

Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting
Wednesday, March 28, 2017 6:30-8:00pm
Whittier International Elementary School

Attendees: Registered: Osman Ahmed, Luna Allen-Bakerian, Mariana Arriaza, Crystal Audi, David Bagley, Matt Barthelemy, Kevin Beaudin, Ben Bauch, Dominique Bereiter, Frank Birch, Austin Blanch, Jason Bliss, Regina Bremmer, Henry Bromelkamp, Stephanie Brown, Angelica Cadenza, Mahamad Cali, Pat Carney, Viswavardhan Challa, Erica Christ, Wanda Classen, Michelle Conway, Sam Courtright, Emily Courtright, Michael Davis, Candice Davis, Felino de la Pena, Eli Edleson-Stein, Johan Engevik, Sam Fettig, Maria Finsness, Brian Foster, Daniel Fuller, Alexander Glass, Fred Glazer, Grant Hagstrom, Jenny O Hansen, Kathryn Hare, Nancy Hicks, Will Hodges, Cyndi Hovey, Laura Jean, Gwendolyn Jenkins, Tom Johnson, Jen Kader, Ella Kampelman, Dari Kolstad, Willow Kreibich, Dave La Violette, Christina Le, Lisa Legge, Anne Lehman, Larry Ludeman, Charmaine Madrid, Mary Madrid, Jaime Madrid, Brooks Mahoney, Mark Mahoney, Michael Malone, Linda Martin, Francisco Martinez, Aldona Martinka, Kristine Martinson, Lina Maria Marulanda Gaitan, Scott Melamed, Josephine Musumeci, Samantha Nelson, Kurt Nelson, Andrew Nordick, Ebiere Okah, Asha Omar, Jesse Oyervides, Aditya Penngonda, Araceli Perez, Christopher-Michael Perez, Christine Popowski, Nate Rastetter, Lauren Robertson, Grant Rockwood, Jim Roscoe, Larry Sanderson, Joseph Scarpollino, Greg Schmidt, Brandon Schorsch, David Schroth, David Schuster, Noa Shavit-Lonstein, Erin Sjoquist, Scott Smedberg, Daphna Stromberg, Tod Skallerup, Cassandra Tommerdahl, Fatumo Urur, Alexis Walstad, Jenne Wiedemeier, Hannah Wiesner, Paulette Will, Tammy Wong, Cynthia Wong, James Wrayge, Martha Nemesi, Geri Jerez

Non registered-

Presenters/guests: Karen Clark, Lisa Bender

Staff: Kaley Brown, Dan Stanton, Marcus Vandersanden

Call to Order at 6:37pm by Whittier Alliance Board Chair David Bagley

David welcomes everyone to the Annual Meeting and overviews the evening:

- Look back at 2017
- Elect Whittier Alliance board members for 2018

Board member and staff introductions.

Board Chair Introduction - David Bagley

David thanks everyone for all the help they have given us over the years. He also thanks staff - they have carried us through what has been a tumultuous year.

Secondly, he provides organizational highlights for 2017: youth grants, cops on bikes, farmers market, oral history project, reviewing development prop, helping businesses with 35W construction, etc. → WA contributes many things - both big and small

Things are going to get even more interesting: struggling through 35W build out over next couple years; rising rents, rising taxes, increased development will continue to challenge neighborhood

Currently, the city is looking at how they will fund neighborhood orgs. moving forward, and they have issued the [Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap draft](#):

- Big deal - City currently funds about half of Whittier Alliance's annual expenses (city gives us about \$150,000/year → it's extremely important to us)
- City is asking for email responses: ncr@minneapolismn.gov, not an online form
 - Power of individuals is more effective than one email from the Whittier Alliance
 - Not guaranteed that there will be any funding beyond end of 2020; without this, the organization would last about 2-3 years in the current shape
 - David asks that attendees ask NCR to at least maintain the current level of funding
 - Second thing to point out: document floats 3 funding proposals going forward - 1 is more or less as they are now, another moves to a grant based model, and the third awards money based on capability of organizations
 - Begs to not increase the bureaucracy across this process → we already have to go through City at multiple levels
 - City acknowledges value of Neighborhood Organizations → NCR puts monetary value to it
 - As you reach out to NCR and our councilwoman lisa.bender@minneapolis.mn.gov, let's remind them of the importance of NOs → voices of many

David introduces team of League of Women Voters: Chris, Pam, Brigid, Alice (Parliamentarian and Moderator)
 He thanks the League of Women Voters for their service; they show up year after year to volunteer their time and services

The Agenda and Standard of Conduct were recognized.
 Quorum was established.

