**WA Business Association Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 8, 2017
The Bad Waitress  3:00pm - 4:30pm

**Attendees:**
- Nancy Blanski  Faro Properties
- Grant Rockwood  Real Estate Agent/Insurance Broker
- Nancy Sjoquist  AAUW
- Brian Hoffman  New Restaurant at 2424 Nicollet Ave
- Sophia Munch  New Restaurant at 2424 Nicollet Ave
- Paige Reimherr  New Restaurant at 2424 Nicollet Ave
- Tammy Wong  Rainbow Restaurant
- Andrew Nordick  Logica Law
- Kristin Blaha  MnDot - 35W@94
- Dave Aeikens  MnDot - 35W@94
- Gail Boxrud  Krav Maga Minneapolis LLC
- Denise McAlpin  NuWay
- Erica Christ  Black Forest Inn
- Zoe Thiel  City of Minneapolis
- Michael McLaughlin  Urban Works Inc.
- Andrew Carlson  Special Service Districts, Clty of Minneapolis
- Martha Nemesi  Learning in Style

**WA Staff:**
- Dan Stanton, Ricardo McCurley, Kaley Brown

**Introductions/Call to Order**
Meeting begins at 3:06pm

A few minutes are taken to overview the agenda.
Agenda approved.
*There are no minutes from last month’s Business Association Meeting.

Introductions.

**Spotlight on Local Business - The Bad Waitress**
Andy Cohen is the owner of the Bad Waitress, and he used to be on our board. Bad Waitress was originally created by Christian Johnson, owner of Spyhouse, and then was bought by Andy.

Bad Waitress has two locations, and the other is located in Northeast Minneapolis.

**Current Concerns & Events**
Andrew gives a preface to Michael McLaughlin and Andrew Carlson, who will be speaking about special service districts.
Super Bowl Discussion

- Recently, Whittier Alliance met with City officials about how the City will operate during the Superbowl.
- Similarly, WA met with Police Inspector Kathy Waite from the 5th Precinct
  - Police force will be stretched thin around Superbowl time
  - There will be increases in human trafficking but also copyright infringement due to production of fake memorabilia
  - Be prepared over the next few weeks, because they will be “squeezing downtown” and we will see crime flowing over into nearby neighborhoods
  - There will be an influx of approx. one million people around the Superbowl

- WA will be pushing the City for all Super Bowl-related information and will disseminate this information through social media

- Rainbow and Icehouse have a charity stand at the stadium. Money will go to No Kid Hungry - during Super Bowl

- What can businesses do during that time?
- Hopefully, neighborhoods will be receiving follow up information regarding Super Bowl
- WA is trying to support the business side - how to support businesses and help increase business with influx of people. For instance, we’re looking into the possibility of having a shuttle moving people from Downtown to Eat Street.

Special Service Districts - Andrew Carlson & Michael McLaughlin

Overview

- There are 16 active districts throughout the City
  - Eat Street is one of them
  - They are a partnership between businesses and the City
  - Model that is prevalent throughout major cities
  - Eat Street Special Service District established mid-90s
  - Spans from 29th to Grant St.

- City collects charges through taxing formula (the bigger the property, the more you’re going to pay - proportionate to the amount of services that you will receive based on size)

Five Main Functions of Special Service District in Eat Street:

- Seasonal decorative lighting - seasonal lighting before Thanksgiving and taken down for Summer
- Landscaping maintenance - planters in winter; late May - summer annuals
  - City waters, weeds, etc

- Streetscape maintenance and repairs
  - graffiti removal on public property, can’t touch private property
  - Eat Street banners on Nicollet - will be redesigned and added in Spring
  - Decorative trash receptacles
  - Note: Call 311 if the trashes are overflowing

- Litter and debris management throughout district
  - hire contractor to pan and broom the garbage away - once a week in summer months
  - two seasonal cleanups - spring and fall

- Sidewalks snow clearing at corners
  - all four corners of intersection
  - throughout winter, all corners will be clear

2018 budget is a $118,000
Special Service Advisory Board meets 3-4 times per year
City looks towards Advisory Board for feedback

Open Discussion Regarding Special Service Districts
- 26th between 1st and Stevens - no trash receptacle by Tilt Pinball Bar
- Planter on 26th and stevens has not been replaced
- Tree lighting - they are resetting for safety reasons
- Experimenting with LED stringers

- Contact number for issues related to the Special Service District: 311
- Is there a way to add in current status feedback when a problem is brought forth?
- This is something that they are working on, but resources are limited due to small amount of staff operating in many special service districts
- Sometimes, the communication piece suffers
- This communication piece is something that WA could help disseminate project status updates
- Business owners are taxing themselves so that special service districts can be in effect

Small Business Advocacy at the City Level
Zoe Thiel, Program Manager, Innovation Team & Small Business Team - City of Minneapolis
612-673-2847
zoe.thiel@minneapolismn.gov

- Last year’s budget, City Council added three new staff to support small businesses
- Business owners have many questions/concerns - for instance, how do safe and sick time rules affect me; zoning and permitting
- Small Business Team knows a little bit about a lot of City-related things and can connect business owners to the right department

Contact info:
Phone #: 612-673-2499
Email: smallbusiness@minneapolismn.gov

- On WA’s website, there is a resource page that contains information for small businesses at startup and expansion phase
  ○ These resources will be added to that resource page

- When in doubt, contact the Small Business Team
  ○ Small Business Team can work with other departments
  ○ Can convene and mediate with other departments, although they do not have authority over other departments

MnDot - 35W@94 Project Updates
- Construction started in August and will be continuing until Fall 2021
- 50 years since that stretch of road was built
- They are reconstructing concrete on freeway - I-94 → 43rd St
- Improving access to Lake St Business District
- Two 35W access ramps will be added: 28th st - north; 31st - south
- Redoing 11 bridges
Can sign up on MNDOT’s website for construction updates
Best and easiest way to stay up to date on what’s happening is to sign up on MNDOT’s website for email updates - detours

Whittier Alliance will continue to include information regarding closures

MNDOT consultants can work with businesses prior to events if businesses connect with them.
MNDOT is looking for more opportunities to do outreach
There is also a hotline you can call

Old & New Business
Next meeting is at NuWay at 4pm

Meeting adjourns at 4:35 pm
Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Stanton