

## Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft

August 26, 2021 6:00-8:30 PM

In-person at Calvary Church, 2608 Blaisdell Ave, online Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Cyndi Hovey, Stephanie Brown, Sydney Burroughs, Kami Brodie, Nick Hutchinson, Shinjan Sengupta, George Rishmawi, Deja' Jendro, Nate Rastetter, Daniel Perez, Brigid Higgins

**Absent:** Erika Boelk Tapia

**Non-board Community Members:**

**Staff:** Kaley Brown, Robb Larson

**Call to Order** at 6:05pm 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)



These beautiful signs designed by Brigid will be displayed on the fence of the 2116 Nicollet Lot! **If you were a passerby without any context of this lot, how would you answer this question?** You can dream big, small, practical and/or fanciful.

- Whittier Alliance office, small business incubator, shared nonprofit space
- Splash park and small music venue!
- People belong here - community
- Mixed nonprofit/commercial space with shared conference space, especially for place-based nonprofit orgs
- Something that sets an example for sustainability; a “maker-space” with shared tools and supplies that neighborhood can use; neighborhood “free store”
- Event space, community center, coworking space, combined commercial space, rooftop pool and bar
- Create an urban, vertical city that includes everything, break the rules and make it something nice
- Build something tall with a rooftop hot tub
- Include community meeting spaces
- Human library
- Make a place for people to meet and be together
- Youth-focused; somewhere for homeless youth to go, somewhere for the community to go to and be safe and welcomed

**Secretary's Report:** We have 13 active board members, all of whom are currently in good standing.

Three board members have been absent for one meeting and no board members have been absent for more than one. We will reach out to board members as-needed to make sure everyone is aware of any attendance issues, should they arise.

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 are continuing the process of convening a Nominations Committee to fill the 4 board vacancies; three of them are resident seats and one is a for-profit business seat.

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

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

- Received ~\$15K from the CPP Contract
- Closing the Sunrise checking account x0252 sometime in August
- Volunteer recognition (expense acct. #7273) shows as over budget because the Cultural Wellness Center is providing small VISA gift card stipends for participants in their Lake & Nicollet sessions; they are just pass through costs that will be reimbursed by CWC via check deposit.
- Fairly quiet month otherwise.

#### **Motion to accept July financials. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

990 form was included in the board packet. Two pieces of information flagged: list of board members on p. 7 and 8 shows everyone who served on the board for any amount of time during the year 2020. Businesses who received \$6,000 from the BIPOC Business Rebuild grant are listed here; Kaley is filling in EINs for this list of businesses as they are provided, and the 990 will be filed after that.

**Q:** Why do we have to list everyone who's a board member? Do you list staff member?

**A:** Anyone who is considered an "officer" of the organization with decision-making power gets listed. The only staff member that gets listed in addition to the Board is the Executive Director.

#### **Motion to approve 990 filing. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

Also will be filing the Attorney General's annual charitable organization reporting form with built-in resolution that has to be approved. Chair and Vice-Chair execute and certify that Board of Directors will assume responsibility for policy and supervise operations & finances of the organization.

#### **Motion to approve AG's Charitable Organization Annual Report Form. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

#### **Full Board Projects Timelines**

- Cyndi put together a full table which has the various timelines for WA's high priority projects. Please review in the board packet and share any schedule concerns.
- Propose combining November-December board meetings for December 16.
  - **Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**
- November Exec meeting (November 16) will include an opportunity for Board members to come and ask questions on and contribute to the 2022 annual budget draft.

#### **2116 Nicollet Steering Committee Charter**

- With the working group and exec, we decided this Board should review and approve applications for the project development steering committee. Review and approval will take place in next month's board meeting.
- **Motion to approve 2116 Nicollet Steering Committee Charter. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**
  - There should be flexibility for the number of people who have to be on the committee, and the meeting schedule. The charter can be amended in the future.
- Selection criteria and considerations for 2116 Nicollet Steering Committee
  - Considerations: This is not going to be a mathematical exercise in representation. We want a mix and balance of different dimensions. There is no fixed threshold for whether or not to recommend someone.
  - Criteria: Proximity to the site; Whittier residence; neighborhood connections (professional, personal, organizational); historically marginalized identity; gender identity; multi-generational household; regularly uses public transit; renters; other underrepresented perspectives; subject matter expertise; technical skillsets; multilingual; deep community knowledge or connections; clear and compelling interest/excitement; time and capacity.
  - The Board discussed some challenges and areas of ambiguity with regard to scoring and ranking applicants; a decision was made to include the YWCA in reviewing criteria and pre-scoring applicants on the areas that can be objectively assessed in order to reduce the amount of work for Board members.

#### Acting Committees

- **Housing and Land Use**
  - All information in cover memo.
  - There will be a vote next month for approval of community housing project.
  - Next meeting September 21.
- **Community Engagement**
  - All information in cover memo.
  - Next meeting September 8.

#### Updates

- We were approved for an AmeriCorps VISTA to start in March 2022
- Approved for a \$10,000 grant from CURA for ongoing anti-displacement work

#### Ongoing Projects, Board Projects List

- The board discussed the effectiveness of the Board Tracker tool and ideas to improve/amend it
- Annual Meeting planning work needs more helpers

**Closing question:** How could your inner monologue be gentler? How could you be kinder or more loving to yourself right now?

**Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm. | Minutes respectfully submitted by Robb Larson.**