Secretary's Report, Erin Sjoquist:

The minutes from the 2017 annual meeting were presented and a **motion** to approve minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting was seconded and **carried**.

Board Candidate Introduction & Election, David Bagley & League of Women Voters:

David reads responsibilities of being a Whittier Alliance board member:

(taken from Whittier Alliance By-Laws)

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Duties and General Powers The business and property of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors. The Board shall conduct meetings, transact the business, manage the affairs and determine strategic planning and policy for the Corporation

The director's duty is a duty of care, a duty of loyalty and a duty of obedience.

The duty of care requires the director to exercise the skill and care that a reasonable person would use under similar circumstances. The duty of loyalty requires directors to place loyalty to the corporation above other interests and associations. Directors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and recuse themselves from debate or votes when an actual or perceived conflict exists. The duty of obedience requires directors to act in accordance with the organization's articles of incorporation, By-Laws and other governing documents, as well as all applicable laws and regulations.

The duties of the Board of Directors shall include but not be limited to:

A. Governing the organization by establishing broad policies and objectives
B. Hiring, setting compensation and reviewing the performance of the executive director
C. Financial oversight of the corporation
D. Approving annual budget of the corporation
E. Representing the interests of the corporation in all such duties and responsibilities as needed to support the health of the corporation as deemed to be in the best interest of the corporation.
The board shall exercise all such powers subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, these By-Laws and all applicable laws, and with fiduciary responsibility to the Corporation and its membership.

Alice Moorman introduces the board candidates:

- Alphabetically (1 minute to introduce oneself)
- 30 seconds or less to answer questions
- Time keeper with two cards (10 seconds, stop)
- 7 candidates, and there are five seats for re-election

INTRODUCTIONS

Crystal Audi

She is excited to be here. She moved to Whittier in July after graduation. She now works as a research assistant at Hennepin County. She grew up in Milwaukee, and she had her first experiences in advocacy with her parents. Her parents are immigrants and small business owners, and they taught the importance of making sure your voice is heard. She is running because she believes community engagement is important and she wants to make sure it's inclusive → for those that are traditionally excluded from neighborhood organizations.

Cyndi Hovey

She says she is happy to see so many here. Lived in Whittier 3+ years. This is the first neighborhood that she found deep connection in. She brings experience and skills: event planner, community liaison, compassion commitment, curiosity, build relationships within disagreements, seek equitable outreach - ensure voices are heard. She wants to engage renters, homeowners, people from all walks of life.

Laura Jean

She served 9 years as vice-chair on the board and wants to work for one more term - need to find Executive Director and work on strategic plan. She is an analyst and advocate, culturally sensitive and aware, wants to help all stakeholders, not afraid to speak her mind. "Vote for me -- or as children would say: vote for mom."

Aldona Martinka

She has lived in Whittier for 3 years. This is the first neighborhood that she called home as an adult. She fell in love with Whittier because of the people. Everyone is different but it's beautiful. Her board term would revolve around people. She has done strategic planning and grant work, but work she's most proud of is in coalition building and community engagement. She wants this to be her legacy on the board → make WA better.

Jesse Oyervides

Since his kid was five years old, he has been on board. He only lost one election, and now that kid is 18-years-old. He has a passion for the youth. He sees high density and people coming to the community. If he gets elected, work on American Disability would be his priority. Community is people getting involved; thanks

everyone for getting involved.

Michael Perez

Visual artist, mcad alum, works at CTC. He is excited to strengthen efforts to increase partnerships with current business partners and make more opportunities to neighbors and everyone that is a part of this community. He wants to champion efforts so that every voice is heard, including marginalized voices. He will advocate for opportunities for community outreach, and looks forward to joining everyone here. He is a transplant from Texas and loves being here.

Erin Sjoquist

Resident for 16 years. We all live here for the same reasons: diversity, walkability, small shops. She loves living here. She has kids that go to Whittier International. She tries hard to bridge local community around the school. She has been the secretary for the last couple of years.

Alice asks candidates to come up in the order that they spoke:

Questions from the audience-

1) Does anyone speak a different language other than English?

- a) Jesse - Spanish
- b) Aldona - Lithuanian, French, Italian, Hindi, Spanish
- c) Crystal - Arabic
- d) Cyndi, Laura Jean, Erin - some Spanish

2) Renter or homeowner?

- a) Renter - Crystal Audi, Cyndi Hovey, Aldona Martinka, Michael Perez, Jesse Oyervides
- b) Homeowner - Laura Jean, Erin Sjoquist

3) What ideas for engagement do the candidates have?

- a) Crystal - a lot of ideas - important to meet people where they're at. Reach out to people that are not usually involved here. Students, renters, homeowners - everyone that is here apart of the community - provide forums and discussion groups to see what priorities are.
- b) Cyndi - biggest thing - sustainability - not just one time opportunities to show up, but want opportunities for taking leadership - committees and task forces and giving people ownership of their community.
- c) Laura Jean- What we need most is for everyone is to volunteer to engage community
- d) Aldona - powermapping is a technique- love to use database that the WA keeps track of, use resources we already have to create something powerful
- e) Jesse - lives at 2930 Blaisdell Ave - if you see gardens there, they're done by volunteers, engaging there gives chance to engage with neighbors. Lives across Somali mall and he engages with neighbors there. It's hard for them to come here.
- f) Michael - Do not just invite people to come to Alliance events, but go to them - meet them where they're at. Make sure people are out there being engaged and having that time to learn about the other people that are in the neighborhood.
- g) Erin Sjoquist - Foundations - have fabulous staff, nothing happens without them. Then, it's just what each person can do - reaching out to make that extra call to other community members to get them to meetings

4) How aware are you of past outreach at the Alliance?

- a) Erin - lots in the past - community liaison - vet abilities to do community outreach
- b) Michael - most of my experience has been through public events - social ice cream, but this can be heightened
- c) Jesse - He used to be a volunteer at Whittier Farmers Market, engage with community and

- board member and resident. 13 years as board - outreach to Somali community, important to have a good staff
- d) Aldonda - Community engagement is hard work. Improving engagement does not mean nothing has been done. We do a lot and there is always more that can be done - many people have never heard of it and this shows that there is always more than we can do.
 - e) Laura Jean - variety - emails, have things translated and getting better at it, host variety of events not just meetings (not everyone wants to go to meetings), engage stakeholders for strategic planning process, it's ongoing and have to adjust to this.
 - f) Cyndi - She gets emails and see flyers around. The four of them handed out flyers ~400 or so flyers. She also took time to talk to shop owners at Karmel Mall and receive feedback on how they can better to engage the shop owners there.
 - g) Crystal - aware of previous efforts, moved here fairly recent and its difficult to get involved at first → intimidating. Meet people where they are to draw people in.

5) Alice asks a question: name one way businesses could better connect with neighborhood customers

- a) Cyndi - exciting about community - people come from outside of it, there are places people go to be apart of our community. WA resident discount card - diff businesses could be a part of, encourage people who live here to share
- b) Aldona - important to point out that there is wide variety of varying financial statues of people, encourage businesses to serve lower income brackets, anyone can get food on eat street
- c) Jesse - some have low income, nice to have discounts and deals once a week. Our businesses are getting ready to pay \$15 an hour. Word of mouth - engage residents to support businesses and get residents to join.
- d) Michael - businesses need to focus efforts within the community in addition to outside efforts. So much the neighborhood has to offer, be involved with Whittier to be a part of it.
- e) Erin - bike racks in front of businesses, tell people how to get there discount for walking in
- f) Laura Jean - businesses do a good job of working with community orgs. Family-friendly opportunities that are good for kids.
- g) Crystal - support minority business owners. Make restaurants accessible for the entire community - get businesses to be at our festivals and our events.

This marks the end of the Q&A.

Candidates will stay standing so that people remember who is who.

7 candidates, and you cannot vote for more than five -- if you do, ballot is disqualified. Can't vote for a candidate more than once.

Ballots are passed out and then collected.

Lisa Bender - Council President

Happy to be here. She is the councilperson for Ward 10, and is glad everyone took time out of eventing to be here -- Great reminders about richness of this community, all of the involvement here. At the beginning of this term, she was elected President of City Council. Ward is still her priority - many stood with renters that tried to evict their tenants, we stand together. Renter protection policies, housing affordability, thanks to all community's leadership. Looking for creative ways to help incentivize landlords keeping prop taxes lower. Creative solutions to keep people in this community. Came from public safety meeting → april 10th meeting at Sabathani. What is special about Ward 10 and Whittier is city-wide view as we tackle racial injustice in policing. Now, the 5th precinct sends mental health professionals out in certain issues with police. She is excited to hear new ideas. She then introduces Rep. Karen Clark:

Keynote Speaker: Representative Karen Clark, Minnesota House District 62A

Audience applauds and stands for Karen Clark

She has been doing this job for 38 years. Feeling energy issues pain of neighborhoods. Came in when people talked about being on the board → thank you for running, big responsibility but can also be a joy. Nice to come and be with you all to hear ideas. Highlights of what she's seen:

- Elected in 1980.
- Lived in Phillips for 40 years.
- When she ran for election, she was recruited to run.
- Recruited by farmer-laborer caucus - populist party, doing organizing in the community.
- Things that have changed and not changed:
 - Economic and social justice has not changed - still what our people need.
 - Things that have changed:
 - 1981, first open lesbian that ran for state legislature -- day she was to be sworn in, they had a motion to not seat her because she must have been an immoral person. Now, we have three!
 - Things to continue working on:
 - Affordable housing and good paying jobs - are issues she has worked on. 4000 people are homeless, and we do not even have a housing committee at the House.
 - We're also talking about renters rights, gentrification. 7-8 years ago, called a meeting and asked to talk about gentrification in Whittier - specifically the Latino community - we started raising awareness. Important that those of us that are not in charge - raise awareness of the issues.
 - Issue of healthcare - important issue to her. However, this has not come about (so much work to do). Universal health care, reproductive rights - we've gone backwards. Other health issue related to housing - law in Minnesota that has big gap in terms of renters knowing if it has toxic lead in their apartment or other toxic things.
 - Right now, if your prop owner has been tested, then you have a right to know. Otherwise, they do not have to tell you. Been meeting with landlords of MN housing to get some compromise worked out.
- Issue of environment is key:
 - disproportionate effect on lower income communities. Working on businesses that pollute the air and mapped what this impact looks like (in Phillips).
- Now working on issue of sex trafficking, prostitution as it relates to the opioid crisis.
- 100 years of women's suffrage as of next year - haven't got a hearing on that bill. LGBTQ rights - put sexual orientation into our state law.
- Lesson you can win your rights but you have to keep holding on. Lots of things that need to be worked on -- invite to come hang out and work on renters rights. What can change people's hearts and minds is a real human face and telling one's story. Grateful to work with and represent for so many years. Visit the capitol. Thank you very much, it's been an honor.

Year in Review/Look Ahead: Kaley Brown, Whittier Alliance Interim Executive Director:

Kaley is currently serving as Interim Executive Director

Last year, elected to WA's board. Now, she is thrilled that six months later she is in full-time role

Incredible to look back on 2017 accomplishments

- 35,000 to youth serving orgs
- Develop coalitions - faith leaders, residents doing part for ESC
- Collab with other orgs for candidate forum

- Beginning of 2018 -2022 strat plan process, appreciate everyone taking time
 - Six different focus group discussions, social services, renters, latinx, somali, homeowners, open to public world cafe, online survey
 - Ultimate goal is to create a five year plan
 - Hope to have complete draft plan available for comment in may - want new board members to play role in that process
 - Final version will require vote by 50 or more comm members, hope you'll stick with us throughout the spring
 - Meeting will be in June most likely
 - *Comm building, outreach, engagement is top priority*
 - *Housing*
 - *Support for small business and commercial*

- WA will stive in 2018-beyond to serve as platform for community conversations to take place and take off towards progress
- We can't do it alone -- we need you -- skills, energy, time
- Look forward to working with all of you together

The Good Neighbor Award: Scott Melamed, Board member

Morgan is not here right now

Morgan Luzier is the Good Neighbor this year

Good Business Award: Wanda Classen

Wanda Classen presenting award for Good Business:

- Grateful for multiple groceries store in Whittier
- One of the grocery stores that she nominated was good grocer, worked to understand the needs of the community - looking at affordable food for all, one of volunteer coop members -- even when construction forced them to close
- Model of volunteers working to keep costs down - gets people from all backgrounds involved, makes accessible food affordable to all

Kurt Vickman - says thank you, gotten to know people in this neighborhood and it changed his life in a lot of ways. Volunteers make food affordable in this neighborhood. Purchased a piece of property on 2644 Nicollet Ave S - will open there in next year or so. Excited about people being able to eat food that is affordable and healthy. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report, Christina Le

Our finance committee meets every month to look at finance reports → each expense is coded to a strategic that we have -- housing, commercial corridors, youth programs, community engagement, then sent out to CPA at Petersen Professionals; she takes care of all reporting and reports that to the board. Board looks back and approves it.

Motion to approve the 2017 finances. Seconded. Approved.

Committee Reports, Andrew Nordick & Scott Melamed

Business Association - Andrew Nordick

He chairs the business association

Last year, we did a number of things:

- Refreshed dining guide
- Aggregate number of resources for businesses and put them on our website, free resources to management links and finance info
- WA stakeholders - took time to facilitate collab with neighborhood, addressed deficits in wayfinding for 35W construction, met with karen clark to get signage up for local business districts
- Creating strategies to help future businesses affected by construction.

Community Issues - Scott Melamed

- Held ten meetings, roughly 25 attendees at each
- Implemented 30 minute social time at the beginning
- First year of the Great Whittier Summer Get-Together - good success, in August
 - 100s of people from across neighborhood came to have fun

Hope for CI next year can be the site of cracking open participation and get more working groups going
April 9th is the election for the next CI Chair

Establishment of Acting Committees: David Bagley

From community member - Offer additional item to the motion - establish renters association acting committee:

Community Discussion:

- Challenge of acting committee - someone needs to manage monthly meetings
- Norm is motion has to be seconded and voted on even before there is discussion
- Standing committee has board representation
- Task force does not need to have a board chair

1 motion will happen then a second motion can be proposed

Motion 1: continue Community Issues and Business Association as standing committees for 2018

70- In Favor

2 - Opposed

1 - abstention

Additional motion:

- Add 3rd committee: renter issues committee
- New acting committee
- Seconded

Discussion:

Would this take effect immediately or would it go through the board?

- It would take effect immediately
- Move to amend renter" to "housing" committee
- Clarification: only residential, not businesses?
- Someone could still participate but more related to housing

Why a committee and not a task force?

- Committee given additional powers is crucial
- CI and BA do well engaging, but housing committee given concerns with acting committee (alleviates pressure from CI)

Task Force cannot do that?

- Task forces can get down and dirty and make things move, task force - you try to accomplish things and get it done

Whatever comes out of a committee only for recommendation

By having that representation on the board, a committee can lobby at the board level - a task force cannot

Given all housing issues, it is fully vetted to have housing committee independent with rep on the board

It's time we get back to it; speaks in support

Acting committees go on and on → this is not solvable that quickly, continue to work on it as long as people are living here

Call for a vote

Motion in addition to two existing acting committees (CI and BA), move that we add a housing issues acting committee to our standing acting committees:

Favor - 56

Opposed - 2

Abstentions - 3

Motion carries.

Board Election Results: David Bagley & League of Women Voters:

Elected:

Cryal Audi

Cyndi Hovey

Aldona Martinka

Michael Perez

Erin Sjoquist

Adjourn: 8:39 PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Dan Stanton