Letter from the Board Chair  Erica Christ
Welcome to the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting! Thank you for choosing to engage in the events of your neighborhood and your neighborhood organization!

2010 saw some exciting changes. The property on 26th and Nicollet finally sold and the renovation and restoration of those buildings is underway. Construction has begun on the development at 28th and Lyndale. Best of all, the HCMC Whittier Clinic opened in the fall! While we are still burdened with many vacant commercial properties and depressed property values, these new projects promise to attract more new businesses and residents.

Looking to the future, the Whittier Alliance is midway through a strategic planning process to set the course for the organization for the next 3-5 years. We have our sights set on being a world class neighborhood. We’ve been asking you (and ourselves) what that means. I encourage you to listen up at meetings for updates on the plan or check our website.

Also, I encourage you to think of yourselves not only as residents, property owners or business owners, but as citizens. Many important changes are afoot that could dramatically affect life in Whittier – property taxes and property values among other things. Please make an effort to get involved in the issues facing the neighborhood, city and state. Learn about the process behind city and state actions and communicate with your elected officials. The more informed we all are, the more clearly we can be heard by those we elect to represent us.

Lastly, please join me in expressing gratitude to our skilled and dedicated Executive Director, Marian Biehn. We are lucky to have her and her staff working for the neighborhood, making it possible for the rest of us to participate fully in the work and fun of the Whittier Alliance.

Whittier Alliance Executive Director Report  Marian Biehn
Much of the visible work of the Whittier Alliance is in the day to day response to the needs of the Whittier neighborhood: facilitating an improvement loan to a rental property or home owner; referring a new business to a commercial property; funding a youth program, planning a neighborhood clean up, advocating to the City—all good work that helps build community and a sense of security. The less visible work of the Whittier Alliance is in taking the long view and developing policies and plans that will position the Whittier neighborhood well in the future and in times of transition.

2010 can be viewed as a time of transition for the Whittier neighborhood and Whittier Alliance. Although the transition we are facing is not the ideal situation, it presents an opportunity to creatively set and accomplish neighborhood goals and find new sources of funding.

In 2010, the process of transitioning from the 20 year, highly successful Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) - the independent governing body which funded and oversaw neighborhood identified initiatives, development and action plans - to the Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR) - a department of the City of Minneapolis - was initiated. Along with the change in the “parent company” comes the significant change in funding and possible self determination. The City’s NCR department will not fund neighborhoods or neighborhood identified needs as broadly as did NRP. Whittier’s NRP Action Plan focused on Housing, Business & Local Economy, Safety, Youth and Community Building. Work in these areas will continue until the current funds are depleted but funding for these and other goals will not be replenished.

In anticipation of this change and to proactively determine our future, the Whittier Alliance initiated a Strategic Planning process in 2010. Funding newly identified goals will be an issue but planning for Whittier’s growth and development is key to retaining the unique characteristics that differentiate us from other neighborhoods and will prevent us from slipping into the delinquency of the past.

So in this time of transition our best course is to 1st: keep on keeping on; and 2nd: plan. We need your help in the planning, the doing; and the funding. Take part in supporting your neighborhood by participating in the day to day work of the office. And your financial support will be needed to implement neighborhood identified long term goals and to retain autonomy in our work and decisions.

I want to thank the Whittier Alliance Board for their thoughtful deliberation and decisions on issues and their support of the Whittier Alliance staff. A special thanks to the Executive Committee and their leadership on the Strategic Planning. Thank you to Becky Neamy who worked as our Community Organizer and Jessica Rosenberg as Administrative Asst. The Whittier Alliance is a small office in a big neighborhood. The work is never ending and we might get tired but we won’t quit serving the Whittier neighborhood!
Whittier Alliance Community Organizer Report
Becky Neamy

The Whittier Neighborhood is known as the International Neighborhood. With such a diverse population there have been many opportunities to create partnerships with individuals and organizations that represent this diversity. Through these partnerships we as an organization have been able to connect with members of our community to promote neighborhood involvement and the Whittier Alliance in the 2010 year.

