

Whittier Business Assn
Wed. April 8, 2008 4-5:30pm
Washburn Center for Children

Call to Order: Called to order at 4:10. Erica announced the elections and asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

Attendees: Maurice Battle, Pastor 7th Day Adventist Church, Lisa Vecoli-MIA, Doug Johnson-MCAD, Pam Newsom-MCAD, Marcy Tollefson-Washburn Ctr for Children, Jeff Mandylke-MS & R, Mike O'Keefe-MCAD, David Mossenbecker-Oslen Design, Jim Hubal-Coldwell Banker Burnet, Elizabeth Grzechowiak-Azia, John Darlington-Simpson Church, Hassan Warsame-BP Petroleum, Chelsea Adams-Safe specialist 5th Pct. The Agenda was presented and a **Motion to approve** with addition of Façade Improvement Grant information under new/old business **Carried**. The March minutes were reviewed and a **motion** to approve **carried**.

Chelsea Adams: Crime Prevention Specialist. Chelsea reported that churches are getting burglarized for money, computers, etc. Flat screen TVs are hot item all over. She recommends that owners record serial number for electronic equipment. Get a laptop security system on equipment LoJack or CompuTrace (are 2 programs) so item can be traced. Bikes are getting stolen by a male and female pair in green Mitsubishi—they clip the locks. Male is white 6'. Block leader training is being held on May 12 at the Precinct for new and current block leaders. Contact Chelsea for existing block leaders or if you want to know if your block has a leader. She will pass your name on to the Block leader and they make the contact. What kinds of crimes patterns change in the spring? More motor vehicle thefts especially around lakes or going out for lunch and leaving things in the car. Don't put valuables in the trunk when you arrive—people are watching and will break into the trunk—put in trunk before arriving at destination. Key fob locks can be cloned now so be attentive. GPS units are still being stolen. Take it out and the support brackets as well. Take out anything visible. Some garage burglaries in the southern part of the precinct. If opening windows for ventilation, use pins so window can't be opened more than 6" An open window that a thief uses for entry is not considered "forced" entry. The homeless along Franklin & 3rd Ave are a concern for Hassan. Chelsea suggests working with Loaves & Fishes & St Stevens to try to reduce problem. Hassan asked for more drive by officers. Chelsea mentioned the Beat Officers. Day and night shifts. Hope to have more bikes for beat officers. BP has the no trespass signs. Chelsea passed out the aggressive pan handling information. If the same people consistently cause problems, they can be trespassed off the premises for 1 year. When do the organizations suffer some consequences if the population they serve continue to be a problem? Not much that can be done. Whose problem is it? Chelsea doesn't know. Track behavior and record it to show the organizations the relationship of their clientele to the deteriorating conditions: trash, panhandling, shop lifting etc. Personal or community impact statement can be helpful if a chronic offender gets into the court system.

Spot Light on Business: Washburn Center for Children, Marcy Tollefson. WCC note pads were passed out. Washburn center for children is a children's mental health facility. Out patient service, home based services, crisis services, and 10 staff in the Mpls public school system. Serve about 2000 kids per year and have 90 employees. Working on landscaping for the flat lot this year. Attending to budget issues by conserving. Bike rack installation has stalled due to lack of return call from Don Pflaum of the City.

Election of Chair and BA reps. 5 elected to the board from the BA but it has been a few years since there has been a full set of BA reps. Erica was nominated as chair by Elizabeth and 2nd by Lisa. **Motion carried.** Liza nominated Liz for a for-profit seat. Jim is interested but can not commit the time at this time. Hassan declined due to business commitments. Lisa Veloci and Maurice Battle were nominated for the non-profit seats. The one for-profit seat is left open at this time. The slate was **moved 2nd and carried.**

Mpls College of Art and Design: Revised flat lot plan. Mike O'Keefe thanked the BA for the opportunity to come back to n'hood for another presentation. They have previously presented a master plan and a plan for a flat lot. The WA board and the HPC both opposed the flat lot plan. MCAD has 170 full time staff and faculty. 90 adjunct staff with random schedules. 700 students. Serve about 2000 in continuing education and then random visitors. Peak time of week have about 500 cars coming into the campus. They have about 40= spaces

on campus now and the use of the MIA parking ramp. City ordinance requires a minimum number of pkg places --181 at this time. Coming back to us to ask for approval for the flat lot with the plan to present to the HPC in June. Parking lot is designed to be shielded by houses on Stevens.

