

Whittier Alliance Community Issues Committee Meetings- DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2011, Whittier Park

Attendees: Maurice Battle-Chair, Mary Cable, A. Covegrove, Rob Davis, Felino de la Pena, Verne Greenlee, Kathryn Hang, Matthew J. Harmony, Brian Hoffman, Laura Jean, CM Robert Lilligren, Cory Martin, Linda M. Martin, Diane Moe, Tom ---Chris Popowski, Ben Ptacek, Larry Sanderson, David W. Schroth, Josie Shardlow, Natasha Shavwer, Erin Sjoquist, Olsa Thompson, Mike Tupper, Shannon Tupper

Presenters: Matthew Bickford, Mark Lakosky, Brian Liebeck, Joe Madison, Tom Nguyen, S. I. Nguyen, 5th Precinct Rep

Staff: Marian Biehn, Lisa Hermanson, Jen Wendland

Call to order at 6:10 by Maurice Battle, Committee Chair, who noted the Conflict of Interest & Standard of Conduct policies. A motion to **approve the agenda** was made, and carried. A motion to **approve** the August CI minutes **carried**.

Announcements and Community Comments

5th Precinct report—5th Precinct Representative: Charles Anthony Bailey was just arrested for burglary at 2432 Lyndale Ave. S. August Crumb was arrested on 9/9 for motor vehicle theft at 2728 Pillsbury Ave. There was a robbery involving a gun at 3030 Blaisdell Ave. Isaiah Washington and DeAnthony Taylor were arrested. They are suspects in other crimes as well. There was a bar related assault at Pancho Villa on 9/10 at 2:10 am with stabbings. One victim remains at Hennepin County Medical Center. It's an ongoing investigation with no one in custody. Sullivan's parking lot loitering etc is still being worked on. Problem has moved to Office Max/Rainbow Foods-illegal food stamp sales. The shooting at Park Sq on 8/25 was not a fatal shooting. It was considered a shooting of occupied clothing and was not related to Park Sq. There was a report of a home burglary involving strangulation. The victim reported being unconscious for several hours. When she woke up, she reported items missing. This was possibly a domestic assault-inconsistencies in the report. There are still lots of problems at 22nd St and 3rd Ave as well as Franklin St & 3rd Ave.--lots of people hanging out as well as calls about narcotics and banging on windows. Chicago and Franklin has experienced a 36% increase in crime. Everywhere else has seen 3% decrease. Inspector Clark is very aware of this. The 3rd Precinct and 5th Precinct have geographical restrictions, and criminals have moved from one precinct to another. Q: Do you have any further information about the narcotics bust at Franklin liquor? A: I have no further information except that the drug deal started downtown. The criminals were not residents of Whittier. Officers from downtown were involved. Shots were fired, but no one died. Comment: A couple wks ago at 22nd St and 1st Ave., a woman fell in the middle of the street. She was Native American. 911 was called and the first thing the officer asked the woman is if she had been drinking, not are you ok? He was a white male officer. His conduct was offensive. A: He should not have done that. When things like that happen you should contact the policeman's supervisor.

Whittier Park Director Diane Moe: Pleased to be at Whittier Park. Grew up in South Minneapolis and has BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado-Boulder and a degree in Parks and Recreations from the U of M. Has worked at Bloomington Parks and Rec and coordinated public arts projects such as Pioneers Monument, the 35W Bridge Memorial and the structure at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Enjoys the local parks; they are safe, friendly and welcoming. Please enjoy the parks and participate in park meetings and talk about more programs. The computer lab is open to everyone, not just kids. Contact me at dmoe@minneapolisparcs.org if you have any questions. I also supervise Washburn-Fair Oaks and Stevens Square. Q: How do you determine how much is spent on kids' programs at Whittier Park? A: Each park gets budget for staff and programming. Q: Can you request funds for Clinton field? A: We can look at it next summer. The current focus is more on teens. Exploring how to broaden the reach like letting young kids in the gym in the winter during the day. Please share any ideas you have. Clinton field is safer now but the soccer field is in rough shape. Is there a way we can solve this issue? A: Yes the park has a whole new Planning Dept. and can apply for grants. Q: What is the status of the proposed Washburn Fair Oaks Chinese Garden? A: In the process of a fundraiser challenge presented by the Park Board as part of the approval to move forward. There should be more information about this next month. Of note, this is the only park under consideration for the Chinese Garden.