Whittier Alliance partnerships and collaborations in 2010:

- Restorative Justice alternative community service for minor offenders
- Block clubs, Police, SSCO, probation officers, city attorney, CCP/SAFE and Law Enforcement for crime and safety related issues
- American Intercontinental University student, neighborhood businesses for the 2010 Whittier calendar project
- Campus Group-Youth Serving Agencies
- Partnership with Calvary Church, Bolder Options, and Homework and Hoops for youth outreach
- PPL organizers for outreach to residential rental buildings
- HCMC Whittier Clinic grand opening
- Plymouth Church, for Franklin and Nicollet (FAN) Fair
- Parade of Community Gardens
- Fallout Art-Fest
- Faith-based organizations

Whittier Alliance 2010 Events

- Sidewalk Shovel Shuffle - Snow Shoveling Day
- Dog Days of Whittier
- May Day Soirée Benefit for the Neighborhood
- Multi-neighborhood Wine Tasting Fundraiser
- National Night Out – 12 parties in Whittier!
- Youth Field Day- School Supply Give Away
- Whittier Elementary School Carnival
- Somali Independence Day
- World of Whittier Family Fair
- Neighborhood Clean Up events
- Greenway Clean up event
- Clinton Field Park Ice Cream Social and Sing-A long
- Tasty Excursion - Eat Street Excursion
- Whittier Green Fair
- Minneapolis School Board Forum
- Rental Property Owners Seminar

Business Association
Erica Christ, BA Chair

The Business Association meets regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. A different business hosts each meeting and the starting time – morning, lunchtime or late afternoon – is determined by the host business. Each host business has a few minutes in the spotlight at the top of the meeting. It’s a great way to get to know our business neighbors, celebrate our successes and join in supporting our common goals for a vibrant neighborhood.

Meeting topics range from city-wide issues to individual business changes and plans. Topics included: Hennepin County Medical Center's Whittier Clinic, the Storefront Project, the 35W access project and related transportation issues, planning and evaluating the Eat Street Excursion (Whittier businesses Happy Hour event) and the HCMC grand opening event, Whittier dining guides, Façade Improvement grants, development on 26th and Nicollet, commercial real estate in Whittier, the Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines and the Whittier Alliance Strategic planning process. Additionally we heard from Scott Wende about creating an Energy District, city representatives about the Special Services district and the Minneapolis Streetcar Study, and we enjoyed the regular attendance of our 5th precinct police representatives.

We welcomed many new businesses to Whittier and sadly said goodbye to some old friends. In the current economic climate, it is more important than ever to support your neighborhood independent businesses.

We welcomed the following new businesses
- Kem Café
- Ly’s Donuts
- TruStone Financial
- Whittier Clinic HCMC

We said goodbye to some Whittier businesses
- Arise Bookstore
- Lyndale Antiques
- Sacred Rearrangements
- Azia, A26, and the Caterpillar Lounge

We thank our host businesses in 2010:
- Hennepin History Museum, El Mariachi, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 7th Day Adventist Church, Azia Restaurant, Lyndale Tap House, Franklin Lofts, Rainbow Chinese Restaurant, CVS/Eat Street Flats, Pay Day America, and Christos Greek Restaurant.

The Business Association sends up to five representatives to the Board of Directors, two from for-profit businesses, two from non-profit businesses and the BA chair. Thank you to our 2010 Business Association representatives to the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors: For profit: Elizabeth Grzechowiak, Azia Restaurant; David Schuster, Lost and Found. Non profit: Lisa Vecoli, Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Rachel Lewis, Washburn Center for Children.

Please join us this year! We have many exciting projects in the works. Our group encompasses non-profit and for profit, industrial and service oriented, big institutions and small, family-run stores. Residents and property owners are welcome to attend our meetings as well. Whittier is a great place to live, work and run a business!
Community Issues  
Maurice T Battle, Jr., Community Issues Chair

The monthly Community Issues Meeting continues to draw support from residents and individuals interested in continuing to improve the quality of life and livability of the Whittier Neighborhood, and hearing about neighborhood topics.

We were able to consider the following Development Proposals as well as a number of Informational Presentations regarding issues of interest to and impact on Whittier Neighborhood residents.

**Development Proposal Reviews**

- **Source Fallout** - Request for non-conforming use, 2601 2nd Ave. S 2610-2614 1st Ave S - Request for Certificate of Non-Conforming Use for a commercial use of property in R2B
- **El Mariachi** - Application for upgraded liquor license from Class E to Class B
- Creation of Task Force to work with Whittier Community School and Mpls and Whittier Park and Rec Center to develop facilities agreement for the use of the community center
- Inn at Karmel - 2910 Pillsbury Development
- **2509 Clinton Ave** - certificate of appropriateness from HPC for window replacement and deck reconstruction
- **2833 Lyndale-The Murals** - signage variance
- **2910 Pillsbury-Karmel Plaza** - site plan review for 3rd floor self-storage addition and 4500 sq. ft. 1st floor additional retail space
- **Salem English Lutheran Church-Lyndale Green** - Conditional Use Permit for 63 units
- **2548 Pleasant Ave S** - Center of Light Order of Christ Sophia – request for change of Non-Conforming Use
- **HCMC**-request for sign variance at Whittier Clinic
- **2805 Grand Ave S** - request for non-conforming use, 3rd unit in duplex
- **2706-08 Pleasant Ave S** - request for rezoning from R2b to R3
- **2017 Grand Ave S** - rezoning from R2B to R3
- **2903 Lyndale Ave S** - Heidi's Restaurant – request for Class E Liquor On-Sale License
- **2848 Pleasant Ave S** - Karmel Village – Conditional Use Permit for 18 additional residential units
- **2528-48 Nicollet Redevelopment** - site plan approval
- **2902-04-06 Garfield Ave S** - zoning change from I1 to C3A
- **2902-04-06-08 Garfield Ave S** - Site Plan for Balance Fitness Studio
- **NRP** - freeze of 50% of un-contracted Phase 2 funds and reallocation of said funds

