

Whittier Alliance
2018 Community Input Report
Appendix

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2018 Listening Sessions Questions

Please share:

- Your name
- How long you've lived here / worked here / been part of the community
- Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood

- What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?
- What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?
- What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?
- What is different?

In thinking about their future work, the Board and staff of WA want to continue working in three areas that they are already known for:

- Housing
- Commercial Corridors and Businesses
- Environmental Sustainability

Housing

In the area of Housing, WA hopes that *all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood*. To get there, WA wants to expand housing quality and housing choices for residents in the next four years.

- What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?
- What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?
- What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that *all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood*?
- On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?

Commercial Corridors and Businesses

Another area that WA wants to continue working in is in strengthening the neighborhood's commercial corridors and businesses. WA's vision for the neighborhood's commercial corridors and businesses is that they are *robust and world-market style*, and that they serve our residents as well as people from the broader metro area.

- What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?
- What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?

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- What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are *robust and world-market style*?
- On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?

Environmental Sustainability

The third area that WA wants to continue working in is Becoming a Model of Neighborhood Environmental Sustainability. Their vision is that Whittier becomes a *model of a mixed-income neighborhood committed to an urban, green lifestyle*, and they hope to get there through *innovation, education and stakeholder engagement*.

- What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?
- What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?
- What ideas do you have for ways that WA can *become a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability*?
- On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?

Fourth Focus Area

In addition to those three focus areas – Housing, Commercial Corridors and Businesses and Environmental Sustainability – WA wants to focus its work in one more area. They would like to hear from you about your priorities for action.

- What could this neighborhood use more of?
 - What could this neighborhood use less of?
 - What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?
 - If WA could support the next “big idea” for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?
-
- Is there a topic we haven't covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?
 - What else do you want WA to know?

Themes from 2018 Listening Sessions

Note: Due to the conversational nature of listening sessions, there is not always time to ask every question in every group, so some groups did not get to all of the questions. Likewise, sometimes answers to one question come within responses to another, so questions and answers do not always align precisely.

Group: Business Owners – 11	
Question	Responses
Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood	Neighborhood feel Vast amount of pride in Whittier Mix of artists and criminals Positive spirit in the neighborhood Genuinely urban / measure of diversity / affordability Welcomeness / diversity of businesses / friendly Black Forest bar Close to everything Genuine feeling of the n’hood / people are real / sense of community / sense of families Mirrors the whole city / diversity / nourishing who we are Great environment for students / variety of businesses
What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?	School Eat Street is flourishing / n’hood is a destination Unapologetically diverse Fair Oaks Park Still “crazy” people in the n’hood Bikeability and Walkability - New York feel Greenway MIA, MCAT, Children’s Theater Has a n’hood feel Businesses helping other businesses – give back Independently owned businesses Wave of people who come through the n’hood as a result of things Parking is free

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<p>What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?</p> <p>What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?</p> <p>What is different?</p>	<p>Parking (especially after they closed 26th for bike lane) Parking ramps, garages can be interesting – mixed use – be smart about how it's made available, not just surface May have to change people's attitudes about parking a block or two away Safety – personal safety, people being held up at gun point, harassment on the street, graffiti, fighting in the alley There's not a shared narrative about what the neighborhood is – it's all Eat Street, which is great, but we also have all these arts institutions Outsiders just look at us as a commercial opportunity Need to get the City involved in neighborhood issues – helping out the n'hood</p> <p>Move from the International Neighborhood to Eat Street – got people to come here. On its own, the International Neighborhood identity didn't bring folks in.</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that <i>all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of</i></p>	<p>Question: How do they define expand? What's the reason there is 90% rental rate here? Why do people move out? Neighborhood is ripe for investment – but there's not a lot of open dirt</p> <p>Can you work with the landlords to make them better landlords, get them involved in the n'hood Affordability – WA may have to move into protecting affordability with legal actions (Erica's point) There are homeowners association in other places – lots of rental spaces, and so many new ones coming in. Can WA get the homeowners together and promote home ownership? Is apartments the right solution? How do we build for more families? Encourage developers to ensure some percentage of new places are affordable? Can WA play a role in lobbying for this?</p>

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<p><i>the neighborhood?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Can the n'hood get a developer like Dominion on St. Paul's West 7th Street Can WA play a role at public meetings and challenge development that doesn't include affordable housing? Can there be small scale tax breaks for small houses and not just big development projects as a way to promote homeownership?</p> <p>5s</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are <i>robust and world-market style?</i></p>	<p>World Market, like the store called World Market? Or, bazaar-like? With stalls?</p> <p>N'hood has a diverse array of style of businesses, but not necessarily of ethnicities or owners. Able to support more diversity? No place that helps embrace the urban arts.</p> <p>Access to n'hood is going to be a huge problem because of 35W and bike lane conversions.</p> <p>They need to better promote what is here already and what is happening already. Promote this n'hood businesses to tourists - Whittier is the Flatbush Avenue of Minneapolis. Put flyers at hotels. Partner with Meet Minneapolis – ask them to help promote businesses through your social media channels. (Nicollet Avenue Business Association used to do this – they are dormant now) Coffee Bucks – Zeus Jones encourages 55 employees to spend \$5 coupon on coffee in the n'hood. Ask businesses to pay small fee to partner with Downtown Council for promotion.</p>

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<p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>Send someone down to Meet Minneapolis with a Dining Guide – they will send to Need for a bank in the n'hood. Can Whittier promote new or longer-standing small businesses to the media – they often respond. Hotel 5s</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can <i>become a model of neighborhood</i></p>	<p>Very important to include “mixed income” in this language – how to engage This can be expensive. You are a model for us – we have learned from you – you helped us understand how composting made a difference for us.</p> <p>“Sustainable” means something besides – long-term, Compelling people to do something may not be the right thing. What problem are you trying to solve? Becoming environmentally-friendly is very expensive – is this feasible for all parts of the n'hood? Drop “environmental” in this sentence – then add environment, health and education to make this a sustainable n'hood – broader sense of sustainability.</p> <p>Is there more to do with car-sharing, promoting car-sharing? Can you offer grants to help make this happen? High labor, high return – getting into the bigger buildings to set up recycling and composting. This needs to start at an individual level, then can trickle up to businesses.</p>

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<p><i>environmental sustainability?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Be open to bigger projects like a solar array, fuel cell projects.</p> <p>3s, a 1, a 4</p>
<p>What could this neighborhood use more of?</p> <p>What could this neighborhood use less of?</p> <p>What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?</p> <p>If WA could support the next "big idea" for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?</p>	<p>Promoting civic engagement – helping folks find the places to go testify, helping folks understand the process behind things. Help folks understand the “how” of why things happen the way they happen.</p> <p>Civic engagement – yes, we need to be an organizing body, too – important to engage getting together and saying “yes” that’s what we want here.</p> <p>Civic engagement, yes – but renters may not be here long, may not stay and invest in n’hood. Need to work on switching to more homeowners, or ways to engage renters.</p> <p>An annual n’hood festival to celebrate the neighbors.</p> <p>Ways to connect.</p> <p>Put out the lawn chairs and neighbors know it’s ok to stop in and visit.</p> <p>Can landlords do something special for tenants?</p> <p>Farmer’s Market – promote it – better visibility</p> <p>Funnel neighbors to businesses – knowing a business isn’t doing well, telling the n’hood to encourage folks to</p> <p>Taste of Eat Street (revive ones you’ve done in the past)</p> <p>NE – Hotdish Revolution – do what calls you – let the target audience be the neighbors.</p> <p>Community-building efforts</p> <p>Bryn Mawr does many things to get people out walking and meeting</p> <p>Top-level marketing and branding – music, buskers, promote street life</p> <p>A monthly thing – get music going</p>

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	4 th thing – voice of Whittier – the voice of the community – voice of the n’hood – at City Hall, with developers
Is there a topic we haven’t covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?	There is a lot going on – need an infrastructure for sharing information – if it’s happening, I don’t know about it – community bulletin board (get some pro bono work from the communications businesses?)
What else do you want WA to know?	

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Group: Social Services Providers – 8 participants	
Question	Responses
Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood	<p>Openness of the residents and their willingness to say hello</p> <p>Number of businesses</p> <p>Accessibility to businesses and residents</p> <p>Diversity in terms of race, income, what people do, businesses</p> <p>Inner city atmosphere, camaraderie of families, community coming together</p> <p>Diversity</p> <p>Diversity but with a sense of community, feels like a small town</p> <p>Wonderful part of the city – proximity, diversity of businesses</p>
What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?	<p>Sometimes the n’hood is more supportive, sometime not so much</p> <p>WA is still new to us – they asked us to get involved</p> <p>Spirit of St. Stephen’s – social justice organization that is very engaged with the n’hood – a place to connect with</p> <p>Thinking about Nicollet as a through-way – long-term vision for it being an entrance into downtown, positive impact on local businesses</p> <p>Plan for the street car along Nicollet – worry about gentrification</p> <p>In the past, 30-40 years ago, the n’hood welcomed all of our organizations in – is that still true? Doesn’t always feel like it.</p> <p>Get called on to collaborate with other agencies</p> <p>Willing spirit among agencies to help those we serve</p> <p>Embracement of authority</p>
What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?	<p>Atmosphere is changing – not everyone I serve is welcome in the n’hood</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>I feel like an island – no one from the n’hood stops in – glad for the invitation today, are we welcome here, or are we just tolerated</p> <p>First reaction when there’s trouble in the n’hood is that the source is someone who is a shelter guest – in fact, more often than not, our shelter guests are the target of violence</p> <p>People live challenged lives – not everyone is a choir boy or girl. Is the n’hood</p> <p>Need supportive employment services, especially child care – parents have to quit jobs</p>

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<p>What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?</p> <p>What is different?</p>	<p>Don't feel totally safe – maybe better lighting</p> <p>Bike lanes</p> <p>Buildings being purchased and rehabbed and rents going up hugely (not just here)</p> <p>Two businesses recently closed their doors (Jerusalem's, bar on Nicollet and Franklin) – gets concerning when you see businesses closing</p> <p>15-unit across from MCAD – Latino families kicked out – couldn't afford the rents</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that <i>all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood?</i></p>	<p>Facing the greatest housing crisis in 100 years – so yes, having that as a main focus is good. But really worried about gentrification – is your intent to serve all residents, or are you shifting away from supporting housing for</p> <p>Language doesn't seem inclusive</p> <p>What's the ground from which that sprung – this language does not seem inclusive</p> <p>Housing continuum that meets the needs of all residents in the community – if that's what we're doing, then this language is great</p> <p>"As I look at expand housing is that just another word for 'more luxury apartments?'"</p> <p>Patronizing tag line</p> <p>"People and planets are valued over profits." That sort of approach is consistent with what the character of Whittier is.</p> <p>Affordable</p> <p>What is the goal? Clarify what you're shooting at. Alter the language.</p> <p>To help the vulnerable folks in the n'hood</p> <p>Affordability and inclusion need to be included.</p> <p>Can you ensure more affordable housing units are included in any new development.</p> <p>Is it welcoming here – diversity of the population, and the challenges here. Is there an embrace in the attitude of what is going to be here?</p> <p>Some n'hoods are supportive of affordable projects over the years – what's the balance of a healthy community? We've been so welcoming to nonprofits and supportive models, that it's enough. When I read that, I see a push back against that. What does Whittier want? They feel like they are the new dumping ground for social services.</p> <p>Tough for families with kids to move into the n'hood because of affordability – that's</p> <p>What is the track here?</p>

