

## Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft

Oct 22, 2020 6-8 PM

### Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Shinjan Sengupta, Cyndi Hovey, Daniel Perez, Nate Rastetter, Nate Broadbridge, Jen Kader, Brigid Higgins, Stephanie Brown, Abigail Speller, Aldona Martinka

**Non-board Community Members:** Nick Hutchinson, George Rishmawi, Aaron Keith, Jenny Wollner

**Absent:** Erin Sjoquist, Katie Heimer, Jen Kader (terminated by absences)

**Late:**

**Staff:** Kaley Brown, Julie Strand

**Call to Order** at 6:06 pm by Cyndi Hovey

- Approve Agenda - **(A)**
- Standard of Conduct policy, note conflicts of interest
- [Review Community Agreements](#)

Introductions & Check In: ***Have you voted yet? If not, what is your voting plan? Name three people you will check in with on their voting plan?***

-Jen introduced herself and noted that she won't be re-upping her term on the board. Shared highlights from her time with the org.

#### **Secretary's Report**

- Board meeting attendance: 7-0, 4-1, 0-2, 1-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned-3, Terminated-1, Vacancies-11, Total Seats-23
- Review and Approve Sept 24th minutes - **(A)**
- **Motion to approve the minutes. Seconded. Motion passes.**
- Jen won't be returning. A number of board seats are open. Recruiting needed for next year.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

-Highlights-Hennepin County reimbursements and the donation from MCAD increased the bank statement income by around \$11,000.

-Accounting 101 training given on Oct 19. Recording will be made available to the full board. Kaley will send it out.

-Bob Cooper from the city will be presenting on our NRP and CPP funding so that everyone knows how our funding works. **Motion to accept finances. Seconded. Motion passes.**

#### **WA Board Slack or Discord Communications Channel**

- Idea for creating a more effective comms system to help board members stay engaged and organized
- Shinjan reviewed the discussion of a discord or slack workspace for the board. Need governance or guidance for this work. Would like to set up a working meeting to set up the channels, forums, and guidelines.
- Ask: If anyone is interested in supporting this work let Shinjan know. He will send out an agenda and meeting link. Nick, Aldonna, Cyndi, Kaley signed up.

#### **Budget 2021**

CPP funding normally is 133,200; CPP stands for Community Participation Program - a contract through the City intended for uses of neighborhood engagement with the community. The Mayor's budget has no change to the proposed amount of neighborhood program funding, but everything is still on the negotiating table.

More funding will be available to us to apply for through the proposed programs structure because of WA quality equitable engagement and community support. Many neighborhoods aren't in the same position. If nothing changes, we will receive an automatic \$20,000 with \$119,000 available totalling about \$139k annually. We don't know for sure until mid-December; should we wait to discuss a full budget draft until we know the City funding amounts? We will hold off for now.

November 5 is the first public hearing on Neighborhoods 2020; CP Bender does not believe there will be cuts for this item in the budget, but it could be a close vote. Kaley is advocating and talking with other neighborhood orgs. Also WA's letter campaign drive with other neighborhoods pressing for \$3m more in funding was the most consistent and frequent message received during the public comment period.

Q: If the budget amount is approved then there is also the vote on allocation If guidelines aren't approved does the funding stay as it was last year?

A: We don't know as all of our contracts are done at the end of this year. If the City Council wants neighborhoods orgs to exist, something has to be approved or amended and approved. We should know at Nov 5 what amount will go to the budget markup process.

Q: Are you seeking permission to hold off on starting our budgeting process?

A: If we do not know how much money we are getting from the City until Dec 9, at what point would you want and expect to see a fully filled out draft of the budget, so that we have time for discussion, a second draft, etc. Should it align with the regular board meeting? Should we have a special board meeting?

A: I think we should wait until we have a better understanding of what we are working with. A strategic wait and see.

Q: Does anyone want to attend special budget meetings in November and December?

A: George, Daniel, Cyndi, Brigid

Q: Our November board meeting will hit on Thanksgiving. Should we move it to after Dec 9 so we can focus on the budget?

A: Sounds like a good idea

A part of the guidelines deal major cuts to the City funding of small neighborhood orgs that have less need. There is funding for neighborhood org merges. Some have approached us in the past because we receive a good amount of funding and we are stable. We will likely see more asks for merging, and we may want to begin thinking about what that means for us and our position on it.

Q: How soon do we want to be talking about that in the hypothetical?

A: Let's wait and see on December 9 once we know about funding for all neighborhoods.

## **Bylaws 2.0**

Took some time to finalize revisions. One of the big projects of 2019 was identifying barriers to engagement and updating them. Hope was to have this for the annual meeting which was postponed. A big focus in the new round of review was on voting outside of annual meeting and changing the property owner membership classification to a

business seat on the board rather than a resident seat. **Motion to adopt the proposed 2.0 bylaws changes, to be confirmed with an e-vote following the final language developed by the attorney. Seconded. Motion passes.**

Q: Should we add some occupancy rule? What about snowbirds?

A: There is an important distinction between voting and serving on the board. It is really about board accounting.

Talked with our attorney and reviewed these ideas. Regarding voting procedure, her opinion was that our board resolution passed in May around temporary operations should cover us to try something new. Another idea was to keep the language simple with eligible voting members may cast their vote or in person leaving it open so we have wiggle room. According to Jess, votes cast online can count towards quorum. It makes covid safe events possible. It could be that in a covid free future to go about it differently, but we would have the option. Directive: Kaley will work with the attorney to find a way to make the language broad enough to give us options but clear for understanding. **Motion to accept the concept of having online and in-person voting options in addition to voting at the annual meeting; final language will be drafted with the attorney and circulated for e-vote approval to board members. Seconded. Motion passes.**

#### **ADA Greenway Ramp Project - motion to support**

The County and Park Board staff are asking for our support to use park dedication fees to fill a funding gap to build an ADA-accessible ramp in Whittier to the Midtown Greenway. A small group met to discuss following a basic community poll demonstrated support. Ultimately decided to offer support to the project. **Motion that the board offers support for the ramp project pending any red flags in the next 4 days. Seconded. Motion passes.**

#### **Housing Issues Committee Update**

-6plex was approved at 25th and 1st

-Lake Street project was discussed at length. Will try and re engage the developer before taking a formal position.

-Reporter reached out about anti-displacement efforts in Whittier.

#### **Announcements, next steps**

- Special Meeting: please complete [survey](#)
- Next board meeting in December; a doodle will be sent out to nail down a date
- MRAC has transitioned our festival funding to a general operating support grant, which will be used to support Save the Boards to Memorialize the Movement with plywood preservation, archiving, and an event in Whittier

#### **Ongoing Projects, Board Projects List, [Board Tracker](#)**

- [2020-2021 Board Projects List](#)

#### **Closing & Check Out**

- What is the worst smell you've ever smelled?

**Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm. | **Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Strand.**