**Informational Presentations**

- **Whittier Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines**
- Information regarding Bedbug Infestations from Environmental Pest Management Systems and the City of Mpls Health Dept.
- Darrell Washington Whittier Resident and PTA Member addressed concerns regarding reserving space in Whittier Community School for Whittier residents
- **Emerald Ash Borer presentation by Anita Tabb**

**Reports from Neighborhood Task Forces**

- NRP Steering Committee
- Historic Preservation Task Force
- Strategic Planning Task Force

**Community Comments & Monthly Updates**

- **5th Precinct and Community Crime Prevention Reports**
- Councilman Robert Lilligren

**Resource Development**  
Marian Biehn

The Whittier Alliance depends on fundraising to help supplement the annual budget and allow for expenditures that are not covered by other funding sources. We thank everyone who has financial contributed or has made an in-kind donation to the Whittier Alliance. In a very practical way your generosity is reinvested into the neighborhood.

**Gross Income from Fundraising in 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Gross Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May Day Soiree Live &amp; Silent Auction Benefit</td>
<td>$14,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Neighborhood Wine Tasting</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Solicitation</td>
<td>5,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Fundraising Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,932</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fundraising income represents financial revenues received in the form of a direct contribution or through support of one of the Whittier Alliance fund raising events. However, numerous businesses and organizations generously donate goods and services to various Whittier Alliance events. These in-kind donations help defray the cost of an event or are key to fundraising for the Whittier Alliance.

**Our Generous Contributors in 2010—Thank you! Thank you also to our contributors who wish to remain anonymous.**

- Andrew Baird
- Andrew Ellis
- Andrew Mogendorff
- Avis Hoffman
- Barb Lickness
- Becky Olsen
- Bonny Ford
- Brian & Pahoua Hoffman
- Carla McGrath & Cole Rogers
- Carol Fisher
- Charles Sass
- Crawford Merz Anderson
- Dana E C Fox
- Daphna Stromberg
- David & Margaret Lucas
- David Bagley
- David Schroth
- David Schuster
- Debbie Evans
- Elizabeth Grzechowiak
- Emma Mogendorff
- Eric Plotner
- Erica Christ
- Erin Sjoquist
- Evelyn & Alan Ingber
- Harriet McCleary
- Jeffrey M. Nelson
- Jeffrey Spencer
Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Implementation

Phase 2 funds provided to the Whittier neighborhood and administered through the Whittier Alliance influence the operations, programs and initiatives of the Whittier neighborhood. The funds are dedicated to the neighborhood identified priorities of Housing, Safety, Youth, Business and Community Building. With the input and the oversight of the NRP Steering Committee, the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors and NRP, funds were contracted and put to work in the neighborhood. The full NRP Phase 2 Whittier Action Plan and a financial ledger are available for viewing in the Whittier Alliance office.

Housing: The Center for Energy and Environment administers Whittier’s NRP housing loan funds. The Rental Rehab and Renewal (3R) Loan offers a pool of $350,000 at 3.5% interest for 10 years to both owner and non-owner occupied rental housing in Whittier. The 3R Loan program is a life line for rental property owners for critical and curb appeal improvements to rental properties. In 2010 two 3R loans were made for a total of $62,500 of rental housing improvements in the community. Six single family home owners have accessed $63,700 in home improvement funds through the Whittier Single Family Home Improvement Loan. The interest rate is very low and there are no income level restrictions. The loan is open to owner occupied Whittier single family and duplex homes. Hess Roise continues to work with the Whittier Alliance as consultants on a historical preservation guide which will assist property owners in making historically appropriate decisions when doing renovations or rehab to their home or building. The Hewson House at 2008 Pillsbury was nominated by the Whittier Alliance and was named to the “Ten Most Endangered Properties in Minnesota” by Preservation Alliance of MN. The Hewson House escaped the dismantling and sale of its historic architectural features and is now in the process of restoration and historic designation.