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<p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Can we identify targets to ensure inclusivity? This language says "the for-profit market will take care of housing." Do you need to be 100% focused on the other end of the spectrum. Or, do you need a housing plan that looks at income levels and needs across the spectrum and develops a plan for all of those? Don't need to help the high end at all. Can you work with the city to identify more options. Who is the target market? Who are you going to help with housing? If you are addressing the needs of the people we work with, you'll change language to low-income, affordable - you need different language. Be intentional in saying something about the nonprofits in our n'hood are valued and we choose to recognize them, this is part of the diversity and fabric of our n'hood that we value. Rooming house. Serves a critical function. Highlighting examples parts of the housing spectrum in Whittier are not in other parts of the city. Expose folks to "this is your n'hood, too." Engage those we serve. Like seeing the Whittier volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Hard to vote – there's not a plan in place – yes, focus on housing, low-income, affordable housing. 5 Of course this is important – is it important to have healthy bones – of course. No words in that statement that speak to me – it's not an attractive focus (inclusion, equal opportunity, affordable). Prioritizing a planful approach to housing in Whittier that meets the needs of everyone in our community should be our #1 priority. Nothing is going to have more impact downstream.</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>The message I read from that is that they want Nicollet Ave. to be a destination. What's the heart? What's driving this? What does "world-market style" mean? I'd like something in there about who do they employ. If world market means immigrant-run businesses, then maybe. Judging by the number of minority owned business, it's going well. We have legitimate restaurants that people want to come in for. Opening up Nicollet is high priority</p>

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<p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are <i>robust and world-market style</i>?</p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>Some people don't want to come into the n'hood. Parking is a challenge – if you have to walk 3-4 blocks to get somewhere. Businesses aren't keeping their sidewalks clear – makes it very difficult for residents to get around.</p> <p>Support minority owned, support local ownership, support those intentionally employing Whittier residents Accessibility and transit – could there be a parking ramp? Think 50th and France, Grand Ave. in St. Paul – parking ramp If I lived in Whittier, I'd want businesses that served my needs – e.g. a grocery store, a dry cleaners.</p> <p>A 5 Notch below housing 4s Don't let off the gas – be involved in new development</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Better lighting – Steven's Park area – some improvements there – being able to walk there at night would be appreciated.</p> <p>What are you going to do? Remove the diseased trees? Replace the lights? Replace the sidewalks? Re-sod a certain part of the n'hood?</p>

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<p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can <i>become a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Community gardens To do it right, it's a pretty significant investment, there's a cost to the community to do this Mostly white people around planning tables – going to that Latino service on a Sunday and asking people there how do we engage, going to centers for services for people who are vision impaired, going to where people are – and getting true engagement – in particular around this idea of community gardens...may be very smart things some things that we are not aware of – things we can do that we don't know about right now. This might allow Whittier to position itself in terms of community engagement as a leader in community engagement that is truly representative. Could play a role in how this gets done There are some big institutions in this n'hood – have they been part of this? A direct, open, intentional invitation I see this – an urban n'hood committed to Haven't seem much about safety – does that play into this? Cross off the word "model" – if you do the right things, you will become the model. Leaders lead.</p> <p>4 3.5 3 3 2 Low</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement is critical to all three... This is the kind of goal that people can really get together on...3</p>
<p>What could this neighborhood use more of?</p>	<p>Are there n'hood signs that identify the n'hood? Where's something that identifies the n'hood? Art projects or something else that identifies Whittier. (seen Eat Street signs) No one from the n'hood org has come in to my organization – do you value us? We value you, how can we support you? I'd second that. There are lots of resources in the n'hood, but I was the one going in there to make the connection.</p>

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<p>What could this neighborhood use less of?</p> <p>What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?</p> <p>If WA could support the next “big idea” for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?</p>	<p>There’s an opportunity to do things with MIA – make more of that connection Small town feel – special event for the n’hood – like Somerset Days Could we work with MIA as a core sponsor to host yard parties - MIA could host one and create a welcoming environment Volunteers to serve a meal – some days there are no groups scheduled – would love to have volunteers come in on days when no group is signed up – maybe collaborate and volunteer on a holiday. That would say you support us, you believe in us.</p> <p>Some of the volunteers are not coming anymore because of safety concerns. Share the cost of the cop. Other volunteers think it’s gotten better.</p>
<p>Is there a topic we haven’t covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?</p> <p>What else do you want</p>	<p>Immediate needs – can you be a conduit to helping folks/programs fill a need. There’s a lack of connections. Our program could be volunteers at yours. Networking – make your need known, someone might be able to fill it. If neighbors who are concerned about safety came in to do volunteering just one time, it would radically change their perception.</p> <p>There is a big need for low cost or no cost employment support services – especially child</p>

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WA to know?	care – would be great to have something like a Boys and Girls Club. This would help families get to the next level.
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Group: Renters – 7 participants	
Question	Responses
Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood	<p>Easier to meet people here than other places</p> <p>Blend of residential and small business – neighborly-ness and coop and meet people who live and work here</p> <p>In a city that’s increasingly becoming high-speed anonymous, there still are a Lot of landmarks. Anchored by some really important institutions. Not so anonymous. Finds it inconvenient to participate with the WA.</p> <p>Easy to access other parts of the city from Whittier. No car, ride my bike.</p> <p>It’s not culturally homogeneous – race, age, where people are in their lives, what they want to be doing. So many perspectives</p> <p>Nestled by neighborhood but able to get to other n’hoods. Going to meet people who want to connect.</p> <p>Centrally located. Feel close to people I live near.</p>
<p>What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?</p> <p>What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?</p> <p>What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?</p> <p>What is different?</p>	
What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus	I live in an owner-occupied building. I live with some of the old-timers – were extremely active in the past – homes on my block were rescued – put on the historic preservation

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<p>on housing?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that <i>all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood?</i></p>	<p>register – in the past the WA was not focused at all toward renters, but focused on homeowners – to a certain extent, people think the WA is a homeowners organization. It’s a problem with the challenges of affordable housing. Average rent is \$1,046 A focus on housing is important – affordable housing is not even mentioned in this. Seems like people think there’s enough affordable housing. Affordable housing There isn’t a feeling of being welcome Quality is huge as neighbors face challenges with landlords – disappointment that WA hasn’t WA used to be housed in a building owned by one of the worst landlords WAY that the mission statement is framed – flourishing and vibrant n’hood – speaks to the homes, not the people in the homes In the past, the WA had a point in their strategic plan that they wanted to reduce the amount of affordable housing from 25% to 10% - that was on their To continue their housing work – yes, but what does that mean? These words are more about the buildings and not about the people Echo that – is this code for development? Does that just mean new construction? What does “homes” mean? The houses, or the people in the houses? What does “beauty” mean? Preservation and expansion Vitality – if you’re talking about the people thriving, but if it’s vague n’hood feeling that doesn’t incorporate the people living here. The perception of the n’hood. There’s These words haven’t had shared meaning – these words were a cop out in the past. Can mean something that’s unjust and inequitable. Owners and landlords – could there be a way for those buildings to become renter-owned co-ops. In some cities, there’s an ordinance that renters get to be the first ones to buy. Many current city council members ran on that as part of their campaign promises. It would be great for the WA to be an ally for the renters. Other n’hood orgs act as a resource to renters, and homeowners and property owners when they are selling. So many places for community engagement here.</p>
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<p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?</p>	<p>More engagement with landlords – with good landlords – celebrating, highlighting, incentivizing good landlords. Finding ways to engage landlords who are doing things the right way. Helping renters understand their rights. Rent stabilization – Karen Clark will introduce this again this year. Other cities made sure that renters had the opportunity to purchase. Can WA advocate for this? Progressive initiatives Making things easier for renters – would help with renter engagement – organization needs to be outward facing – so many barriers for folks to participate in WA. Don't want homeowners to feel targeted, this isn't about renters vs. homeowners, or renters vs. landlords. Can everyone have a seat at the table. Have only known about the WA vaguely – my impression is that it's an advocate for homeowners and businesses. Would never have associated it with renters. Don't know what the WA is, what they've done, what the possibilities Will the results be on the web? Air BnB – more units being made available that way – can be more lucrative, but creates an invisible sense of occupancy – adding to the housing crisis – taking units off the market. Can WA take a stand on that.</p> <p>The current words are problematic With our context The issue is important, these words are not the right words</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>Could we see something about employing residents in stable and well-paying jobs? What is "world market style?" World market-style doesn't mean anything to me. Is it perception of the n'hood having worldly If we're not making sure people of different backgrounds are being housed, you have no right to maximize people's backgrounds When Kmart closes and Nicollet Closed an economic artery – forced property owners to lower rents, caused immigrant</p>

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<p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>businesses to come in Streetcar to be financed by TIF – so there would be increasing taxes and that may increase rents as a result. Support immigrant businesses That commercial corridor has helped to define who we are as a n’hood. Beneficial to continue to focus on this – love the small businesses – access to the things you need available in the n’hood – support community engagement, get a cycle of engagement. There’s a balance there – don’t lose focus on housing and residents by over-emphasis on business and corridors. 29th Street – has been reclaimed – other small arteries that maybe could be looked at to encourage development of small, locally-owned businesses. Those may not be attractive to big developers. But could you lead a research project to look into smaller arteries and alleys. A focus on co-ops and worker-owned co-ops would be good – could we have more co-ops? If there is a world market – could people who rent a stall have ownership of the building? People who work in the community also own the land. Like the NE co-op. How many vacant lots are there? Could there be research about what’s available? Serving residents – cost of businesses that are opening. Many who live here and who are affected by rising housing costs – there’s been a shift of price of a meal or a drink towards the more expensive side. Not everyone can afford everything in a n’hood – that’s ok. But could WA have better accountability standards for projects they support...e.g. Copper Hen used volunteers to create the space. Same thing goes for developers - There are certain environment that’s not the best thing for the average person who lives nearby. Would like to maintain a diversity of businesses – not move toward all like the Copper Hen. Preserve existing businesses, especially those owned by non-whites. Publicize some of the other smaller businesses. More of a connection between businesses and residents – like a tour, a passport, connecting people with the businesses that are here. In St. Paul – Little Mekong Market – invite folks from community – unemployed and underemployed – invite them to use a commercial kitchen, navigate permitting, etc. Three people have now started a catering business, one a bricks and mortar</p>
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<p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are <i>robust and world-market style</i>?</p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>Support street carts Support other businesses –</p> <p>3-4</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can <i>become a model of neighborhood</i></p>	<p>Like the words “mixed income” Like “being a model” – seeing our n’hood as Collective knowledge of environmental sustainability – see this as collective goal of making our n’hood greener – would like to see it done in such a way that residents have access to greener practices Environmental justice instead of environmental sustainability N’hood – removing the inconvenience of and normalizing green practices – making it easier for everyone – not more to buy compostable containers – how do we maximize and engage with this – more innovation and creativity WA should be pushing for this – one way to do this is to focus on public and green transportation, especially on Nicollet – it’s a car street, but it’s an artery to the Greenway – could Nicollet be for everything but cars? Whittier has been left out of all the major public transit – maybe on the Greenway in the future – bus is spotty Stakeholder engagement – in all of this, look at the invisible population – seniors aren’t as</p>