Senate District 61: Reminder: There is a primary election on Tuesday, September 13th. See the back of the flier for details. Please participate and fulfill your civic responsibilities.

Whittier Clean-up: The Oct 29 2011 Whittier Clean-Up sign-up sheet was passed around. There are 9 n'hood zones and teams are needed from each zone. Look for zone captains who will help recruit more team members. Come to Whittier Park afterward for celebration, including: awards benefit, snacks, socializing and prizes most interesting trash and most people recruited. It's optional to be a team captain, but it's not much work—pick up materials one week ahead of time and recruit new team members..

Green Fair-Saturday, November 12th will be the 5th Annual Green Fair. In light of the monumental anniversary, we are trying to shake things up and increase participation, including having engaging and motivating speakers. Don Shelby and Paul Douglas are invited as guest speakers. Please share ideas for speakers so that we can draw more people in. The sign-up sheet to volunteer will be passed out. We need volunteers for before and during fair to help with setup and tear down as well as sharing ideas and getting the word around. The event will be held at First Christian church. Email Jen Wendland with questions.

Neighborhood Wine Tasting Wed Oct 26: The 29th Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser for seven South Minneapolis n'hoods. Tickets are on sale for \$25 per person. Ticket proceeds go to the n'hood where the ticket is purchased. Every penny earned from tickets purchased in the Whittier n'hood will go to Whittier Alliance. You can purchase tickets through PayPal on the Whittier Alliance website. There will be 400 varieties of wine and a light appetizers from Chef Tim Mckee. It will be located on the 1st and 2nd floors at Calhoun Square. This is a large community fundraiser, so invite your friends. Information is also on the Whittier Alliance website. Tickets available tonight, if you would like to purchase them now.

Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC): If you are over 50, or know someone who is, there will be a FREE peripheral arterial disease screening for diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. There are 70 apts open. Call Whittier Alliance or HCMC to sign up.

MPLS Fire Fighter Union Rep- Joe Madison & Mark Lakosky- Fire Fighters Union

In past month, there has been a battle with the City of Minneapolis on how reduction of services affects residents. Fire Dept. has over 100 less firefighters now than it did 17yrs. ago, and there has been at least a 2% fall each year. The budget is down 20%, and the dept. is at its tipping point, so it has started campaign against having to continue to do more with less. Support core services and infrastructure includes the fire dept. Reduction means more injuries and less effective service. Effective CPR means four people conducting it, not one. When someone calls 911, the dispatcher calls the fire dept. first, then calls emergency response. Firefighters and police have been thrown into politics to talk budget. Any cuts to services affect response time and costs lives. Mayor Rybak wants to hold the line on property taxes, which means not allowing the chief to replace retirees. The Fire Dept.'s injuries and response are all time high numbers. Speak to your councilmembers. The Medical Director of Hennepin County will tell you that a high response time cost lives. They used to have a response time of 3 minutes and 20 seconds; now it's up to 4 minutes. The Minneapolis Fire Dept. leads the country in conducting CPR—including doing it in difficult situations. This is not a "save jobs" campaign but the residents of Minneapolis need safety. The FF Union was working to maintain Fire Dept. and be able to reclaim being the leader they used to be. The dept. conducts commercial and residential inspections, which brings in some money. These are intended to be facts not persuasion. There are the same number of stations with less rigs and down 100 people which they feel cannot deliver the same level of services or protection. The Firefighters fear that each time the budget is presented, it is the cops and fire depts. that get cut. The core services should grow rather than shrink. Firefighters are dispatched to each 911 call because it's often unclear or uncertain what is wrong. Officers defer to fire to do medical assessments. When an emergency call comes in the caller isn't always clear what the problem is. About 80% of the calls they get are EMS calls.

