it looks great

Question #14 (extra boxes to check)

- “Met with other agencies...”
 - Met with Tasho
 - *Can check this box*
- Great Whittier Get Together counts as “popup”

Motion to approve.

10 - for

0 - opposed

0 - abstentions

Approved.

Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap - Kaley Brown

- This report is the culmination of workshops and community meetings and online feedback
- The 3 options presented are not the only options; they are just 3 main suggestions NCR has come up with
- Public comment period is through April 30th
 - Public can give suggestions
 - Then, working groups will come together to determine the how
- No plans whatsoever to consolidate neighborhood orgs.; they are all independent non-profits on their own

3 Options

- Option 1 feedback has been very negative
- Option 2 (pooled services) - mixed bag that City has not leveraged yet
- Option 3 has been used as the working model
 - Current Model

As a board, we need to come together with collective suggestions

Comment:

- Number three has the most autonomy
 - However, it still has the same funding
- Can we vie for our own taxes dollars funding the neighborhood organization
 - Include this language in the comments
 - Special TIF for neighborhood organizations?
 - Plant in there with the word of gentrification
- Comment - we would be more tied to government funding
 - Promote independence
 - *Theme:* diversification of funds

We have one month to come up with a cohesive statement to submit (deadline: April 30th)

Please, also submit individual comments online

March 27th - Mpls Central Library at 5pm - Meeting open to the public

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions
Community Issues Kaley Brown

Scott couldn't attend the full meeting, because of a family emergency

Kaley gives overview:

35W Construction

- Franklin will open in May or June

Jennifer Neale, 5th Precinct

- Mentioned a lot of car thefts

Whittier resurfacing this summer

24th St Bikeway conversation that will coincide with 24th st resurfacing

After this, there was a 24th St Bikeway Presentation and Discussion at LHENA's Office

- Went well; tried a new discussion format with small group table discussions developing single questions to ask Public Works
 - This was effective
 - Parking discussion on 24th near MIA?
 - MIA will be redoing their whole parking situation

LUPE Developments

- Came back to show us the rest of their design that they presented back in the Fall
- Note: Morgan Luzier is working with them to help find businesses that might be interested in leasing the 1st floor commercial space
 - Right now, LUPE is reluctant to have 1st floor commercial and not be able to fill it

- LUPE is applying for grant money through the county so that they can do affordable housing
 - However, their housing is not affordable for Whittier residents based off the income of the neighborhood
 - They have requested a letter of support from the neighborhood to help influence their grant funding application
 - We need to offer it up to the community
 - Put it on the agenda for April; invite them back to April CI
 - **Post updates on our website leading up to CI**

Business Association

Andrew Nordick

BA was at Calvary Church

Agenda was about future of BA

- April Elections
- BA Structure itself

Registration Requirements

- BA representatives don't need to reactivate every year
- Can businesses sign a form to say that their articles of incorporation
 - *Reach out to lawyer to check what the best way to handle this is*
- Is there a way to do this at the BA?
 - This has been brought up many times - at BA's and emails
 - Include in all communications and emails

Business Association Restructuring

- General consensus to have more programming
 - More structure, more things to do, take advantage of the service
 - Increasing engagement within the community?
 - Pick up trash, housework, etc?
 - This sentiment is good but the application needs more work
- Attendance at BA is roughly 8-12
- There was consensus on going to an every-other-month meeting model
- There will also be a monthly business association communications newsletter to better communicate the things that happened monthly
- Have we surveyed them?
- Monthly business-specific meetings that are industry-specific
 - Nonprofits
 - Service-industry
 - Special services
 - Etc

Some missing pieces in the meeting minutes - sentences that cut off short

Araceli Reinstatement Discussion

Motion to reinstate. Seconded. Motion Approves.

Araceli is reinstated.

- Met last night, talked about different ways to get involved besides just coming to meetings
- If people have a certain skill set or know of something that happened in a diff neighborhood, come forward with ideas
- MPLS green teams collaboration group that reached out to get involved
- Sat April 21st - Earth Day Cleanup with Minneapolis Parks
- April 1st - Community Organics starting
 - ***Flyer apartment buildings***

Staff Reports:

See: board packet

Old & New Business:

Executive Director Search Update:

- Extended ED search for another two weeks
- We want to make sure it's a robust time period, open and that word has gotten out
- Approximately 6 applicants
- Interested in a few but want to make sure the search is robust

Committee - Christina, Chafoxey, David, Marian Biehn, Willow Kreibich, Laura Jean

- For the interview portion, they will be bringing in a few community members, as well

Committee will put together criteria used to determine who is chosen

Board will vote to hire or not hire whoever is recommended

There hasn't been a lot of progress in the process

Strategic Plan - Kaley Brown

- Report highlights feedback gained throughout planning process
- Positives about neighborhood are self-explanatory
- Challenges - parking and housing
- Common throughout - negative reactions with the language that was used

Comment: there is an issue with trust; many people didn't want to take the survey or participate because people feel that WA will not take their input seriously

- Ethiopian, Latino and Somali communities do not feel incorporated by the Whittier Alliance
- Huge consensus by social service groups about how they are perceived by the Whittier Alliance and how they are involved in the neighborhood
- Housing - 5 score - very important
- Businesses and Commercial Corridors - scored 5

- Maintaining businesses but also supporting non-food-related businesses
- Environmental Sustainability
 - This should permeate all our activities, rather than being a pillar/main theme for initiatives
- Biggest theme - outreach, community engagement piece
- Main themes
 - Community engagement/outreach
 - Housing
 - Supporting businesses/commercial corridors

Next Steps:

We want to have something at the annual meeting to show progress and engage

We won't have a written plan by next week, but we can have a board on an easel with three themes

- People can put a sticker on the board to prioritize 1-3
- *Comment:* also include the following action items on this so that the community knows what's happening

Then, we need to get the board together for a half day some time in April to synthesize this information

- Come up with plan and promote for people to digest it
- Vote at a following meeting (need to get 50 people to vote on it)

****to increase transparency, put all the strategic planning data that was used on our website***

Motion to table BA restructuring and development projects till next meeting. **Seconded. Approved.**

Motion to adjourn. **Seconded. Approved.**

Adjourn **8:30 PM**

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

David Bagley, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary