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<p><i>environmental sustainability?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>connected with this one</p> <p>In what ways – how to make the practical concepts of env sustainability accessible and normalized and not so difficult – importance of education about this – not as important to some folks, e.g. it's not my priority – but if you make the options to these easier</p> <p>Any discussion of env sustainability needs to be part of every discussion – about housing, about businesses – make sure the conversation is happening within all efforts</p> <p>One area WA could take the lead on – alternatives to salting the roads and sidewalks – n'hoods can lead the way</p> <p>“Becoming a model” – look at the Minneapolis age-friendly action plan – instead of reinventing the wheel, look for what's already been done? Are there orgs that have already done something – e.g. does Greenpeace have a plan we could pick up on</p> <p>Finding partners – get volunteer sections of Whittier to try something out</p> <p>Link with U of MN/CURA to get a grad student</p> <p>How do make sustainability happen in apartment buildings</p> <p>I am a Master recycler – Hennepin County has a program with funds to help businesses get better at recycling – they want to spend their funds – could WA help make that happen</p> <p>Nurturing our relationship with our Council member – in order to access City funds.</p> <p>3-5</p>
<p>What could this neighborhood use more of?</p> <p>What could this neighborhood use less of?</p>	<p>Growing local artists – providing funding or space or a way for artists – giving voice – esp artists from underrepresented communities. Art is a way to bridge where we are now and what we are becoming</p> <p>Made Here in downtown MPLS – vacant storefronts filled with local art</p> <p>Music, too</p> <p>More people being involved – opportunities to bring people together – build leadership in the</p>

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<p>What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?</p> <p>If WA could support the next “big idea” for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?</p>	<p>n’hood N’hood festival – Open Streets for Nicollet – find partners in the community to do this work – especially if we’re thinking about equity – trying to give some resources to folks in the community to support their ideas and interests Community engagement as a fourth category Doing community engagement in a sustainable way – not just a one-time thing – Be intentional about setting up engagement so people don’t show up once and feel like they’re good – firing up people when they do show up. Place to call an appraiser or bureaucrat to report break-in Community policing / mediator / appraiser If WA set a minimum on the BOD or committees for renters There’s a sense that renters are inherently transient – but there are renters who are long-standing – they’re here long enough to serve a BOD term. And can you stipulate a seat for someone who is just here for a year? Emphasize training for BOD members so they know how to engage</p>
<p>Is there a topic we haven’t covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?</p> <p>What else do you want WA to know?</p>	<p>I would third or fourth the idea of community engagement – Open Streets, n’hood block parties, etc. Farmer’s Market it good, need more of that. How is that implemented – what is community engagement – not just “likes” on their FB page WA show up to things – not just a thing that others show up to – they’re not communicating to me about why There’s been active animosity against renters and engagement Make sure you represent the area you claim to represent.</p> <p>We want it to be good – we’re all here. It’s not aboutpitting community members against each other – it’s not because we want to see it fail, it’s we want to see it succeed – and effectively do what we hope it can and has done for certain people.</p> <p>WA doesn’t want to be perceived as an organization that keeps people out.</p>

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Group: Homeowners – 8 participants	
Question	Responses
Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood	<p>I like the mixture of things. I miss the children.</p> <p>We wanted to live in a n’hood where we didn’t stand out – the ethnic diversity was such that</p> <p>Ethnic and economic diversity</p> <p>How close things I need are – Walkability</p> <p>Walkability, diversity, mix of generation</p> <p>Diversity, we want to keep it as small as we can, community garden</p> <p>We’re invested, we want to stay here – where you can walk to the things you needed, and wanted “anybody can get their itch scratched in Whittier</p> <p>Diverse, accepting, and in flux. It’s still Whittier. Whittier still feels like Whittier.</p>
What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?	<p>The way people greet each other, help each other. There is a sense of n’hood. Mixture of diversity of restaurants and people.</p> <p>I like the small businesses</p> <p>Much safer now than it was 30 years ago</p> <p>Perception about Whittier that you are fighting outside the n’hood.</p> <p>NextDoor – way to find new homes for things</p> <p>Park is offering more diverse programming, and programming on school release days.</p>
What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?	<p>Too many cars parked on the streets.</p> <p>Franklin north to downtown it’s all apartment buildings. New apartment buildings are not build to last and are ugly.</p> <p>Tore down houses that were affordable to build apartments that aren’t. Not a place where families can live anymore – one and two bedroom apartments.</p>
What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?	<p>School system has been impoverished – people choose their n’hood by</p> <p>West High closed. Jefferson Junior High closed. No effort to create schools</p> <p>Affordable housing in general – of any kind. Everything is increasing in price.</p> <p>Would like to see more emphasis on preserving existing housing.</p>
What is different?	

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<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Agree that the housing is diverse – the way to expand the quality – can you get the City to encourage absentee owners to keep the properties maintained. A program to help those who are homeowners and rent</p>
<p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Look at Frogtown in St. Paul – innovative programs to increasing homeownership, keep building up Could you support housing co-ops</p>
<p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that <i>all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood?</i></p>	<p>Some n’hood organizations are leveraging dollars to buy buildings and re-sell or rent – can WA explore how it is organized and how it might do its work differently. Right now, City Hall doesn’t care about what we think. Could there be an organization that helps those living here with tasks Younger people may not want to be homeowners – older population is aging, younger generation doesn’t want to buy – increasing homeownership may not be the path to promote investment in the n’hood. Families live in apt buildings, duplexes – but what’s happening south of the Greenway – housing options are – rest of the n’hood is not integrating well with that part of the n’hood where Somali families live. Don’t know anyone there, don’t know anyone who connects there. I want people to feel connected to each other it’s about community connection and engagement to me that I love this n’hood for. When there’s a group of people or a group of the n’hood that I ‘m not connecting well with, that worries me. That’s my concern for Whittier now. Somali area – feels like there is an invisible barrier there. Society is changing – people of faith going down – people who are active in political parties is going down – things people got used to in the past that brought people together - But, has that always been part of the truth of this n’hood. Need subsidies to build affordable housing – even row houses. With new development – can it serve multi family units, common space and outdoor space. City seems to think this is a n’hood of only transitional housing – no incentives for builders to build anything for larger families. Special District Service – paid for by businesses – lighting – litter is always a problem – appreciate the Whittier cleaning day In principle What does the statement mean? Not all residences are equal. Not all contribute to the vitality</p>

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<p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?</p>	<p>of the n'hood. We want single family home – houses being torn down and big buildings going up – not unique n'hood anymore. Can WA play a role in controlling the big buildings. Add something explicit about price – range, expand the range of affordable options. In the past, not all homes contributed to the beauty of the n'hood – some of the group homes didn't. The statement points to the past – legacy that group homes didn't tend their properties well. Agree in principle, but not with the words. Pay attention to the ratio of different types of homes. Talking about material things rather than social things – affordable starts to get at that, diversity starts to get at that.</p> <p>5s</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>What does “world market style” mean? Ethnic markets? I don't understand what that means. Closing of Nicollet was a disaster. Have a smart plan to go into place for when Nicollet opens up again – focusing on this would be a smart investment of time and resources. We don't have good pathways to the powers that be – will anyone look at the great plan we already created? And beyond this topic, we need stronger connections to decision-makers. Keeping this a n'hood where small businesses can start and stay. Businesses really important to the n'hood. People want to come to this area. Small businesses need a way to communicate with the city – we're too busy to do this ourselves. Could WA restart this? Change language to reflect advocating for small businesses, place where immigrants can start a business – yes, I can get behind that.</p>

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<p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are <i>robust and world-market style</i>?</p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>Challenge – Amazon, Target home delivery Eat Street wasn't Eat Street in the past – need more business owners that invest in the community. Eat Street was a huge success. School and park building, too. Keep supporting Eat Street. Don't forget the other businesses – there are many other businesses that could be promoted. The language is lacking, but the fundamental thought behind it – we're agreeing that we want to support a diversity of businesses – world market style goes to ethnic, rather than a diversity of businesses. Represent and reflect the diversity of the n'hood Some concern about serving folks from other parts of the metro area, parking becomes a big issue. How can we balance that? Can the WA work to build a parking ramp?</p> <p>5s</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Special Service District – trying to get compostable containers, expensive. Composting is very expensive for businesses. There are programs at the County that can help businesses – can WA be a conduit to get those resources out to businesses?</p> <p>Littering is an issue. In ratio of homeowners to renters, with less homeowners you're going to have less people that feel like the environment around them is something they have ownership over and so therefore responsible for it– so finding a way to engage renters in a meaningful way to help them feel committed to the environment is harder.</p>

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<p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can <i>become a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Landlord model – how to empower people to make change. How do you get information to the people who most need it? Ongoing challenge is litter – support paying attention to litter. What does environmental sustainability mean? Cutting the carbon footprint of the neighborhood? Increasing recycling? Cutting down litter? Rain gardens and pretty flowers? How to engage and what's the role? Pleased to see education and stakeholder engagement in there. If you have more of a connection to the place that you live.</p> <p>5 3 3 I don't know if it should be a focus of WA's resources with its limited</p> <p>Do we do five things half-assed? This doesn't go away...it's woven into other focus areas, but maybe isn't its own focus.</p>
<p>What could this neighborhood use more of?</p> <p>What could this neighborhood use less of?</p> <p>What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?</p> <p>If WA could support the next "big idea" for residents in the</p>	<p>Construction of non-cost parking lots that residents could park in and non-residents could use. Fewer cars on the street would be a visual improvement Community engagement – more than NNO. I agree – email – Building community so we're all more connected, but also with a stronger community we have a stronger voice and a stronger presence. There are a lot of strengths – this is a wonderful city, and this is a wonderful community within the city. Community engagement – a lot of things fall in line with that. There are a lot of creative people in the n'hood, and theaters. It would be great to create something around art that's more present throughout the area so it becomes more of an arts district because arts is a way for community to come together and diversity to be expressed. Street with restaurants. Amazing institutions. What unites us and expresses us and differentiates us from other parts of the city. Providing artists with movable living spaces in NYC.</p>

