

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft
October 28, 2021 6:00-8:30 PM
Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Cyndi Hovey, Stephanie Brown, Sydney Burroughs, Kami Brodie, Nick Hutchinson, Deja' Jendro, Nate Rastetter, Daniel Perez, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Kate Davis, Danny Villars, Allison Bross-White, Katie Heimer, Nicole, Carlos Guereca, Nicole, Thomas George, Margo Geffen, Jean Heyer, Danielle, Alexander Kado, Paulette Will, David Hewitt

Absent: George Rishmawi, Shinjan Sengupta

Non-board Community Members: Becky, Laura Hoffman

Presenters: Colleen O'Dell (MPRB), Caleb Crossley (Futsal Society)

Staff: Kaley Brown, Robb Larson

Call to Order at 6:07pm by Cyndi Hovey

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

-The Standard of Conduct, Conflicts of Interest Policy, and Anti-Discrimination Policies are reviewed.

-The Board 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)

Thinking about the 2022 budget and workload, what are some ideas on how we can improve work/life balance for employees?

- Creating a minimal budget
- Respecting staff time and PTO, not overstretching capacity
- Limiting the amount of weeknights that staff have to work
- Don't hesitate to reach out to board members to volunteer to assist staff

Reflecting on the Arts Fest, what would you keep the same? What would you do differently?

- The time lapse video was cool
- More food options and get more businesses involved in promotion
- More food trucks and maybe a hot beverage station

Secretary's Report: We have 16 active board members and just 1 vacant resident seat.

Board Attendance Tracking Summary Below:

As of September Meeting	
Zero (0) Absences	10
One (1) Absence	2
Two (2) Absences	0
Three (3) Absences	0

We encourage members to regularly review the attendance policy in the Bylaws to be sure you are planning ahead if you have a schedule conflict at any point during the board year; this will allow yourself the opportunity to convert the absence into an excused one with volunteer hours, if possible.

We appointed 4 new members during the September meeting, bringing our current board member count up to 16.

The September board meeting minutes are reviewed. **A motion is made to approve September minutes. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

New Board Directors Appointment Amendment

Motion to appoint Katie Heimer to the 2021 Resident seat; appoint Kate Davis and Danny Villars to the 2020 Resident seats; and vacate the 2019 Resident seat. **Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

Motion to amend the September 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes to reflect the appointments of Katie Heimer to the 2021 Resident seat; Kate Davis and Danny Villars to the 2020 Resident seats; and vacating of the 2019 Resident seat. **Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

Treasurer's Report:

- The extra Sunrise checking account has officially been closed! You can see the transfer ~\$30,000 from the Sunrise x0252 and ~\$50,000 from the primary Sunrise checking account x4600. This decision was made by the board months ago to make sure our money is in an account that is working for us and will be turning a profit instead of costing the \$5 monthly maintenance fee in the secondary checking account (x0252) and sitting unused in our primary checking account (x4600). With the funds in the money market we will see stronger investment earnings on that cash.
- Some ratios were affected by this transfer, but the WA is in excellent financial standing.
- 2021 MRAC (Metro Regional Arts Council) budget will be shown on the reports in the future. This budget was largely used to fund the Fall Arts Fest.
- September and October rent hit in the same month - will balance next month
- Meter rental and advertising were high because of timing of bills. On track with YTD budget
- We received our first of two reimbursements for the gift cards that were paid through the volunteer recognition budget line. "WF redevelopment site outreach"

Motion to accept September financials. Seconded. Unanimous approval.

Equitable Engagement Plan

- Needs official Board approval to be formally submitted to the City.