Ambulance response service could come from anywhere within Hennepin County, which means it could take a while to get to the call location. An ambulance response can deliver basic live support (BLS) and will keep you alive. Ambulance isn't required to have a response time less than 8 minutes. In some communities, police depts do BLS. One attendee reported that he has needed emergency response several times in the past year and the care was unbelievable. The City budget does not make cuts to the Fire Dept. for 2012, but the chief was told to manage the overtime. The objective is with injuries they're getting—measured by response time and having the appropriate number on a scene. Among other concerns were whether response times affect insurance rates, which is among insurance company practices, but as of yet, the city has not been upgraded; street clogging (with multiple response teams), which is practiced in other municipalities; and the extent to which firefighters are encouraged to be or become Minneapolis residents. Over 33% of Minneapolis firefighters are residents. Applicants get 5 points for being a resident, which is a lot. They used to encourage firefighters to move to Minneapolis by offering low interest loans.

Council Member Robert Lilligren: CM Lilligren commented that the fire fighters were speaking on behalf the union, not the fire dept. The point of public safety is that they do go through extra measure to ensure they are as unharmed as possible. Mayor Rybak promised no cuts to the fire dept., though that will mean larger cuts to others.

The mayor had to cut a lot out of budget. Every year has been a cutting year, and structural and permanent cuts are less deep. Fire Chief Jackson offered to come speak next month. Response times will be kept low even with fewer people working. These are difficult times in gov't, but they will be doing improvements as well as keeping the fire dept. fully funded. Attendees commented that fewer people doing same amount of work over time breaks down and in this particular case any inefficiencies have likely been corrected; and Council Member Lillgren should take an opportunity to go to a local fire dept. and ask for a ride-along, which he responded that he has been on ride-alongs and was amazed at the physical strain of CPR. The concern was expressed that as the City has had a lot of closed door meetings, which led to questions about Neighborhood Revitalization Program policy board formation, future transparency and CM Lillgren's vote to freeze 50% of NRP funds. The response was that the City has been trying to engage the NRP. Phases 1 and 2 will continue as planned until 2012. There will be lots of information that will come out in next committee of the whole plan regarding NRP. The City is still working on consolidation plans. The Policy Board did make changes to the last plan. This could be discussed as an agenda item at a future meeting unless the NRP changes its plan.

Ice House Plaza- Dean Duvolis-Mark Krogh Presenters did not cancel – did not attend/present.

Ice House 2528 Nicollet-Matthew Bickford & Brian Liebeck

The Ice House will be both a restaurant and a live entertainment venue. That will require Class B licensure for live music entertainment--more than 3-4 performers on stage. They hope to have the former Turf Club manager, who ran as the Ice House general manager. He has experience with running a bar with entertainment and know how to prevent or spot issues and patron problems. The business will first and foremost be a restaurant. No dancing/ cover charge generally. However, they may need to require a fee for certain bands. The idea is to be popular destination and to try to keep price down and maintain integrity of entertainment, drinks and food. A premier mixologist-bartender as well as educating staff not to over-serve patrons will help launch that part of the service. Ice House will not be a night club. They want to be an amenity to the n'hood and feel this n'hood is a good compliment to their endeavor. The ice House will be more edgy than the Dakota. Class B requires extra parking: 66 spots. They are currently working with local landowners and developers on that. The inside has a capacity of 175 people. Patio does not yet have a capacity because part of it is public space, which they cannot lay claim to. The Class B license drives the parking requirement up. They currently have a verbal agreement with Payday America to lease a parking lot. Right now they figure they need 60 spaces. An attendee commented that similar businesses have been added to the n'hood that are good additions to Eat Street. It is likely that property values will rise. They will be offering honest food including meats prepared in house with appropriate prices. The same will be true with the beverage program as well as giving help to local talent. They will someone tailor ourselves to musicians' families. They distinctly didn't want to be downtown, but Class A licensing would have been easy there. They respect the fact that Class B is huge for this area. Proposed hours are 10:00 am to 1:00 am with food served from 10:00 am to 12:00 am 7 days per week. They plan to offer jazz gospel lunch on Sundays and possibly brunch on weekends. After applying for the license, there will be a public hearing process. A soft December opening and a New Years hard opening is desired but may be aggressive. They would need to consider costs and let process run.

