

Whittier Business Association Meeting
Nightingale (2551 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405)
Wed. Mar. 9, 2016 3-4:30pm

Draft Minutes

Attendees: Jill Krueger, Zeus Jones; Paul Jablonsky, Nicollet Car Wash; Geri Burns, AAUW/Gale Mansion; Mark & Alice Trehaus, Treehouse Records; Gil Bessard, Tasks Unlimited; Erica Christ, Black Forest Inn

Presenters: Nancy Hicks, MCAD; Jen Kader, Freshwater Society; Jenifer Hager, Max Holdhusen & Jim Grube, I35W Access/Transit Project **Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Lucy Lawson

Meeting called to order at 3:12 pm by Ricardo McCurley (in Board Chair Andy Cohen's absence).

Introductions: Introductions were made. The agenda and code of conduct were reviewed. A **Motion** to approve the agenda as written **Carried**. The Feb 2016 minutes were reviewed. A **Motion** to approve the Feb minutes **Carried**.

Spotlight on Business — Nightingale Restaurant

Carrie McCabe

Nightingale is owned by Carrie McCabe and her husband. She takes care of the kitchen and he takes care of the front of house. They have been here 4 years and the n'hood has been great. They live in Whittier, their kid goes to school in Whittier and being part of the neighborhood is really important to them. Business has been very good over the mild winter – February was one of their best months since opening.

Showcasing Local Art in Businesses Nancy Hicks, MCAD

Nancy and a classmate are doing a community art project showcasing art in local businesses. They have been canvassing local businesses. Attendees asked if MCAD could partner with businesses on murals, particularly to prevent graffiti. Ricardo mentioned that Facade Improvement Grants cover up to 50% for murals. The project is currently for indoor exhibiting but future outdoor partnerships would be great.

Environmental Sustainability Task Force – Over-Salting Jen Kader, Freshwater Society

The Freshwater Society focuses on water quality through policy work and community engagement. They are currently launching a salt campaign in SW Minneapolis. Now is a good time to think about these issues for business sidewalks and plan for next year. Any salt that is visible on sidewalks is excess salt – it is a waste of money, bad for sidewalk surfaces and for floors of buildings. A 5 gallon bucket of water can be permanently polluted by 1 tsp of salt, unless you go through expensive process of desalination. The storm-water system in Minneapolis is directly linked to our surface water system. The environmental impact of salt is serious – it can lead to algal blooms and dead lakes. The Freshwater Society will be at the Annual meeting with a table about salt reduction.

- Attendee asked about substitutes for salt, such as pickle brine and cheese whey. Are any of those better? The number 1 thing is to shovel as quickly as possible after snowfall. Salt only works for a specific temperature range. Pickle brine and other alternatives are still in the testing stage.
- Last year two people swept up Hennepin Avenue in Lowry Hill and collected 160 lbs of salt. They will sell the salt at n'hood Annual Meetings to raise money.
- Attendee raised public education -- businesses get demands from passers-by that they put more salt out when it's slippery. A bill is going to go through MN state legislature, a copycat of bill in New Hampshire, that removes liability of those who are applying salt. Best practices for salting will make things safe anyway.

- Attendee raised pre-treatments prior to snowfall -- City spraying liquid on roadway a day before snowfall. Super-effective plow drivers calculated and calibrated. It is a dissolved salt that balances safety and environmental health. Attendees asked if the pre-treatment was available to businesses. Dalco might be someone to contact. Solar burn rate - start and end of March. Rainwater management -- stormwater catchment can reduce ice, so water is downpipes going elsewhere, not sidewalks.

I-35W/Lake St Reconstruction Update Jim Grube (Hennepin County), Jeni Hager (City of Minneapolis) and Max Holdhusen (Metro Transit) briefed attendees on the upcoming large-scale project:

- Project plan is to take bids in June 2017, with construction starting September 2017 and in earnest in 2018. Contract will be awarded in July-August 2017.
- It is an MnDOT transit/access project. The new Orange line will be a 3-door bus. Lake St will be the showpiece station on the line. During peak hour, 100 buses per hour will stop there. It will open up connections to the n'hood, and to the Wells Fargo corporate centre over in Phillips.
- The new transit station will also have a high quality connection down to the Greenway. Future transit is planned in the Greenway, so will have a connection between N-S and E-W movements. A new south-bound exit ramp down to Lake St will take ambulances and commuters who exit earlier now off local streets.
- I-35W is currently tolled in the peak hours and will remain so.
- North side of project is the MnDOT Chapter 152 Bridge Project. After the 35W bridge collapse, MnDOT found two other I-35W bridges were susceptible to collapse: the flyover bridge and the 'braid bridge' near Electric Fetus. These need to be replaced. The 26th St and Franklin Ave bridge will also be replaced, plus pedestrian bridges on 24th.
- The 'staging' of bridge reconstructions has not been established (i.e. the timing of construction).
- From 22nd to 42nd streets, MnDOT will replace the pavement to create managed lanes.
- Pedestrian bridges at 40th and 24th St will have switchbacks to enable bike and wheelchair access
- Westbound 94 will be a 2-lane bridge, not a single lane bridge and it will land in a different location, so exits to Lyndale-Hennepin will flow easier, without adding capacity,
- The project is designed to work with the opening of Nicollet Ave but is not contingent on it opening.
- Regarding the Environmental Report for the project, there are three concerns: air quality, noise and surface water. The environmental assessment will be released to public for comment on March 21, comment period will be till April 20. Copies will be at City Hall, libraries and online – also at WA office.
- Surface water run-off will be collected to meet the West Mississippi watershed requirements. Noise modeling along freeway corridors proposed noise walls as mitigation measure, but 7 of 8 n'hoods voted them down. Only West Phillips voted in a noise wall to reduce the sound.
- No homes are proposed to be taken by the construction. Neighbors along Stevens and 2nd will have the opportunity to have their properties videotaped to have condition documented before construction starts if they are worried about walls, windows, foundations being damaged.

Adjourned 4.30