

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
August 22nd, 2019 6-8:30 PM
The Wedge Table (2412 Nicollet Ave)

Present: Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Jen Kader, Christine Popowski, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Michael Perez, Katie Heimer, David Bagley, Erin Sjoquist, Aldona Martinka, Justin Kader, Stephanie Brown

Absent: Ukasha Dakane, Mariana Arriaza

Late:

Staff: Kaley Brown

Guests:

Call to Order at 6:08 pm by Jen Kader, Chair.

Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

Office move was added to the agenda under Previously discussed project updates.

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. **Motion Carries.**

Board Community Agreements.

Secretary's Report

Abbie Speller

Attendance: 5-0, 8-1, 2-2, 1-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned- 3, Terminated-0, Vacancies-7 Board Seats: 23
Jesse Oyervides and Kim Fishman resigned from their seats.

Motion to approve the minutes. Motion **seconded**. Motion **carries**.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 26, 2019

Finance Committee

Jen Kader / Kaley Brown

We received a grant of \$10,000 from the Carolyn foundation. NRP contracts have been consolidated. Unrestricted and Unrestricted/General Funds are separated because it's tied to our interest. If we spend more on food and beverage, for example, in the month than interest gained, the Unrestricted Funds will be negative for that given month. The Unrestricted/General Funds reflect the amount in our TruStone savings account at 12/31 of the preceding year and does not change.

Motion to approve July financials. **Seconded**. Motion passes.

Update on policy changes

Jen Kader

Jen and Erin to research meeting recording policies at other neighborhood organizations.

We will begin reviewing the fiscal policy procedures next month.

Jen would like to open a conversation about a bylaw change to the attendance policy so that board members could substitute attendance for a number of meetings with other WA volunteer activities.

There might be other bylaw changes needed as per Neighborhoods 2020, but we haven't heard any updates about the rollout of it.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Update can be found in board packet.

Business Association

Kaley Brown

Update can be found in board packet.

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown

Kaley added the staff reports to the board cover memo.

Zest-Ed have tried numerous outreach efforts. Things haven't been going very well. They are trying a new approach and doing a free ad-hoc event at Washburn Fair Oaks in October.

Board Member Training and Support

Cyndi Hovey

Whittier 5 questions were approved 14-0-1.

15/18 board members filled out the survey. People know what's expected of them and people know how to get involved.

Overall board members felt safe in the space to speak their minds and vote how they want to.

Cyndi will be keeping track of what people commit to in meetings and add it to a Google Sheet so that people can be held accountable.

Eat Street Festival

Kaley Brown

We brainstormed Whittier Alliance engagement ideas last meeting

Justin and Ukasha haven't had a chance to connect on their idea. Stephanie and Brigid are meeting this week to discuss their idea. Aldona has a list of elected officials to invite to the WA Booth on a schedule during the day and will reach out to see if anyone is interested.

Mariana is reaching out to Secretary of State's office to get voter registration forms in multiple languages.

Abbie will look in sticker fundraising idea/pricing.

We really need volunteers to sign up for shifts! Kaley will send out the link to signup.com.

Safe and Affordable Housing Campaign / Proposed Renter Protection ordinances

Stephanie

Brown

Housing Issues voted unanimously to sign on to the Homeline (tenant legal-aid hotline) letter in support of the ordinances.

The letter supports the principles of the ordinances, but doesn't tie us to specific aspects of the policy. People should also go to the first public hearing on August 28th at 2:30 PM if they can.

Aldona organized a working group at the last housing issues meeting. They want to connect with other neighborhood organizations who are in support of the ordinances. Possibility of doing outreach at Eat Street Festival.

Stephanie will start another letter with our own language to be sent in support. People can make comments via email.

Motion to approve the letter. Motion Carries. Approved.

Development Updates

Stephanie Brown

26th and Blaisdell: Knocked down to 5 stories. All other aspects remain the same.

Lyn-Lake Parking Lot: City has put out an RFP.

Grand Ave: 25th and Grand. It is on hold. The developer wants to wait until 2040 goes into effect.

4th Avenue: The developers are reconsidering aspects of the project.

Lake Street: Between Harriet and Garfield. One is income restricted with a mix of 30%-80% AMI. One is market rate that is 6 stories and the other is 7. There is a 3rd building that was approved a year ago. Stephanie and Abbie door knocked this corner of the neighborhood because this neighborhood will be heavily impacted.

Developer of the Lake Street developments filled out the survey which is helpful to keep the discussion going at the meetings.

We should add a tab on our website with development updates. It wouldn't be that difficult to add and it would help keep developers accountable and make info easier to find for the public.

We are getting free consulting time to work with Yellow Tree to design the community space at the 26th and Blaisdell development through Seward ReDesign's Community Wealth-Building Summit on 9/20.

There is little turn around for Housing Issues minutes. Do we have the capacity to hire someone to take notes a few hours of the month? Next steps will be determined later.

Project Updates

Map the Neighborhood (Stephanie): Moving ahead with CURA. Grad assistant is building a tool. It will include an interactive map to understand which housing is vulnerable. There will also be a canvassing survey attached to this project.

Development Design Guidelines (Stephanie): Stalled due to lack of time. Stephanie did meet with an architect from the neighborhood. There is an urban planning conference accepting grant applications for workshops (worth about \$100,000). Architects in the neighborhood would help us pull an application together. But it does require matching contributions from a sponsoring organization. This would be in lieu of the previously discussed Design Guidelines plan.

Whittier Farmers Market (Kaley): Dean wants to come and present at the September on how the market went this summer. They are currently sending out a survey to stakeholders.

Review of Grant Programs (Erin): Willow and Erin met with Magui to get ideas simplifying the grant process and what we could do for grants in the future. Cyndi to be looped into this conversation moving forward.

Office Move: The move to 26th and Blaisdell is not set in stone. Kaley and Stephanie did meet with Yellow Tree before the appeal to discuss further details such as rents and length of lease. We should have a formal letter of intent. We should do our due diligence and price other spaces, so that we can confirm for ourselves and the neighborhood that it's the best fit.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.

Adjourn 8:22 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.