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<p>neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?</p>	
<p>Is there a topic we haven't covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?</p>	<p>We have green spaces managed by the park board – what are doing with them? How do we engage around the green spaces? Can we partner with the new park director to support something that supports the n'hood as a whole?</p> <p>Vision elements – seems these should be ongoing things, not just in a five-year plan. These can be the long-range goal</p>
<p>What else do you want WA to know?</p>	<p>Park Board has a new initiative about green garden space - .</p>

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Group: Latinx – 11 adults and 3 youth	
Question	Responses
Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood	<p>This a group – we don't all live in the n'hood.</p> <p>Like a lot of programs here</p> <p>I like that Nacho is the pillar of the community – i.e. youth and food, dance group, unity is what I've seen</p> <p>Nacho IS WA</p> <p>Nacho is the pillar of the community</p> <p>Dance group – practice in the community ,</p> <p>Sharing dance with young kids</p> <p>Nacho is the reason why we're here in the community</p> <p>Support Nacho financially</p> <p>Nacho buys water and food</p> <p>Dance group</p> <p>Whittier participants in the community</p> <p>Displacing of the renters</p> <p>We have been able to support each other</p> <p>Solidarity</p> <p>Multicultural community</p> <p>Through hardships the community is still united</p> <p>Nacho is the pillar</p> <p>Opportunities to find programs and to prevent the issues with landlords</p> <p>Diversity of cultures and ethnicities - don't see that a lot in other communities</p> <p>People, dance group, solidarity and support from the dance group</p> <p>Dance group – traditional Aztec Dance – works with teachings of our ancestors, knowledge from one generation to another, works with all ages, nationalities, open to all including Whittier. Nonprofit, working with Whittier school (practice space), teaching children what is their true culture, strength of the Mexican community, attracts other ethnicities to join the group</p> <p>Aztec dance group helps us connect with other families – Somali families like to come and watch when we practice outside</p> <p>Helping my children learn about their identities</p> <p>Global Quest Leadership Program at Park</p> <p>Swimming and bicycle group</p>

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<p>What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?</p>	<p>Nacho gives out free backpacks – could there be more because not all kids get one Initiative program to celebrate Day of the Child All kids get together come to celebrate Gift to give each child. Feeling appreciated</p>
<p>What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?</p>	<p>Parking and traffic Poor parks – erosion, not safe for kids Cleanliness could be improved Improve communication to Latino families, especially families w/ no access to IT Need funding for programs with youth More police in the park Latino and Somali families playing soccer in the park were asked to give up space for white families. Now the park is empty. Latino and Somali families waiting for the white kids to be done with park. Car accidents 27th and Pleasant Ave – all Latino families – given 3 months to leave – another group of families given 2 months to leave Same landlords own multiple buildings 2 bedroom, minimum wage jobs, not affordable</p>
<p>What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?</p>	<p>It takes me longer to get here Owners of restaurants taken up streets Lots of traffic Parking is lacking more and more Parking control is very harsh Took away a lane because of bicycle lane Challenge to pay more rent and tickets Farmer’s market More businesses and condos equals those who have money Bicyclist – I appreciate the bicycle lane</p>

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<p>What is different?</p>	<p>Businesses don't reflect my culture but for those with means to go out We do not see a lot of affordable theater Gym is not accessible to community Gentrification</p> <p>Less children. Parks used to be full. People used to be at parks. Discourage parents to be inside the school No way to connect with those in my child's life We used to know people in the community – they have left Renters have no children Discrimination towards kids Nothing steady – need to create belonging. Students are renting the buildings. People pass by and do not say “hi” Separation between neighbors and community Losing the connection Arts, crafts, youth programming, parks need to be accessible</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Does not apply to me. It doesn't fit in my community. We cannot afford housing. Is for those who can afford this? Accessible and affordable, beauty and safe Latino families are being displaced into violent, poor housing, into new communities. Forcing kids to grow up outside of Whittier. Latinos are the blame but we see the system is not working for us. Violence lowered since Latinos joined the community Latinos are feeling displaced. WA needs to work with each community instead of the money or government</p>
<p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?</p>	<p>The authors of this language has money. The language doesn't mean it includes all. Lacks feeling, meaning of W, needs to be offered to community Vitality and beauty = buildings, but we are talking about people Beauty for me, them, Somali families? Parking needs to be worked on. Playground. Improve building but remain affordable to renters.</p>

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<p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that <i>all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Housing for them or for us?</p> <p>5 Needs different language. Cannot displace us. They have to give us a reason. Cap on rent. Renters should be respected and dignified. Income, safety, plans – we need to be timely</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are <i>robust and world-market style?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5</p>	<p>Monica's (Marisa's?) store the only place we have Or a block with Chinese Supermarket is gone next to Kmart. Good for the n'hood</p> <p>The language is very limited. Difficult process and misunderstand. Meeting makes us feel intimidated. The community needs to be at the table Would like to see a business for bicycling Only food options to walk and eat Not everyone can afford if we have children Farmers market should be given priority</p> <p>5, but only if the following is the goal:</p>

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<p>being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>Marisa's type businesses should be encouraged and supported and not just expensive restaurants. More various types of businesses. Need more diverse to be incentivized.</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can <i>become a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Did not have time to introduce this set of questions.</p>
<p>What could this neighborhood use more of?</p>	<p>Youth programming We want you to see us, build relationships. We would like to see them at the parks, involved with the community Want more transparency Needs community outreach with multi diverse groups</p>

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<p>What could this neighborhood use less of?</p> <p>What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?</p> <p>If WA could support the next “big idea” for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?</p>	<p>I have more involvement with other programs outside Whittier i.e. Lyndale N’Hood Association, but not here. WA has not opened the space or relationship to us They need staff to invest in the people of the n’hood and reflect the community</p>
<p>Is there a topic we haven’t covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?</p> <p>What else do you want WA to know?</p>	<p>Did not have time to introduce this set of questions.</p>

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Group: Somali – 2 participants	
Question	Responses
Share something that you really appreciate about the Whittier neighborhood	I like it. I like it because of quietness, peaceful. Variety of people who are majority respectful. What has improved in the last 5 years seen a change in safety. Some people are families.
What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?	Feels peaceful, quiet, good neighborhood. Different, diverse communities. Welcoming “newcomers” People are encouraging and respectful
What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?	People need language help, work, safety. Too many bullies. Need to listen to everyone’s concerns. Decrease in robberies of small businesses. People loitering around – but, that’s a minor problem Parking (Sundays are not free)
What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?	Construction New people move in New small businesses
What is different?	New people running for office Decrease of houses for sale
What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?	Positive step to continue Encourage people to move into the n’hood Add buildings and more people - affordable 100-250 unites - encouraged low income also Safety, respect and environment
What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its	Continue the work on housing More problems with people

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<p>focus on housing?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that <i>all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood?</i></p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?</p>	<p>Work together with police maybe n'hood policing, focus on the concerns Take steps to intervene (say or do) to do something to solve community issues Include all the diverse voice to solve</p> <p>Ideas Vitality and Beauty Common areas – park improvements Parks can add more trees and green grass Parking options Safety at common areas</p> <p>5</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are <i>robust and world-market style?</i></p>	<p>As long as they are helping people Nicollet/Lake, more ethnic restaurants and businesses are available and encourage more Focus to bring the new and different businesses Clinics can be included and not just office buildings Diverse types and ethnic based businesses – encourage more Low interest loans as a solution</p> <p>Listening to all the concerns Maintaining the small businesses Construction planning impacts on small businesses to be included to support them Timing and costly for small businesses</p> <p>Pre-plan for future with businesses to include owners in the process to lessen the financial impact</p>

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<p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>What ideas do you have for ways that WA can <i>become a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability</i>?</p> <p>On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?</p>	<p>Accessible n'hood - school, clinic, park, n'hood Walkability = attract more people</p> <p>Transparency All kinds of concerns need to consider the short-term and long-term impacts Let the community decide what needs to be done</p> <p>Continue clean-up, cleanliness of n'hood Trash bags – consider making more available at stop lights Increase one more day for clean-up Increase communication to high rises Put in extra effort</p> <p>5</p>
<p>What could this neighborhood use more of?</p>	<p>Engage with different communities Connect police and the community more consistently throughout the year – open lines of communication Should include each community</p>

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<p>What could this neighborhood use less of?</p> <p>What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?</p> <p>If WA could support the next “big idea” for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?</p>	<p>Maintain those relationships</p> <p>Subsidized big buildings Maintain the buildings Less crime, prevent crime</p> <p>Community center with youth, common space</p>
<p>Is there a topic we haven't covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on?</p> <p>What else do you want WA to know?</p>	

2018 World Café Questions

Round One - Table Conversations

- What is going well in the Whittier neighborhood?
- What challenges are we facing?
- 10 minute report out

Round Two – Topic Table Conversations

One table each for

- Housing
 - Commercial Corridors and Businesses
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Other
-
- In five years, what does success look like?
 - What challenges or barriers might we encounter?
 - What strategies can we use to overcome or move past these barriers?
 - Five minute report out

Ask people to fill review proposed vision before they leave.

Summary of World Café Input February 12, 2018

What is going well in Whittier?

Diversity - ethnic and economic and age and income
Walkability
Accessibility and diversity of transit
It's safe!
Something for everyone
Restaurants and family-owned businesses
Don't have to leave neighborhood
People
Engaged
Geography / physical structure
Diversity of building stock
Arts and schools

What challenges are we facing?

