

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft
January 28, 2021 6-8:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Stephanie Brown, Nate Rastetter, Nate Broadbridge, Daniel Perez, Aldona Martinka, Abigail Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Erin Sjoquist, Brigid Higgins, Katie Heimer

Absent: Shinjan Sengupta

Non-board Community Members: George Rishmawi, Nick Hutchinson

Staff: Kaley Brown, Oscar Nieves Rubio

Call to Order at 6:06pm by Cyndi Hovey

-Cyndi shared the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda. Seconded. Motion passes.

-Cyndi shared the Standard of Conduct policy with a note on conflicts of interest.

-Cyndi shared the community agreements and read through them aloud.

Oscar introduced himself to the board and talked about the work he'll be doing with WA for the next year. Kaley asked board members to reach out to her and Oscar if they know of anyone he should connect with in the next few weeks.

Introductions & Check In: *Please reflect on the bylaw revision project from start to finish. Identify one area of strength/something we did well. And Identify one area we could improve on.*

Things done well:

- The right amount of time thinking through all of the aspects of the change. (x2)
- Educational/explanatory materials were good, especially the video and the side-by-side documents (x4)
- Took the time to do this well (x2)
- Navigated technical challenges as well as could be expected
- Separating comments and questions was a good idea
- Having local artists on was great
- The trust in our colleagues on the board and in the neighborhood was important

Items for improvement:

- Took a long time to do well.
- Vote on items separately rather than as a slate next time if possible
- Allow for in-depth questions in a better way
- Our community engagement was good, but it can always be better, and we could have done a better job of utilizing the extended timeline due to COVID
- Remember that the loudest voices are not always the ones that represent the full community
- Should've found a way to do virtual workshops in the way that we did at the Community Issues meeting
- January was terrible timing internally, doing this at the same time as the budget and staff review was hard
- MAKE SURE ZOOM IS UPDATED

In the spirit of board recruitment, Brigid led the check in and asked for Board Recruitment Ideas or Questions. Board members shared out names, pronouns, and which neighbors they are going to approach.

Secretary's Report

- Board meeting attendance: 7-0, 4-1, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned-5, Terminated-2, Vacancies-13, Total Seats-23
- New format -
 - o Aldona overviews a proposal to amend the way we report on board member attendance on the agenda and in the minutes, so that it's easier to understand and more of a narrative rather than a tally
 - o Erin wants to make sure that, if not in board meetings than in exec, attendance for each board member should be kept up on
 - o Kaley described how this process already happens with staff
 - o Passed unanimously
- Aldona shared the December 16 minutes for review. With one edit to swap Katie's name in for Erin's name in the Anti-Racism consultant task force section, there is a **Motion to approve the December board minutes. Seconded. Motion passes.**
- Abbie announced that she is moving out of the neighborhood and will be resigning from the board.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the December 2020 and 2020 Annual financials. With no questions **Motion to approve the December 2020 monthly and 2020 Annual financials. Seconded. Motion passes.**

Anti-Racism & Equity Working Group

- Katie shared a side-by-side comparison of the anti-racism consultant options
- Team Dynamics and YWCA are our options
- These two weren't just recommended based on cost, but thinking about how to model approaching this work for other neighborhood orgs
- Working group recommended YWCA. **Motion to contract with YWCA. Seconded. Motion passes.**

Budget 2021

- Potential Investment Opportunity: 2116 Nicollet Parcel
 - o Vacant land parcel at 2116 Nicollet Ave was put up for sale, we were made aware of it in the last 24 hours. It is "temporarily not available". They have an offer but they may or may not consider it.
 - o We do not have a goal as an organization to be landed, but we do have goals that this could be a part of.
 - o Stephanie - this could be a good test case for us to consider and learn about different ways of approaching development holistically.
 - o Have bids from environmental engineers for environmental review, which would be the required next step.
 - o Erin - what are the things that a task force would be empowered to do?
 - o Discussion continues around specific amounts and detailed costs
 - Insurance
 - Property tax

- Transfer deeds
 - Staff time
 - etc
- Risk of loss grows over time
- Erin - even if the plot remains undeveloped for a few years, we could consider using it for the farmer's market or community gardens until we are ready to do that.
- This is a long-term commitment, longer than a single board term.
- General agreement that this is an exciting opportunity worth exploring, and worth the small investment/risk of taking the initial steps involved in this exploration.
- **Motion to approve a working group with the authorization to commit up to \$200k for the following: purchase agreement on 2116 Nicollet, environmental review, closing costs, and other associated expenses. Seconded. Motion passes.**
- **Working group members: Nate B, Stephanie, Erin, Brigid and George**
- Final Budget Draft
 - Non-salary lines
 - Kaley - Our approach this year doesn't assume grants, although we are still applying for them and will update the budget accordingly.
 - Pink lines require board decisions, blue lines hinge on those decisions.
 - Nate - there is no specific line item for the decision we just made around the Nicollet parcel, but the new task force will determine how it fits into the budget as an early step
 - Eat Street Festival revenue and expenses are not included in this budget, but if it occurs then both will be balanced and included.
 - Kaley - expenses will likely come out of our own pocket, the two grants we applied for with COVID uncertainty did not pan out
 - Closed Session: HR & Salaries
 - **Motion to approve the 2021 budget. Seconded. Motion passes.**

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. | **Minutes respectfully submitted by Aldona Martinka.**