Jeff Mandyke & David Mossenbecker One of the directives from the HPC was to reinforce the front door and street edge from 26th St. Looking at 3 themes. Proposing installing permanent landscape on 26th that pulls back the parking. Community garden, public space, sculpture garden. Plays off scale of historic block of n'hood. Creates a green space with trees and a wall—green space along 26th St is about 100' wide. They are proposing about 100 pkg places. Looking at future—how does the future expansion fit in. Trying to mitigate the sight line coming down the hill along 26th St. The green space would have different levels and elevations. Comments: looks more creative and it does address concealing the pkg lot. Why haven't other lots been approached for MCADs parking needs? Have had the MIA lot and therefore no need to add pkg. Have talked with Dispatch (26th and Stevens) and they are not interested in a pkg lot. The city ordinance says that an accessory lot has to be within 500 ft of site. Is the 5-7 years still on target for capital campaign? Could say yes but are in a cut back mode and enrollment is lower and economic times are rough. When there is capacity, they will move forward with the capital campaign plans. Masters students are still off site and they want to get them on campus. They are in the process now of developing analysis for capital campaign. The parking islands are storm water gardens and will be landscaped. The other cars that are not parked on campus will park in the n'hood. They are also implementing a bike and metro pass. About 3-400 students live within walking distance of the campus. MCAD will gate and charge for parking in the flat lot. If the number of cars that still need to be parked is 200, what can be done to accommodate them? There are about 200 on the street now. Off site accessory parking needs to be zoned consistently with MCAD. But could ask the city for a variance to have the accessory parking over 500 feet from MCAD. Other 2 schematics don't have the same landscape treatment—the one shown is the preferred. Looking for interim solution, and in the interim, whether or not there is a flat lot, some other solution is needed to accommodate MCAD's parking requirement. Shared parking—how is it enforced? Currently lots in Whittier that are shared have towing contracts that remove the offenders. By nature students will do the most expedient thing and park in the closed open spot. It was recommended that MCAD get shared parking for a more static population like staff. How is the priority for the lot going to be handled? It will be random. Probably a few priority spots for upper level admin. Parking will be priced minimally and reasonably. Fees will be on card system 24/7. Lisa presented the issues of resolving a paid lot card for access and exit. And gave MIA side of how they will have to adjust to assure that the MIA ramp is used by MIA patrons and staff—not MCAD students. Controlled lots—a sticker program possibly.

To clarify the board voted against the demo of the blue house and the flat lot but did vote for the vacation of 2nd Ave. O'Keeffe said the blue house will potentially be moved. MCAD wants to keep the sight line open to the Morrison building from 26th St. Fronting on 26th puts more emphasis on the green space. Will this alleviate the parking in the n'hood? Probably not. Can not build enough parking. MCAD knew the MIA lot was not going to be available to them indefinitely. They should have been more proactive with long term planning and had more foresight. General comments: Like different levels green area. Greenspace could slow down traffic. Looks more like a gateway. No easy solution for parking.

Old New Business: The May Day Soiree was pitched and donations were requested. Graffiti removal materials are available in the WA office for free. The Greet Street Façade Improvement Grant is available for use in the n'hood. The BA will meet at the MIA next month and see the Virtual Art installations. The BA-CPED grant will also cover the cost of a marketing study to identify complimentary business and outline a plan to recruit them to Nicollet & the commercial corridors.

Meeting Adjourn 5:40

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marian Biehn

Next Meeting: May 13, Mpls Institute of Arts 11-1:30pm