Lack of reliable public transit
Lack of engagement with whole neighborhood
Lack of influence with elected officials – representatives and process
Dumping ground for “undesirable uses”
Challenges in purchasing homes (and family housing)
Availability and affordability of housing (and family housing)
Lack of social opportunities and engagement
Lack of social integration (diversity “silos”)
Parking
Gentrification
Traffic
Trash and maintenance
Focus on “core” of neighborhood (literal and figurative)

Vibrant and Diverse Community	
<p>In five years, what does success look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution Without Dissolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That these vibrant and diverse communities are still here - That they are more connected - Harder to do with 70-100-unit building • Kids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children as a catalyst - The kids all go to school in the neighborhood • Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Block clubs – kids as connectors – school in neighborhood - There is less fear of the people we don't know - That these vibrant diverse communities are connected
<p>What challenges or barriers might we encounter?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Identity and Self-Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get out of our own way / egos, etc, to build structures and relationships that are truly powerful and connected to the power structures - Sustained outreach and engagement to the various aspects/community to hear/listen and empower! • Affordability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents priced out of local - Residents unable to afford neighborhood biz - Rents/property values prohibitive to new business. Existing ones being forced out. - Uphill battle of curbing gentrification if we don't address housing issues.
<p>What strategies can we use to overcome or move past these barriers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to change the existing structures / pathways that connect people / pockets / communities within the neighborhood so we have an honest unified collective voice. • Working to build bridges / structures to change the existing processes that connect / between neighborhood and political power holders • Creating opportunities for neighbors to be better informed / trained in how systems do work so ideas for change are not impractical. • Creating more opportunities for people to engage cross silos / pockets / communities • Building true relationships so the voice of the neighborhood does represent a unified / collective voice • Get connected to city rep • Proud of the diversity and welcoming atmosphere. Wish there was more mingling between different

	<p>communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse locations around Whittier – activities/events and it would be nice to have more natural ways people want to do things together
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Diversity of Housing Stock	
<p>In five years, what does success look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building materials - Size • Keep Existing Single Family Housing Stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requiring building materials that will last • Providing a Diversity of Ownership Opportunities and Increasing These Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change zoning – requirements on size and number of units - Too many single units - More condo ownership opportunities • Neighborhood representation at the city level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More family friendly - Access issues and seniors - Whittier neighborhood voice on city zoning/housing plans - Save houses that currently exist
<p>What challenges or barriers might we encounter?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Creativity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of creativity • Who Has the Power? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developer power – who has the ear of the city? - What are the incentives to make rent affordable? • What is Legally and Politically Possible? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is legally possible? - What is politically possible? • Transience

	- Not enough ownership (community and property)
What strategies can we use to overcome or move past these barriers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City should reach out to neighborhood in city planning • Finding developers who care about these kinds of questions • Ask Humphrey School • Building “legitimacy” of the neighborhood, i.e. participation • Finding and supporting candidates who care about development issues • Consulting with expert who understand the bidding process

Getting Around	
In five years, what does success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer cars • More public transportation • New trolley • Cars2Go return • Safer walking (curb pullouts, signals) • Walkability of neighborhood • Walkability and bikeability of the neighborhood • Walking/location
What challenges or barriers might we encounter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much density • Lack of investment in public transit • City planners not listening to neighborhood • Imbalanced bike lanes • Need more lightrail to attract more riders to public transit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too many bike lanes taking away parking and slows traffic - Continued increase in density contributes to gridlock - City planners not listening to residents - Lack of light rail transit (to attract more riders and increase efficiency) - Safety
What strategies can we use to overcome or move past these barriers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More alternatives to cars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared cars - Parking required in new housing developments - Fewer cars - Better public transportation – in a reasonable amount of time. More buses. Trolley? Buses full? Get N to S

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More bussing – it <u>has</u> to move quicker. Bus lanes? Bus shelters (Closed, heated) - More conversations about bike lanes, bus lanes – see what other cities are doing • Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safer walking – curbs, lights, sidewalks, businesses on smaller streets, - Safety - Lighting on my walk home • Engage voters around these issues
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Civic Engagement	
<p>In five years, what does success look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual Respect and Engagement and Influence with Elected Officials • Increased Voter Turnout • Increased Engagement with Whittier Alliance Across Diversity Silos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased voter turnout - Neighborhood speaks, city listens - (Listening) City Council member – improved relationship - Whittier Alliance represents Whittier (the people) - Whittier Alliance – 100% increase Somali, Latino, renter, age, students, seniors - Board member access; proof of residency, etc.
<p>What challenges or barriers might we encounter?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Branching out / vulnerability is hard. It’s easier to talk to people I know. - Whittier Alliance meetings at same time as PTA (Whittier) - No. Field Day – even when it was successful, people didn’t know about , ice cream social
<p>What strategies can we use to overcome or move past these barriers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking Down Silos • Spreading the Word – Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinating getting voters to the polls - Voters to the polls collaboration - Seeking out opportunities to build relationships with elected officials - Communication plan – social media, door knocking, Board member invites, not just emails - Food events

Something for Everyone	
In five years, what does success look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For customer - For business - Access to creative outlets / community spaces • Desirable area for family-owned business • Community support for family-owned business
What challenges or barriers might we encounter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profits Leaving Neighborhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capitalist base, not quality - Threat of further corporate investment • Trash • Lighting
What strategies can we use to overcome or move past these barriers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog park? • Things to do for kids • Community creative spaces

Online Input – 24 Participants

What are some of the positive things going on in the Whittier neighborhood today?

- New businesses looking to locate in/adjacent to Whittier
- Great restaurants, walkability
- We are having more housing and denser housing being built. This is so helpful to avoid rent increases and displacement. I'm a renter, and I don't make a lot of money, so I have been concerned that if new housing wasn't being built, my landlord might pressure me to pay more. I'm also excited for the growth in affordable groceries - Aldi coming to 26th and the Good Grocer moving to Eat Street are both highly needed. The Wedge very nice (I love the local produce) but it's just too expensive for me and most of the other people in my building. I'm also really happy with the new bike lanes that have been built.
- The food
- Tons of arts organizations and activities, great bike lanes
- All of the new businesses and bike lanes
- Great amenities / quality of life
- strength of small businesses, arts, creativity
- Seems to be a good balance of new businesses, construction, growth, and progress, while still a space for those that have been here longer.
- continued economic investment in the neighborhood
- New bike lanes on 26th and 28th make it so much safer to bicycle!
- Thriving independently owned businesses, many ways to be part of the community
- exciting new small businesses
- the mural on 24th Street, across from Common Roots; new interesting businesses on Nicollet Ave., very walkable, parks, playgrounds
- I love seeing kids of all different backgrounds playing basketball at the park on a summer evening.
- Communication has improved with Whittier news and neighborhood watches via email. People seem to be taking care of their homes more promptly. The parks have been kept up.
- People are getting involved. I see more attendance at Community Issues meetings and people are voicing their opinion which I like
- Some of the new restaurants that have been taking a chance on us.
- Influx of new people, businesses and services. New businesses on Nicollet
- We are seeing a diversity of ways that people are choosing to engage in things they see as needing. Affordable housing, unfair rental practices being challenged and raised in the public eye, creation of a mission driven farmers market
- Whittier Environmental Sustainability Group

- Renters rights group helping renters

What are some challenging things going on in the neighborhood?

- Crime
- Traffic issues (multiple accidents) along 1st Avenue
- We still have several empty lots that I think we could build more housing on. I'm really concerned that if the supply of housing is constrained, rising prices and displacement will increase. I'm also concerned with the speeding of cars through the neighborhood and the running of red lights. People drive way to fast down 26th and 28th - the bike lanes have helped a little, but I'd like to see speeds decreased and more stop signs added.
- The crime
- Too much poverty, also the closed Franklin Ave bridge
- It is getting more expensive to rent an apartment here
- Increase in density with corresponding increase in employment opportunities
- Lack of feelings of community among neighbors
- unchecked development, aging single family home stock looking meager, walkability challenges due to traffic speed, lack of good transit, perception that there isn't enough parking, mediocre engagement from the community around important issues
- The eternal battle between excessive gentrification and languishing stagnation. Clearly a bit of gentrification is making the neighborhood more valuable (but possibly pushing ahead of inflation regarding affordability), and the counter-side to is trying to maximize that affordability (but possibly foregoing basic maintenance and upkeep to do so).
- balancing density and new residences with keeping traffic orderly and housing affordable
- Housing prices are going up; landlords have been kicking out families who have lived here for decades.
- Gentrification
- The growing tide of over-development and destruction of the neighborhood character for the profit of developers.
- parking, affordability of housing
- Litter :-)
- Graffiti is still a problem as are fireworks.
- Not enough representation of groups such as people of color and people with disabilities. Also people need to pick up after their dogs. I notice when walking I see dog pooh. It is unattractive and spreads germs. Also I know it is hard to find the time but people need to try to do a better job of shoveling their sidewalk.
- The uptick in crime.
- Crime of various amounts
- Crime
- It seems that the siloed nature is ever increasing. Whether it is cultural, age, geography the divisions between populations at least appear to be growing

- fears/concerns over changes/growth
- Gentrification, low income folks being priced out, crimes against women

What is new in the neighborhood in the last few years?

- The influx of grocery stores
- Housing development (Chroma)
- The HCMC Whittier Clinic is really great - it's so helpful to have affordable health care nearby. I've been happy to see a few more restaurants open on Eat Street (Pimento, Khun Nai). The Zeus Jones building remodel is nice, but I wish they hadn't kept both parking lots - it's a lot of parking for a walkable street.
- Cajin boiling
- Bike lanes
- businesses and bike lanes
- Chroma
- Development, explosive growth on Eat Street, possible connection at kmart site, traffic calming measures, new bike lanes
- More/better bike lanes, Tilt, Wedge Table keeps tweaking it's model, and there's an Aldi coming soon(!)
- multifamily developments
- Those bike lanes on 26th and 28th! They are wonderful.
- Bike lanes on 26th and 28th, I don't dislike them, but it was a bit of a jarring change
- Big ugly apartment buildings with inadequate parking.
- businesses on Nicollet; increase in condos in or near neighborhood
- The clinic at Nicollet and 28th St. A fine addition to the neighborhood.
- We have had a few new business's. They seem to come and go alot.
- Very small apartment development
- Bike lanes on 26th and 28th - not a good thing in my opinion - could have been designed and developed better. Felt like we did not get a say in this.
- Restaurants, bike lanes, apartments
- Farmers Market, Visible collaboration(s) with MCAD, A larger more inclusive neighborhood gathering, more restaurants and less diversity of businesses.
- lots of housing development
- Businesses and apartments

What is different?

- Newer and higher density housing (I believe this is a positive difference)

- Increased density
- I have noticed more outreach from the Whittier Alliance, which I really like. I don't have a chance to really make it to many meetings, so it's nice to have surveys like this and other social media avenues to offer input. From a negative perspective, I have noticed more backlash against pedestrian-centered and bike-centered infrastructure changes. That really saddens me - we have a lot of work to do to fight climate change, plus, there are a lot of residents who don't have a car. Some people are young like me, but two of my neighbors in my building are in their 60s and don't have cars. Having safe sidewalks and bike lanes is not a generational thing, at least not in the building where I live!
- Nothing?
- The Franklin Ave bridge being closed
- Sort of the same question as above
- These new 500 - 800 square foot apartments may become a liability in the future. This is likely NOT the Kind of growth that will sustain livability
- All of the above, I think, has a polarizing effect... people are excited at the improvements, but nervous at the change. People, I think, feel alienated and not "heard."
- A few old staples have been lost (I'll miss Evergreen Chinese, though I'm a bit surprised it didn't close sooner), a lot of drivers seem to be getting worse (at driving, at parking legally, etc.)
- Increased involvement in the neighborhood by Somali-Americans
- Crime is gone. I cannot believe how much crime has fallen in the last 5-7 years.
- The event center that is being built on the Mercado is somewhat mind blowing, of course I see it daily as it's directly behind my condo
- Big ugly apartment buildings and a City Council rep who does not represent us
- Increase in condos in or near neighborhood due to City incentives
- Restaurants are increasing and the ones I've been to are great!
- Not sure
- Greenway neighborhood feels quieter/more grown up
- Increased gentrification

What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on housing?