Business & Local Economy: Whittier restaurants and retail shops participated in multiple Eat Street Excursions. The Excursions were in participation with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts Third Thursday event. The Economic Growth Center-formerly the Whittier Community Development Center-which administered the NRP 2% Commercial Revolving Loan Fund closed in the fall of 2010. The loan funds have been returned to Whittier’s NRP Business funds pool. Approximately 20,000 Whittier Dining Guides were printed and distributed in partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Community Building and Safety: The 2010 Whittier Calendar reached 8000 homes and businesses in Whittier. The calendar featured Whittier businesses as well as the community meeting dates and neighborhood resources. The calendars are a practical tool for promoting the Whittier neighborhood. Events such as Dog Days, Block Club Potluck, the Ice Cream Social at Clinton Field Park and the Fall Clean Up brought people together within the neighborhood. Block and Apartment Clubs received grants from the NRP Safety funds to sponsor National Night Out parties. Several Safety Seminars were held in apartment buildings. Tracking crime stats and participating in the Law Enforcement Group (LEG) has been an effective tool in identifying problem areas and reducing crime. Neighborhood impact statements are regularly submitted to the court system on chronic offenders. Homes and businesses have received partial grants for graffiti removal and prevention and free graffiti removal supplies have been made available to Whittier residents and businesses.

Youth: Youth programming funds provided swimming lessons for 80 Whittier youth in the summer of 2010. Youth micro grants were awarded to Old Arizona, Jabbok Family Services and McPhail Center for Music to support outreach and programming to Whittier youth. Field Day provided a range of athletic events for 60 Whittier youth ages 4 to 12 in August in Whittier Park.

Implementation: The Whittier NRP implementation funds support the operations of the Whittier Alliance. Operational expenses such as rent, utilities, and communications (phone, copy machine, fliering, postage, etc.). The Whittier Alliance operates on a very lean budget. See the budget insert for all income and expenses.

Whittier Alliance
10 East 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN  55404

Stay Informed: For timely updates on neighborhood meetings and events, sign up for the Whittier e-groups by going to www.whittieralliance.org

Phone: 612-871-7756
Fax: 612-871-0650
Email: info@whittieralliance.org

The International Neighborhood
Finance Committee, Tom Bissen: On a monthly basis the Finance Committee meets to review the income and expenses of the Whittier Alliance with our accountant. All incoming funds and invoices are identified with an account number to track against the annual budget. Professional oversight of the Whittier financials is provided by Romer & Company. In 2010 an audit of the 2009 Whittier Alliance financial position, activities, functional expenses and statement of cash flow and an audit of the accounting practices and procedures was performed by an independent consultant of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The audit showed the Whittier Alliance was in compliance. A copy of the State Auditors Report is available in the Whittier Alliance office.

WHITTIER ALLIANCE
January – December 2010 Financials

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSES

INCOME
NRP Phase II Funds 124,232
Other Donations 100
Citizen Participation 2,000
WA Fundraising 19,831
Miscellaneous Income 775
Interest Income 188

TOTAL INCOME $147,126

EXPENSES
Personnel Expenses $92,670
Mileage 2
ADP 1,731

Professional Services 3,887
Bank Fees 23
Copier 2,869
Computer 1,570
Printing 4,101
Food/Beverages 78
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Donations 475
Insurance-Liability/Workers Comp 1,545
Operating Expense 12,310
Office Supplies/Furniture 1,631
Bulk Mail/Postage Meter Expenses 4,587
Recognition–Volunteers/Staff 350
Community Meetings 377
Housing Related Programs 93
Volunteer Training 240

Fundraising 3,428
Design Guidelines 1,170
Whittier Community Events 161

TOTAL EXPENSE $133,299

NET ORDINARY INCOME $13,827

BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2010

ASSETS
Current Assets
Bank Accounts $118,962
Accounts Receivable 44,924
Total Current Assets $163,886

Fixed Assets
Property & Equipment $3,437
Accumulated Depreciation -3,437
Total Fixed Assets 0

TOTAL ASSETS $163,886

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities
Employee HSA $70
Deferred Revenue NRP 15,889
Deferred Revenue BA
Tasty Excursion 653
Graffiti Removal 1,003
Façade Improvement Grant 387

TOTAL LIABILITIES $18,002

NET ASSETS/EQUITY
Net Assets $132,057

TOTAL LIABILITY & NET ASSETS $150,059
Save the Date! May Day Soirée—Thursday, May 5th

Join your friends and neighbors for the 11th Annual Benefit for the Whittier Alliance

May Day Soiree

featuring

Live entertainment
Fantastic auction and raffle!
Lots of fun, food and beverages

5:30-9:00pm

Blaisdell Manor  2322 Blaisdell Avenue
Information & reservations:  612-871-7756