

Whittier Business Association – Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

Hennepin History Museum (HHM) 2303 3rd Ave S

Present	Chelsea Adams (MPD), Tom Bissen (WA), Erica Christ (Black Forest), Elizabeth Grzechowiak (AZIA), Paul Jablonsky (Nic Car Wash), Darcy Knight (Old Arizona), Christina Le (Truong Thanh), Barb Lickness, Sharon Lund (Falls Agency), Maximo Mena (Mena's Intl), Cindy Ohlenkamp (Franklin Bank)
Speakers	Jada Hansen (HHM) / Hennepin Cty Med Ctr: Mike Harristhal, Nancy Newman, Angeles Juarez, Amy Douma (HGA) / Lisa Vecoli (MIA)
Staff	Marian Biehn

Call to Order by Chair Erica Christ. The Conflict of Interest & Standard of Conduct policies were noted. **Motion** to approve the agenda **carried**. A **motion** to approve the Feb 13, 2008 BA Meeting minutes **carried**.

Spotlight on Business – Hennepin History Museum – Jada Hansen: They are a first time BA host. The HHM is housed in the George Christian House built in 1915. He was a milling manager at the Washburn-Crosby Company. He was an art supporter and built the house with unusual materials and used highly skilled artisans. He died before the house was complete and left it to son and daughter in law. His son also died and his wife Carolyn McKnight Christian finished building the house. She had a kitchen installed on the main floor of the house which was unusual for that era. The HHM bought the house from the MIA in 1957 and they have been there since.

The origin of the HHM was in 1853 when pioneer families decided to start conserving and archiving some of the things from their daily lives. In 1938 it was known as the Hen. County Historical Society and now is the Hennepin History Museum. The oldest thing HHM has is from the 1700s. They also have Native American artifacts and over 30,000 photos of houses in their archives. They have an archivist on staffs who does research—it is free to the public. Their funding comes from the county but mostly from foundations. There is a membership fee. There is a \$5 fee for non-members.

MIA Strategic Plan – Lisa Vecoli

The MIA has completed the goals from their previous strategic plan: build a new wing, create and endowment for art and new branding. The new director would like to establish a new strategic plan and the MIA is asking for neighborhood feedback. They want a shorter flexible plan, 10 pages with 5-15 goals and be an evolving document that lives and moves. The discussion includes Whittier Health Care which they purchased. Where does the community want the MIA to go? All input will be part of the discussion. The questions asked of the internal staff are the ones also being asked of the community.

What do you value about MIA being in the community?

- Events on weeknights
- The exposure it brings the Whittier neighborhood
- Patrons using restaurants
- Source of pride for n'hood & residents
- Free exhibits and access
- Outdoor events using the park
- Recognizes the importance of n'hood and invests in using the n'hood
- Upkeep of grounds
- Events inside MIA—corporate use
- HHM likes the overflow of people that comes from MIA
- Museum shop
- Employees using Whittier businesses
- MN artists gallery

What do you not value about MIA?

- Traffic, school buses, exhaust from buses
- The negativity that the MIA brings out of some residents

What do you want from MIA/How can the MIA serve the n'hood better?

- Annual outdoor event
- More activity in Fair Oaks Park

- Exhibits/activities to appeal to younger people
- More outdoor art
- Mention the Whittier neighborhood in PR and printed material
- On sight info about n'hood businesses

What do you want MIA to do?

- Expand MN artists exhibit
- More access for community arts
- Collaborate with MCAD & CTC with plans

Lisa thanked everyone for their input and will bring the feedback to the MIA Board.

Hennepin County Medical Center, Former GFI Site Clinic Redevelopment 28th and Nicollet – Michael Harristhal, Nancy Newman, Angeles Juarez, Deborah Sweetland

Mike introduced the group and remarked that HCMC along with the Mayo is ranked #1-2 in life-saving. 94% of revenue is from patient services. \$10 million pay roll. The clinic has been in n'hood for 25 years. Deborah said they have been looking for a replacement site for 5 years to meet their current capacity of 50,000 patients per year. They will purchase and build a new clinic and have decided on the Former GFI site as fitting their needs and criteria. They have a purchase agreement with a 90 day due diligence (April 23). They looked at the K-Mart site too but they need to build now and this opportunity has presented itself for future growth. The building is proposed to be 50-60 sq ft but no official plans are ready yet. It will be primary care facility, preventative care and maybe some additional specialty services, alternative medicine, urgent care, therapy etc. They are interested in what other health care services might be wanted or needed. The building is 2-3 stories tall with a 25k sq ft footprint. There is a \$30 million budget they need to stick to. They are aware of the PO and the waste water removal needs.

It is a 130k sq ft lot and they do not have plans as to what will happen to the rest of the lot. The illustration is a very preliminary look at where the building will be, towards Nicollet. There will be green space included. They need 175 parking spaces and will use green space throughout the lot. With opportunity for the rest of the lot to be developed, they have talked to CM and Commissioners. There will be a WA Task Force to continue the conversation. Another issue is also what the front of the building will be since there are four "front door" sides to the site. Businesses may also potentially use the parking off-hours. Angeles noted the HCMC mission and wants to be a good neighbor and encourage neighborhood people to use the clinic. The clinic principles: affordable, green and green space, forefront of health care. Also want to respect the neighborhood vision

5th Precinct Report from Chelsea Adams CCP-Safe Specialist

Chelsea introduced herself as the new CCP Safe Specialist. She has been working with other neighborhoods and the Whittier neighborhood has been added to her coverage. She reminded businesses to be cautious. Don't leave cash in cash drawers. Wipe down cash register at end of night just in case someone does break in prints could be taken. She covered the recent crime statistics.

Old and New Business:

Annual Meeting – Thursday, April 3, 6-8pm

Good Neighbor/Good Business Candidates – Nominate a resident or business in the n'hood who you feel has done something distinguished or especially outstanding this year. Maybe your neighbor has done remodeling or a business made a façade improvement.

May Day Soiree Thursday May 1st, 2008

WA is looking for businesses to donate goods and services to the silent auction. Also restaurants are invited to donate food for the event to publicize your place.

Meeting adjourned. Minutes submitted by Marian Biehn

Next Meeting: Wed. April 9 Washburn Center for Children