

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft
April 22, 2021 6:00-8:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Nate Rastetter, Nate Broadbridge, Aldona Martinka, Cyndi Hovey, Erin Sjoquist, Brigid Higgins, Katie Heimer, Shinjan Sengupta

Absent: Daniel Perez

Non-board Community Members: George Rishmawi, Kami Brodie, Laura Jean, Ashley Boldin

Staff: Kaley Brown, Robb Larson

Call to Order at 6:03pm by Cyndi Hovey

-The agenda is reviewed. Motion to approve the agenda. Seconded. Motion passes.

-The Standard of Conduct policy with a note on conflicts of interest.

-The community agreements are shared and read aloud.

A round of introductions is done.

Discussion question: How are you today emotionally and/or energy-wise on a scale from 1-10 (1 = struggling/totally depleted, 10 = grounded/fully rested)

Secretary's Report: Motion to reinstate Shinjan, who missed 3 board meetings, 2 of them due to spending time with family in India. **Seconded.** Shinjan spoke, then left the meeting for discussion, **vote to reinstate unanimous.** With reinstatement, Aldona reported that with the reinstatement there are 10 board members, with 4 resident seats, 3 business/nonprofit/property owner seats, and 2 committee chair seats up for election this year.

- Cyndi requested a "fist to five" informal vote to gauge interest in continuing to revise bylaws related to board member absences in order to increase accessibility. Most voted 3+.

Motion to approve March minutes. Seconded. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report: Not many changes, couple draws made on CPP and NRP dollars, community aid distributions continuing, 2116 Nic purchase reflected in financials as a move from bank account to real estate holdings.

Motion to approve March financials. Seconded. Unanimous approval.

Fiscal Policy: The project of updating our fiscal policy has been on the back burner for the last decade, but we have been working on it for months and have a proposal. Nate B opened up space for people to ask questions about the proposed changes.

- Audit changed from annual paid, external audit to align with city practices and requirements.
 - Annual not required by the city, not followed by the WA anyway.

2116 Nicollet: The largest take away from the last meeting of the task force is that the task force recommends that the board approve an application-based Steering Committee, which would fall under the "accessory committees/task forces" section of the bylaws.

The goals of this committee would be:

- Define values/vision for site
- Develop RFP for partners
- Review proposals and make selection recommendations to WA board

Brigid: It would be good to get this information out into the community and publicise the process as soon as possible.

Motion for the board to approve an application-based Steering Committee, which would fall under the “accessory committees/task forces” section of the bylaws, and for the Steering Committee to review this process with our antiracism consultants, and for this process to be advertised to the community at large.

Flash Vote: Stephanie recommends a tool that some smaller, nearby cities use to get representative neighborhood input on community projects, etc. People sign up to get non-issue-specific polls (about one per month of 3-5 simple questions).

- We would be in their mid-tier with regards to size
- Proposed \$10k setup for the year, Stephanie thinks we could get it down to \$5k bc they are a start-up that wants to break into this market and we could do things like do our own translations
- Stephanie - this would help us inform programming/budget decisions, development criteria, would generally help meet our community engagement strategic priority
- Mostly 3+ responses to a fist-to-five poll, Stephanie will follow up with people who want to be a part of further exploring it

Annual Meeting

- Wednesday, May 26th, mailers went out!
- Application & Webpage Live
- We will likely be using Zoom bc there are no other platforms that meet our needs in our price range
- Kaley and Cyndi met with League of Women Voters about new bylaws and having the lead our registration and voting process
 - League of Women Voters suggested shifting candidate meet and greets to after the meeting during the voting period so that it can include people running from the floor
 - This also led to an idea about holding a “run for the board info session” during what would have been the CI meeting prior to the annual meeting - Wed, May 12th at 6:30pm
- Practice annual meeting - 5/20 at 6pm for now, might move based on upcoming when-to-meet

Acting Committees

- **Housing Issues**
 - Updated 2609 Blaisdell proposal from CommonBond
 - Held a discussion led by Anthony Taylor of the Cultural Wellness Center on the approach he is taking with the Wells Fargo redevelopment across Lake Street to build a cohesive and continuing vision as we begin engagement later this year on the Kmart site
 - they are of the same community and the vision should be aligned for both
- **Community Issues**
 - Minutes/summary in board packet

Ward 10 Candidate Forum with Pueblos de Lucha Y Esperanza

- Saturday, May 22nd
- Our role would be helping with promotion, moderation, & expenses support
 - Good opportunity to promote WA annual meeting
- No opposition or concerns from board about participating

Ward 10 Candidate Forum with Pueblos de Lucha Y Esperanza

- None

Announcements

- Erin - Whittier Plant Sale May 7
 - www.whittierplantsale.org

Racial Justice: Racial justice commitments reviewed as a group.

Closing question: What animal would you ride into battle?

Motion to adjourn. No objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. | **Minutes respectfully submitted by Aldona Martinka.**