- The demand for housing is only going to increase due to its natural geographic desirability (transit, green line, character, etc.). Because of this, I think we need to welcome new housing, being proactive with developers, not reactive once plans are too late. But the demand isn't going to go away, and if we do not increase housing opportunities for new residents, rents (market based) will inevitably rise due to increased demand and we will lose long time residents.
- Better range of options

- I think it is very important for Whittier Alliance to focus on housing. We need a hyper-local perspective that can speak to the City Council and the Mayor. The Alliance can be advocates for more housing and more density as well as advocate for more transit options to serve everyone in the neighborhood.
- If by benefits you mean more section 8, I do not agree. Crappy buildings need to be renovated, low income tenements attract lots of criminals
- There is a lot of minimally maintained rental housing in Whittier. It is easy, I imagine, for landlords to neglect properties especially when residents are poor, or immigrants. Whittier needs a constant focus on housing to ensure safe, decent living conditions for everyone.
- Whittier is on the edge/brink of radically transforming and getting much more expensive. WA needs to be an advocate for more multifamily housing in the neighborhood, at reasonable (but market rate) rents. It needs to be supportive of multifamily rental and ownership housing options. It needs to recruit non profit partners to come in and purchase the naturally occurring affordable housing that exists here today and find other options of preserving those units while also supporting new buildings that support the life of the neighborhood
- Maybe the WA members will be heard and cause a change in zoning to focus on family housing alternatives.
- more affordable housing for diversity of needs
- The SFH population is aging and looks terrible in many areas. The cost of remodeling is exorbitant. I'm not sure how to fix that problem. Incentivizing "smaller developers" to acquire older housing stock and replace them with fourplexes or other multi-family options would help with diversity, density and the again SFH problem.
- The growth of housing and Whittier becoming more dense will take diligence to ensure progress balances with those who are simply pursuing profit.
- To carefully guide developments to meet our design and need standards (per the design guidelines developed in ? 2009?)
- Whittier Alliance must do an about face on Housing. Currently, the Strategic Plan seeks to cut affordable housing. This is outrageous, given the shortage of affordable housing in Whittier. The new focus on housing should be to INCREASE and PRESERVE affordable housing in Whittier.
- I am concerned for renters in the area, it's important for WA to do what it can to balance development while maintaining an affordable place to live for long time residents who rent
- hopeful development of truly affordable housing.
- affordability is a high priority for Whittier residents
- Stronger and more home ownership is good for the community.
- Everyone deserves a decent home. Also the more vitality and beauty in a neighborhood the more attractive to business's and home owners. Which will attract more jobs.
- The Whittier Alliance has been instrumental over the last several decades of helping to preserve the history of the neighborhood. Whether that be by helping to preserve and move one of the earliest structures in the neighborhood, the Elisha Morse house in the early 1990's and assist in bringing it to historic designation. Or by helping to preserve and move two single family homes on Stevens avenue for 2 new families to move into the neighborhood. WA has always been a strong partner with the PAM and the Hennepin County History Museum and I hope will continue to do so.

- Would love to see more home ownership in the neighborhood - needs to be affordable. I think that WA can help with that. Also ensuring that some of our home owning neighbors who don't have the resources to keep up their homes can get assistance to do so.
- Higher population is good! More customers for commercial corridors and businesses.
- This could be a place where WA could have impact, but I think how we engage on this issue needs to be re-imagined. Thinking we are going to have a big impact on decisions downtown is foolhardy at best, regardless of who is in office. It is a process problem. Housing is one of the most visible challenges to the neighborhood, and one that will greatly impact the very essence of the neighborhood if we don't find more meaningful ways to engage with the development process.
- making sure people can afford to continue to live in the neighborhood
- My hope would be that a focus on housing would bring attention to people who are being priced out of their homes- especially lower income residents

What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on housing?

- I see conflicts between home owners and renters.
- More cars in the neighborhood
- As a long-time renter, I have always been concerned that the Whittier Alliance Board does not have enough renter representation - especially for a neighborhood that is mostly renters. I think the Whittier Alliance needs to work hard at engaging renters, and especially engaging those low income renters who often work during the evening when the Alliance holds its meetings (maybe hold some Saturday meetings sometime?). Second, I think the Whittier Alliance will continue to face the challenge of balancing the desires of homeowners (who stand to benefit from keeping the supply of housing down so that their property value increases) with the need to provide more housing for the rapidly increasing population. I know this as a renter in my own building: as demand is increasing in the area, my landlord can raise my rent without me having any bargaining power.
- Bleeding heart people selling out their neighborhood to those that do not wish for their neighbor to be safe.
- The high poverty rates and older age of a lot of the housing stock
- See above. If WA continues its past focus on only supporting for-sale housing, it will be severely challenged to have an impact and will not be serving the best interests of the neighborhood.
- Construction cost reality will continue to discourage suitable family housing when developers see the opportunity to build higher density small units
- housing shortages
- people are afraid of density and affordability... changing people's minds about those issues could be a challenge.
- On one hand you have profit driven developers and negligent landlords (*cough* apartment shop *cough*) which inherently aren't concerned about Whittier as a community. On the other hand you have those afraid of change or unwilling/able to support even basic maintenance and growth of the neighborhood. Finding the proper, common ground between those camps so Whittier can flourish will be tough.

- Extremely important to work on this to balance attractive new developments with affordability and also preservation of the historic aspect of Whittier architecture
- The current Strategic Plan makes the preposterous claim that Whittier is overburdened with Affordable Housing. This may have been the case twenty years ago but in 2018, it is simply not true. Just this past year, over two dozen families had to leave Whittier and Jefferson school because they were forced out of their homes by landlords who raised rents by as much as 50%. In some cases the landlords refuse to rent to them, even at the higher rents! The Whittier Alliance should, through this Strategic Plan, work to protect renters from drastic rent increases and encourage landlords to do everything possible to help stable, hard-working families to stay in their homes.
- Rent control? Tenants rights?
- The rental rates being artificially jacked up by development
- Increasing costs of housing and property taxes city-wide; balancing parking needs and biking needs
- I'm concerned about my neighbors getting priced out as improvements to the housing stock are made and new fancy buildings are put up. I've especially heard of immigrant renters being taken advantage of.
- Continuing to work on community relations (people getting along) and continuing to come up with activities that bring a mix of people together.
- A problem with gentrification. Also possibly property taxes going up.
- Lack of affordable family housing. 2) Lack of family housing. 3) Lack of single family housing.
- Limited stock of housing in the neighborhood.
- Environmental impact of more people in the neighborhood
- The existing practices and pathways we engage to communicate neighborhood feelings and desires on proposed developments are inadequate at best. The existing practices of commenting through CI, or a letter from WA to the planning commission are easily ignored. As long as the organization is not representational we can not claim to be a voice for the neighborhood.
- dealing with all the new housing density/congestion.
- The divide between folks with higher incomes who own homes and care more about beauty vs folks who are under-represented at WA meetings but are fighting to keep basic homes

What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that all homes and residences contribute to the vitality and beauty of the neighborhood?

- Better outreach to renters, many of whom would ideally like to be homeowners.
- Better policing
- I would love to see us remove more of the surface parking lots in the neighborhood and encourage more housing, more green space like parks and community gardens, and increasing the number of bike racks on the major streets. There are also several intersections and side streets where broken street lights aren't replaced for months at a time - but I don't even know who or how to report that. Lastly, because it is winter time, I am really concerned with how poorly shoveled our sidewalks are. Unfortunately, the worst sidewalks tend to be at intersections and in front of single-family homes. How can the WA identify homes where the

elderly or disabled are unable to shovel? How can we hold able-bodied people accountable for shoveling - in a way that works better than the city's 311 system?

- More background checks for renters in all income level rentals. LESS CRIMINALS.
- First, ordinances that require landlords to improve housing quality and maintenance and lawn maintenance (without allowing rent increases). The renters may be low income but the landlords aren't. We should have a neighborhood code that makes Palm Springs, California look disorganized. Second maybe some beautification campaigns. Each block needs a captain, and there should be a competition among blocks, with a trip to Hawaii as the prize for the captain of the most beautified block. I think we should work to make Whittier the most beautiful neighborhood in the Twin Cities. This will draw even more people to its thriving businesses and cultural enclaves. Some percent of all money spent at those businesses should be invested back in the neighborhood - like a local tax. If Minneapolis won't allow this, we should declare independence. We have some of the best features of the upper midwest in this neighborhood - if we whip it into shape, it will create hope and prosperity. Third, in order to maintain affordable housing why don't we institute Rent Control like New York City did after WWII? With all these ideas, I am not suggesting we gentrify the neighborhood, but rather raise everyone in the neighborhood to where they are living in a neighborhood that is at least the level of a working class European city, and in doing so, help the low income people and immigrants in Whittier get a leg up, and also make it nicer for all of us.
- Clear standards on designs that will elicit support that are both clear and reasonable.
- more housing
- See above regarding "small developers." Perhaps a partnership with organizations who provide laborers at reasonable wages and encouraging entire blocks to hire them for general landscaping.
- Base programs and decision making on sound research and analysis. Establish long-term goals, create plans to make progress towards those, and be ready to accommodate change. And don't let the "squeaky wheels" distract from a reasonable, broader benefit.
- Follow design guidelines for new developments, provide seminars, incentives and assistance for existing buildings
- This the WA already does. But they need to do this with great humility and with the recognition that beauty of the exterior of a home is only part of the equation- we must also focus on the beauty of cultures, of traditions, of ways of being, of family and community CONNECTIONS. But yes, continue to encourage beauty, and I would say do so by encourage NATIVE PLANTS. Help homeowners and landlords to plant native, and thereby create safe bee and pollinator habitat.
- I wish I had more ideas, I feel like someone who is versed in policy, affordable housing would be important to have on the Board
- Give the residents a voice in the planning and zoning process. Any "voice" we have is just perfunctory these days and these decisions are made disregarding our input...
- Connect with people in particular buildings.
- A few more clean-up days, community awareness via flyers and emails, keep talking about community pride, perhaps classes on how to discuss and question without getting angry, i.e. tone of voice, word choice, listening exercises.
- Make sure people's yards are picked up this includes the dog pooh issue I mentioned earlier
- Provide assistance to those who have need to ensure upkeep and solid structures
- Plant trees, sponsor murals, work with businesses and neighbors to reduce, reuse and recycle.

- Relationships with those in power need to be rebuilt. Acknowledge where we disagree, but find common ground. Look at alternative models like Neighborhood Investment Coops. Work harder to be an organization that works to benefit all types of residents. Programming historically has done a better job engaging businesses and homeowners and we need to move beyond that in perception and reality.
- neighborhood clean-up event around Earth Day
- We have lovely old buildings in Whittier. Let's make sure we preserve these. As far as vitality- Whittier as an international neighborhood is it's strength. We need to preserve that also, lest we become another uptown

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on housing?

