

Whittier Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022, 6:30-8:00pm
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: George Rishmawi, Nate Rastetter, Rick Dallmeyer, Ed Nelsen, Matt Finn, Sydney Burroughs, Mark Roos, Leslie Modrack, Beth Schmiesing, Jess Harner, Julie Wells, Elisabeth Loeffler, Joshua, Shannon Dotson, Brian, Jo Ann Musumeci, Christine Popowski, Christina Giese

Presenters: Michael Pink (Left Lane Ventures), Wendy Wiegmann (Simpson Housing), Katie White (City of Minneapolis)

Staff: Kaley Brown, Robb Larson

Welcome/Introductions

- The committee went through a round of introductions.
- The meeting chair presented the agenda. **Agenda approved by consent.**
- The meeting chair recognized Standard of Conduct; Non-discrimination and Anti-racism; and Conflicts of Interest Policies.
- The committee reviewed the January minutes. **January minutes approved by consent.**

Development

- **Whittier Alliance - [2116 Nicollet Ave Steering Committee](#)**
 - Moving forward on creating the RFP to eventually select a development partner.
- **Lake & Nicollet Future**
 - Testing phase
- **2607 2nd Ave S - Michael Pink, Left Lane Ventures**
 - Site of former single family residence that was destroyed by a fire
 - Christian Dean Architecture shared presentation on proposed development
 - More details are available on the [Whittier Alliance Development Tracker](#).
 - **Motion** to support the project at 2607 2nd Ave S. Seconded. Quorum not met.
- **Simpson Housing - Wendy Wiegmann, Simpson Housing**
 - Simpson has acquired a duplex adjacent to the property that is being reconstructed
 - The new plan will require a change in build form designation from Interior 3 to Corridor 6
 - Simpson Housing shared updated plans for the new building, including more outdoor space and geothermal heating/cooling systems.
 - There will be a community engagement process in the next three weeks for this project.
 - Simpson Housing is seeking a letter of support from the Whittier Alliance for a comprehensive plan.

Planning

- **Soo Line Garden ADA Ramp**
 - The design team will further develop two options for the layout of the ADA ramp, which they will present to the stakeholder group at the next meeting.

Transportation

- **1st Ave S Reconstruction - Katie White, City of Minneapolis**

- 1st Ave S will be reconstructed from Lake St to Grant St, including the Midtown Greenway bridge
- Minneapolis Public Works presented on plans for the reconstruction project
 - Replace pavement and curb & gutter
 - Improve walkways and non-ADA compliant areas
 - Incorporate utility improvements
 - Streetscape improvements
 - Refresh signage and striping
 - Install an All Ages and Abilities bikeway facility
- City will present a detailed design late 2022-2023. Construction between Lake St and Franklin Ave will start in April 2024.
 - [Virtual open house](#) March 8 at 6 pm. You can [submit comments on a map](#).
- **Q:** I have multiple sclerosis, I've had to use a wheelchair, walker, electric scooter, cane. Tactile strips for ramps were very useful when I was using a scooter. Will you use that for all curbing? When I cross lights, I never make it across before the light changes. Can you change how long the walk signal stays on?
 - **A:** Tactile strips for ramps will be incorporated as part of ADA improvements. Pedestrian signal intervals may be lengthened as part of the Whittier Lyndale bikeway project.
- **Q:** What does replacing the Greenway bridge entail? Will it include an ADA compliant ramp?
 - **A:** We aren't contemplating an ADA ramp to the Greenway. We will do everything we can to avoid closing the Greenway and avoid impact as much as possible.

General updates, announcements, opportunities

- Midtown Greenway Coalition is looking to recruit BIPOC members to their board. Interested members can reach out to Jo Ann Musumeci.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

HLU Meetings Every third Tuesday of the month

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 15th, 6:30-8:00 pm @ Zoom

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Robb Larson.