



### 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, City 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**