Average = 4.2

What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?

- We are home to one of the most popular commercial districts in the metro, this focus is very important.
- More options for residents to shop local
- Our commercial areas are the heart of the neighborhood culture, I think. So many of the small businesses are owned by people who live in the neighborhood, and I would love to see WA find a way to "incubate" more homegrown businesses.
- More diverse offerings!
- This will bring in more businesses and keep this neighborhood thriving
- It is a major reason why we live here - the diversity of businesses
- Great amenities
- A city is only as vibrant as its commercial nodes. By making each node a "one stop shop" for residents we decrease the need for automobile travel, improve community health by encouraging walking, support small business. As the city grows, we ought to look to our major metropolitan areas like NYC with its vibrant streets.
- Stability for current businesses, new businesses, re-investment into the neighborhood
- Robust commercial corridor is the other side of the coin to residential strategy. Perhaps WA can guide in the types of businesses we want to see here--independent, locally owned businesses.
- No complaint here. Except that the WA needs to focus a little less on this and more on other priorities.
- It's critical for our independent businesses to continue to thrive
- Nurture of emerging small businesses
- Providing jobs and convenient businesses for residents
- I love that people from all around town know about and appreciate our neighborhood.
- It makes the community more vibrant.

- This concept will bring more jobs into the neighborhood and make the neighborhood as a whole a more attractive area to visit .
- Being a resource for local business. Continue to provide facade grants when requested.
- This is a big plus for the neighborhood - having vibrant, full and diverse businesses makes this a more livable neighborhood and one that I want to live in.
- More businesses mean more access to goods/services for everyone
- We have such diversity of business. One rarely needs to leave the boundaries of the neighborhood to get what you need and that is a very rare thing. There is something for everyone here, we don't just cater to limited sets of demographics when it comes to business ownership or those that frequent these establishments.
- Hopefully using less salt for de-icing
- The small Multicultural shops and restaurants, and small interesting businesses and shops that draw people to Whittier

What challenges can you imagine for WA continuing its focus on commercial corridors and businesses?

- Increased rents
- I think we have a big test coming in the K'Mart redevelopment in the next 5-10 years. I don't want Nicollet to become a fast-moving thoroughfare (for example, 38th Street has a lot of great restaurants and businesses, but the design of it encourages speeding). I want WA to continue to keep a close eye on what is happening with K'Mart.
- More bus traffic, less parking
- Traffic, lack of parking, narrow streets that are a pain to drive on
- I'm not sure what value WA is providing to the commercial core right now. It is not communicated well, whatever is being done.
- The WA or the City cannot take credit for businesses returning to Nicollet Ave. East Street came about solely because of the grit and determination of Asian entrepreneurs in the 90s. I was here.
- Property owners with street front spaces are caught in a time warp. The days of national retailers renting large square footage for a decade are GONE.
- Parking. More business pulling from outside the neighborhood means more cars. We need greater transit options and a focus on ensuring traffic to businesses doesn't negatively impact residents.
- How to attract the kind of businesses, including developments, that we think are vital and appropriate to WA
- Like I said, no complaint.
- Again, affordability for immigrant owned businesses
- incursion of franchised restaurants and chain stores
- increased demand for parking; changes the aesthetic of neighborhood
- Making sure people are heard regarding their complaints, both businesses and pedestrians.
- We need to open up Nicollet Avenue this has been talked about for many years.
- As gentrification continues to expand, it will be much harder for the independent store owners to stay here, yet alone new ones to start up here.

- Parking
- Space - lots of existing real estate that's owned by neighbors
- The Eat St focus/identity has limited us and perhaps is hurting the diversity of businesses. We seemed to focus on the core of Nicolette Ave, and need to engage with all the businesses on the boundaries and hidden throughout the neighborhood. How as a neighborhood Association can we really truly support our businesses? Is it about what they need from us or about what the people who live here want from them. These are some hard questions we perhaps need to make sure we are asking so we are not working at cross purposes.
- more density/congestion/parking issues
- Smaller, interesting businesses being priced out

What ideas do you have for ways that WA can make sure that the neighborhood businesses are robust and world-market style?

- Make sure we are engaging with the city to make sure any changes are made known to our businesses, as well as any access to capital needs.
- Whittier Alliance clean up vacant storefronts
- I mentioned this in an earlier question, but I would love to see more public art on the sidewalks and more bike racks provided by local businesses. Could WA run a contest for the "most creative bike rack"? Second, as I mentioned, I would love for WA to partner with some kind of homegrown incubator that encourages business start-ups from immigrants and people of color.
- Business front trash pick-up? I hate seeing trash in front of immigrant businesses.
- Extend the Nicollet Mall walking street all the way to the ugly Kmart. Line it with amazing shops and restaurants. Copenhagen, Denmark, has a walking street that long. With downtown Minneapolis shopping dying out and shopping malls everywhere struggling, people still need places to go where they can shop for more unique items, like antiques, novelties, etc. Institute a contest to reward great new business ideas and help the winners get started. We could apply as a whole neighborhood for venture capital to do some of this.
- New buildings should be required to have retail on the ground floor if they are on a main street. Parking should not be requested. Houses should be allowed to convert to commercial uses along major corridors.
- Advertise and encourage patronizing
- Open to community members, incentives for minority owned businesses
- Landlords have to shift their financial models to provide for smaller tenants and lease terms that allow start-ups to thrive. new developments in particular have to build small bays at affordable rates. I like this one best: The City could provide property tax breaks for landlords who offer lower price per square foot to their tenants. Rarely do we see incentives for "affordable commercial" (always affordable residential) but a city is healthy and vibrant with a strong streetfront of businesses!!
- Why do we not have a craft brewery yet? Seriously. Utilize the green space at 27th & Nicollet better (that should probably be the farmer's market location rather than an alley parking lot of a church). Support filling in the gaps (businesses seem clustered along

Nicollet, need to continue spreading out further north and south to create a true corridor rather than a hub that might expand more radially).

- Get some market research on what types of business our demographics can support, including how far will people go to get to these business
- What the heck does that mean? Get rid of that, focus on getting better bike parking, more green space, benches, shade trees. And figure out a way to get all businesses on board for a PAY PARKING strategy. Every lot on Nicollet should switch to pay parking at one time. It is the green thing to do and if everyone agrees to do it together, then that makes for a smooth transition. The city should also have meters on Nicollet, and the WA should fight for that to happen. People will come here! They love it here. If you think meters will put a ding in business on Nicollet, you have a pretty pessimistic view of the true strength of our "Main Street".
- I wish I had more time to be involved, I think we could have way more community celebrations, create incentives to try many and different places to eat, public art on more businesses
- keep the mega-developments out so retail and commercial space is affordable. The space available in these new building is rent-prmhubutive for start-ups
- There could be a day in the summer when businesses could "put out their wares" on the sidewalk in a large market/fair day.
- Continue to foster professional services, new restaurants, unique markets that are locally owned.
- Increase office density near eat street for lunch traffic - keeps the shops better afloat.
- Get rid of the 'World Market Style' language it is meaningless at best and really is confusing. Make sure we are meaningfully engaged with all the business sectors of the neighborhood-restaurants, social services, arts, etc.
- Support diversity

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on strengthening commercial corridors and businesses?

Average = 4

What benefits do you see of WA continuing its focus on environmental sustainability?

- As an incredibly dense neighborhood in the City, it's very important.
- Needs to be the new normal
- This is SO important to me. As a younger adult, I know that I am going to live to see some of the more severe impacts of climate change. I want to be making dramatic changes now so that we become a sustainable neighborhood and city. I would love to have the Whittier Alliance leading the city in this regard.
- There is no focus.
- More pleasant neighborhood, healthier people, cleaner environment, innovative local economy.

- Our climate is in peril, we need to do things.
- None, this is an economic issue that will harm low-income if forced.
- Well.... otherwise we are doomed as a species.
- This is an imperative.
- I think there is a significant proportion of residents and businesses who want to be want to have and promote a green lifestyle
- The wonderful new protected bike lanes on 26th and 28th streets are only a start. Those streets are still fast and dangerous. Let's make them safer to cross. Let's have bumpouts. Let's green them up more. Make them the pride of our neighborhood, rather than the mini-freeways that they have been for so long.
- We all have a critical responsibility to this
- A cleaner healthier community
- Environmental sustainability is necessary and is a priority to many residents of the neighborhood and city.
- I worry that with so many people housed in apartments, it's hard for people to find healthy ways to be outside.
- It simply makes the neighborhood more attractive, both in sight and financially.
- It would be great if we could educate more people about gardening, getting solar rooftops and into a solar garden. Just living greener and healthier
- Good overall long term for everyone
- Clean neighborhoods are better
- This is an issue that undeniably is important and timely. It is something that people care about and can bring people together to engage in hands on work where they can see immediate and long term benefits for themselves, thier neighbors etc
- keeping our environment healthy and usable for all
- Increased education, improved environment

What challenges can you imagine for WA in continuing its focusing on environmental sustainability?

- Broader reach, to renters and new american households.
- Costs to residents (tax dollars)
- Car dependency is the most severe problem that is driving climate change (no pun intended!). I think our neighborhood still has a lot of work to do to encourage alternative modes of transport - especially as we also want to continue being a destination for the entire city. How can we encourage people to visit the businesses of Whittier without driving? Maybe a business would offer a discount for someone who rode their bike? I think this is going to be a big challenge - not only because of the logistical issues of moving away from car dependence but also because of the cultural preferences for driving.
- Finding a focus on this.
- Lack of light rail in the immediate vicinity.
- It has not done much from what I can tell.

- Ignorance. I think we do such a great job of keeping our streets, water and air clean that people have a misconception about how much trouble we are in. Laziness. It takes a lot of individual effort to change old habits. Cultural influence. We, as Americans, are used to over-using so our "normal" is exponentially higher than the rest of the world. Typical people have no idea that they overuse water, fuel, plastics, resources because they've never been abroad.
- Old buildings are inefficient and hard to retrofit, businesses and residents might not be able/willing to tackle challenges without immediate paybacks
- there is also a large proportion of residents who are not engaged in or care to be or "have the time" to live the green lifestyle.
- Too many people drive. They have to stop driving so much. To somehow claim to be an environmentalist, and then turn around and complain about parking?
- Just having the right people at the table who are at the forefront of new ideas and methods
- over-development and attendant traffic issues, as well as visual and light pollution
- competing demands
- Our parks in the neighborhood have pretty limited use right now.
- Having enough money to implement projects.
- Dealing with people that are narrow minded and just don't want to change.
- How to engage people
- Increased population density
- It is too often something seen and presented as relating to homeowners and businesses. We need to do a better job of engaging and supporting the renters and business owners. Not only will that engage more of the community it will have more impact. WA should walk the walk, have all its meetings and events be zero waste, make sure anything it does has the lowest impact possible.
- use of salt for de-icing, trash not going where it belongs.