Motion to approve the Equitable Engagement Plan application. **Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

2022 Budget

- Expenses have ranged from \$280k-\$380k a year since 2017. 50% to staff, 16% to event costs, 15% direct assistance & grants
- Most revenues are city funding and grants. Passive revenues include loans and interest.
- Current resources include ~\$1.5m in city-held reserves; ~\$380k cash on hand; 2116 Nicollet Ave property; ~\$110k loan owed by the City to Whittier Alliance
- 2022 Planned Project Work & Staff Roles was reviewed and discussed.
- Next step is to have a full budget ready for review by November 22.
- Budget worksheet was presented and discussed

Policy Work & Neighborhoods 2020

- Board members to review policies and provide feedback in the 1 ½ weeks

Futsal courts at Clinton Field Park - Park Dedication Fee Use - Caleb Crossley, Futsal Society

- Futsal is a version of soccer. Futsal Society provides neighborhood kids an opportunity to participate in free competitive soccer and futsal

- Club soccer is expensive and requires car transportation. Futsal is free and in the neighborhood, accessible by bike and public transit
- 16 coaches that mentor kids in playing a team sport
- 92% of participants are outside of the US
- This would activate Clinton Field and make it a more welcoming and dynamic place
- Any potential dollars toward Clinton Field would not be allocated until 2027 without approval of Park Dedication Fee use toward this project.
- Futsal Society is seeking the support of Whittier Alliance in recommending the MPRB commissioners to vote to approve MPRB Dedication Funds into the 2023 Capital Improvement Program.
- A brief overview was given of how Park Dedication Fees work
- **Q:** Do the Park Dedication Fees cover just the courts or reprioritize everything in Clinton Field Park?
 - **A:** \$400,000 will build two courts
- **Q:** If we vote to support, what's the likelihood it happens?
 - **A:** If WA supports it and the commissioners vote to support it, it will be built. Jono Cowgill, District 4 Commissioner, strongly supports this project and other commissioners do too.
- **Q:** What's the counterfactual? If park dedication funds were not used on this, what would happen with Clinton Field Park, and where else might those funds be used?
 - **A:** The funds could be used for any new/improved park projects in the Whittier Neighborhood. If Park Dedication Fees are not used for this project then the project will jump into the cycle for funds available in 2026
- **Q:** What will the impact be on traffic and parking?
 - **A:** A lot of our participants are coming to the Whittier Rec Center on foot or carpooling. Not everyone is coming by vehicle.
- **Motion** to support the use of Park Dedication Fees to build the futsal courts at Clinton Field Park. **Seconded.**
Motion passes by a unanimous vote of 13-0-0.

Hennepin County Shelter Project at 2400 Stevens

- Hennepin County is asking for WA's support of the conditional use permit that they will need to move forward with their plan.
- Background on the planning of the shelter was presented on three additional shelter programs for: 1. Native American, 2. Medical respite, 3. Female-identified individuals
- Q&A, survey feedback and minutes from the October Housing & Land Use Committee meeting can be found on the [Development Tracker](#).
- Seeking approval from the City for a conditional use permit for an emergency shelter at 2400 Stevens Ave.
- **Q:** Could outreach be expanded beyond 350 ft from the shelter?
 - **A:** We flyer'd the residential blocks around the area the past several weekends, and there are additional plans for further engagement in the future.
- **Q:** When it comes to the running of the shelter, what is your process with regard to finding people who are well meaning and understand people's lived experiences?
 - **A:** The demographics of our staff mirror the demographics of the population we serve. We're committed to hiring the right people, not just filling the role. We respond quickly and decisively, not arbitrarily, to concerns. We keep shelter guests informed and have a grievance policy in place.
- **Motion** to support the conditional use permit for the emergency shelter at 2400 Stevens Ave. **Seconded.**
Motion passes by a unanimous vote of 13-0-0.

Acting Committees

- **Housing and Land Use**
 - All information is in the cover memo.
 - Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 16.

- **Motion** to support HLU's vote to support the CommonBond development. **Seconded. Motion passes by a unanimous vote of 13-0-0.**
- **Community Engagement**
 - All information is in the cover memo.
 - Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 10.
 - WSN Urban Design group will meet Saturday at 4 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 8:42 PM. | Minutes respectfully submitted by Robb Larson.