CI Motion 1: The Community Issues Committee moves to approve the Ice House deli concept including a Class B liquor license at 2528 Nicollet Ave. on the condition that the applicant resolve the outdoor seating issue and meets the parking requirements associate with a Class B liquor license and seating capacity. **Motion carried.**

2828 Blaisdell Ave. S. Sopheak Pho- Did not cancel – did not attend or present

2612 1st Ave S – Tom Nguyen & Si Nguyen – Sunshine Adult Day Care

The owners have returned to the CI meeting to present for a change in non-conforming use to allow for an adult daycare center. The lease with the current tenant expires soon, and they as the property owners would like to open an adult daycare. The property is zoned for residents. Many concerns were addressed and answered. They have spoken with the County and applied for a license which would be held by the property owners. The building is being leased as an office right now, not an adult daycare. The City inspector says they need to change the zoning status before they can get a license. The facility will be for adults over the age of 65. There is a maximum capacity of 50 people. It will be for seniors with diabetes, stress, limited English proficiency, to exercise, to relax, socialize or for those who have no other caregivers. Plans were shown and described. They will contract with a licensed nurse for minor medical services. Education will be about language and culture. There will be sessions in morning and afternoon. Mr. Nguyen has volunteered with the community, and the State does not require him to heath, elder care,

or social services. It was commented that the community members would feel more comfortable knowing the clients would be attended by trained personnel. They will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm , lunch will be purchased from neighboring restaurant. There was a concern that, after owning the building for 6 yrs, they never fulfilled landscaped requirements. The client base already goes to daycares in other locations. There are currently no adult day cares in Whittier, and the other locations in Mpls do not have staff that can speak Vietnamese. The facility is not currently in operation. The clients will be charged about \$30-\$50 per hour, but Medicare will be accepted if the service is covered. They have four licensed staff. They will start working with primarily Vietnamese people, and possibly expand to serve others.

Discussion: The community doesn't necessarily dislike the idea, but there was concern about how quality services would be provided. Will they go beyond expectations or skirt the minimum? A reference was again made to landscaping the parking lot. There is concern that minimal requirements will be back. Plans for quality services or extra staff to make this good have fulfilled all State requirements including number of license staff.

An outline of the proposed services was distributed. At the time of applying for the day care license, they didn't know that they would need to request a change non-conforming use. The business will help the n'hood because otherwise the building will be vacant, which is bad for the community. They will provide employment and support other local businesses as well as offer a service to elderly in the area. A van with a licensed driver will be provided. The community would like to learn more about the costs of these services and how it will apply be compared. A: The gov't will pay for most of them. These people are already served in other places that don't offer other services such as programs for languages etc. There was concern that what was being said and the written plan were not aligning. It would likely benefit the Vietnamese community to have something that is local, but is there an individual plan for each person? How will provide service be provided to the functionally impaired through an individual plan of care with 1 nurse and 2 people with CPR training? The misunderstanding was corrected that they are not targeting the functionally challenged but instead addressing stress and isolation. It will be more of a community center for seniors. An attendee commented that after living here for 50+ yrs, when immigrants from other cultures are lonely, unable to have people they know or people to talk to them with problems or physical ailments, it would help to have someone who knows their language and care for them. Maybe this endeavor is not completely planned, but it's probably better than nothing

CI Motion 2: The Community Issues Committee supports a change in non-conforming use for an Adult Daycare Center at 2612 1st Ave S. **Motion moves to board 6-6-3.**

The consensus was that they may have less resistance without calling your business an adult daycare center since its purpose is not medical but social. Additional information will be sought on the licensing requirements and building use prior to the board meeting.

Old/New Business: None

Meeting adjourned: 8:02

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Hermanson, Whittier Alliance Administrative Assistant.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 10th.