What ideas do you have for ways that WA can become a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?

- I would like to see some strategies around creative solutions to organics recycling for multi-family buildings in our neighborhood.
- We have a lot of multi-family buildings in the neighborhood, but the city does not provide municipal composting for them. Could WA pilot a program to encourage composting in those buildings? I know that my building would LOVE to compost!
- !!!!COMMUNITY GARDEN!!!!
- Get a light rail stop. Increase bike lanes and make them like the ones in Amsterdam. Give out free bikes for awhile if that's what it takes.
- Composting for apartments. Focus on renter efforts as we are almost always left out of broader initiatives yet make up 90% of the neighborhood.
- I like the compost drop off sites for large apartment buildings. That's a no brainer. encourage the "small developers" building the multi-unit housing to use sustainable design and components.

- Support and drive efficiency improvements. Engage with Solar United's bulk solar program. Look for opportunities/partnerships around community solar. Support Windsorce and other green energy programs. Replicate successful efforts by other neighborhoods, Minneapolis, and other cities.
- need some help (from Hennepin County? other orgs) on how to work with non-home owners, apartment building owners or managers
- Slower traffic, more bike lanes. Charge for parking!
- Make our efforts visible?
- Strengthen current courses of action. Oh, and no more bike lanes. We have plenty now. Get rid of Bender.
- Keep the neighborhood pedestrian friendly. Add a stop light at 25th & Lyndale. Increase organics recycling options for residents, including renters and multi-family. Keep green spaces.
- I'd love to see our parks become a more vibrant outdoor space--like the neighborhood's shared backyard, with multiple uses represented. I'd love to have gardens or community orchards there, good space for picnics, updated recreation opportunities, and lots of festive community events.
- Roof-top solar panels.
- Have speakers come to help people get involved and educate about solar, electric cars and give people incentives to get involved in the farmers market
- Solar on local business roofs
- More public receptacles for recycling, organics and waste. More trees and better rainwater distribution
- Environmental sustainability should be something that is strung throughout the goals and priorities of the organization. It is not necessarily a stand alone priority it is more something that should run through how we approach housing, how we approach supporting our businesses, how we engage with our residents and those who are passing through.
- find/promote grants for environmental improvements

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being very strong, what score would you give WA's plan to continue its focus on becoming a model of neighborhood environmental sustainability?

Average = 3.7

What could this neighborhood use more of?

- Option 1
- Option 1
- Option 1
- Mid range grocery stores
- Fun

- Industrial and manufacturing employment opportunities.
- Housing and neighborhood community events
- traffic calming... the bigger we get, the more dangerous our streets... I think we need a seismic shift in the "pecking order" of transportation: Peds, Bikes, Transit, Auto. And I know the city has this policy, but the execution is weak. Autos still think they reign. A campaign to re-educate motorists that they are, in fact, last in the pecking order, would help EMPOWER people to own their streets. Not the autos.
- density
- Public art and greenspace or ecological landscaping, and Participation of rental property owners and residents in fulfilling our goals
- The WA must broaden its focus to include Youth and Family, tenants rights, the needs of new immigrants. Whittier Alliance brands itself as the International Neighborhood, but nowhere in its previous strategic plan was there any mention of building strong connections with immigrant communities. Nothing about DACA. Absolutely zero about creating strong supports for the children and youth in our neighborhood to build successful lives. WA needs to broaden its focus to address issues of poverty. It must take a look at the needs of women and families who have been traditionally marginalized. In 20 years, the Whittier Alliance has never, to my knowledge, hired a Minneapolis Public School graduate! They must begin to think about education, about young people's futures, about building a web of partnerships to support diverse families in our neighborhood, to help them to stay here, regardless of their income or if they are renters. Also, MORE PROTECTED BIKE LANES!
- Art and cultural experiences outside of the museums
- homeowners
- Safety (pedestrians from cars) and/or racial equity (ensure that residents are being treated fairly by landlords)
- Diverse communities coming together to learn from each other. I'd like to see this neighborhood focus on becoming an actively anti-racist community.
- gardens
- Ways to get more people of color involved
- Mix of professional businesses
- More trees, winter "festivals", murals/public art, coworking spaces
- I think WA is well positioned to be a conduit of resources and information. What if everyone knew that the WA was the place to go if you need something, or need to know who has what, who does what, who has what resources. This also includes making better use of the financial resources we have. Our Youth grants are a good model, what else could we do to provide support and connections to invest in our neighborhood. Expanding our grant programs, doing a better job of selling the programs and opportunities we have. We also need more consistency in staff to build relationships and build connections across the many silo'd facets of our neighborhood.
- parking
- Parks and common places for folks to gather

What could this neighborhood use less of?

- More balanced conversation around new housing.
- Vacant messy storefronts
- The neighborhood could use more of: bike infrastructure, car speed calming, public art, public gathering spaces, wider sidewalks on Nicollet, biking police officers (such a great program - let's expand it!). The neighborhood could use less of: surface parking lots, littering.
- DARK AREAS AT NIGHT!!!!
- Auto body shops
- Angry people
- Restaurants, we have, the City has, enough.
- jeeps... these are all important issues...
- cars
- traffic--maybe that means better multimodal transportation? and litter
- Cars.
- Cars
- Bid developments
- Racism and fear
- graffiti
- Crime - petty and not so petty
- Car traffic
- Anger, attitude and divisiveness. Stop pointing fingers and complaining about city hall, the density and bike proponents, the long-time WA board members, the homeowners, the.... Less turnover in WA staff.
- litterers

What have you seen done in other neighborhoods or other cities that excited you?

- I think some of the winter events Powderhorn Neighborhood Association puts on are cool, perhaps something with MIA?
- Years ago when I lived in Chicago, my neighborhood had a free Saturday evening (like 6pm) concert in one of it's local parks. It wasn't big names or even high quality. It was just neighborhood folks who would sign up to play music for an hour or two. We had such a diversity of music - native Puerto Rican music, local rock bands, salsa. Lots of people from every background would make a picnic and listen to the music together. (2) This might be difficult, but some cities allow "community crosswalks." People paint their crosswalks different colors and with different designs. It makes the crosswalk part of the neighborhood and also draws more attention to pedestrians. (3) Simple and easy, but why don't we have more benches on Nicollet? Something simple to encourage people to sit outdoors during the nice months. (4) The bike lanes on 26th and 28th are a little boring. In the spring/summer

months, could we add cheap planters? They don't have to be permanent, but they could make the neighborhood really pop! (5)
Public produce - could we plant fruit trees in public places that anyone could pick from?v

- Community garden like in willmar, skate park like in edina, municipal parking ramp (for eat street) like in hopkins
- Pretty much everything they've done in Singapore! I've never even been there but they are VERY organized.
- more action, less committee meetings. fostering a culture of people doing small good things easily
- Change zoning to accommodate zoning or at least - if there is any left - do not change zoning to high density residential. People have to have jobs!
- mixed use buildings, greater planning implemented to support walk-ability
- Hope we can get some solar gardens or solar installations going
- Lyndale Neighborhood somehow has done amazing things in immigrant communities. It has ELL classes for newcomers. Latina and Somali empowerment groups for women to gain knowledge of the systems of government, and a voice in their neighborhood. Partnership with Youth Farm, employing dozens of local teenagers. Dozens of other direct program offerings to diverse communities, especially new immigrant communities. Many families from Whittier have never heard of the Whittier Alliance, but rather cross over to Lyndale to find these programs. Whittier Alliance, do you have the courage to create a vision that would include immigrant outreach, youth development, pathways out of poverty? Do you have the courage to pivot?
- street busking programs, mural art programs, chess, block parties
- fighting big developments
- community trash and recycling cans
- Bringing in new vibrant mix of business - create a hot spot for people to come to in order to work, play and eat
- More public art and attractions for people to walk to
- more public art

If WA could support the next “big idea” for residents in the neighborhood, what do you imagine that could be?

Centralized organics recycling!

- ANYTHING that gets more of us out walking and talking and interacting with each other on the sidewalks.
- MUNICIPAL PARKING RAMP FOR EAT STREET!
- We should help the MIA get some HUGE artwork, like maybe get the Mona Lisa on loan (I know this will never happen - the Mona Lisa hasn't left the Louvre in like 100 years, but you get the idea) - or a Da Vinci or a Vermeer or a Renoir. Then people will flock there and we will be right at the epicenter of it. It will boost local businesses. We should then require that some of those proceeds go back into neighborhood projects.
- 10,000 small things
- I love the idea of a public service announcement campaign around "owning our streets" such that pedestrians, cyclists and transit come before motorists. As I said in a previous reply, I think people are miseducated about this pecking order and a community led, city supported campaign to re-educate people would be amazing.

- waterslides from building to building (sorry, I like incremental progress over one "big idea" thinking)
- Some kind of cultural exchange among our various cultures--Latino, Somali, Southeast Asian, etc., so we are not so separate, more integrated without each group losing its cultural identity
- You cannot eat money. A deep dose of humility is what is needed for this organization. To serve. To stop marginalizing and stigmatizing poor people and people in recovery and start rolling up sleeves to stand with neighbors who might be struggling, but who have life experience and wisdom to share. If we will listen we can learn from the poor, from immigrants, from people being priced out of their homes. Stop saying "them". Let's say "We".
- Annual street closing festival
- Banning big developments
- One idea: different ethnic groups hosting festivals to which the entire neighborhood is invited, to try food, listen to music and dance, do shopping, and have fun.
- Hmm, have to think about that.
- Free shuttle up/down eat street during peak "tourist" times with parking lots at either end of the street. Free's congestion. If done right, it could be a unique and fun aspect of eat street.
- an art park

Is there a topic we haven't covered yet that you want to be sure we spend some time on? What else do you want WA to know?

- Police accountability - this needs to be an ongoing conversation with the 5th Precinct.
- CRIME! LACK OF LIGHT AROUND/IN PARKS!
- Youth and families
- Need to specifically call out the emphasis on job creation.
- How to assist new citizens from different cultures to participate successfully in the political process
- The big question here, is when you say "we", who do you mean? Do you mean a family who is being priced out of their apartment after calling Whittier home for 3 decades? The WA needs a passionate vision for supporting people like them. More language like "Protect affordable housing". "Develop pathways out of poverty" "Connect youth to opportunities." "Become the best biking and walking neighborhood in the city." "Create native plant habitat". "Seek understanding and tolerance of all cultures." "Support immigrant rights."
- PUBLIC ART 2. PUBLIC ART 3. PUBLIC ART (though I realize I need to get in and help with this, I just miss seeing new work go up!)
- more live music outside in the summer!
- Continue to work on good relations with police. Perhaps more neighborhood block programs.
- Light cycles for traffic control
- I love this neighborhood!