



WA Business Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018
Calvary Church 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Attendees:

Andrew Nordick- Nordick Law Firm- Board Chair
Nancy Sjoquist- AAUW
Grant Rockwood- Realtor/Health Insurance Agent
Denise McAlpin- NuWay
Martha Nemesi- Learning In Style
Leslie Johnson- Yoga at The Well
Angela Ritchie- Wedge Table
Jeff Cowmeadow- Calvary Church

WA Staff: Kaley Brown, Marcus VanderSanden

Introductions/Call to Order

Call to order at 4:10pm by Andrew Nordick, Business Association Chair.
Agenda is reviewed.
Minutes from February BA Meeting are reviewed.
Introductions.

Host Highlights - Calvary Church

Jeff has been with the church for more than 20 years and has a philosophical belief that this space belongs to community. Calvary has an associate pastor for the first time in many years, which allows Jeff to be more proactively engaged in community. They have hosted many community events including the Whittier Alliance sponsored Ward 10 Candidate Forum and ongoing Sunday meals for the homeless as well as many others. They have recently renovated their stage in their large community room and will be hosting music, food and beer on the first Friday of every month starting April 6th. They are still working on some permits and will not charge for anything but are hopeful people will contribute to make it a sustainable event. They will also be hosting two plays at the church this summer.

The Whittier Farmers Market which the church hosts will be starting soon and they are still in need of people and vendors, but are anticipating and looking forward to another successful summer.

Parking is still an acute need for the church to facilitate weddings and funerals. They are trying to work with neighbors with parking to meet this need.

Current News & Events

- Nancy from AAUW brings up Star Tribune article regarding 35W Construction and was curious of the details of that project and relays concerns their board has over the allocation of contributions AAUW makes to Whittier Alliance. It was communicated that
- Leslie introduces herself to the group and her business Yoga at The Well, which is a yoga studio that focuses on less physical yoga and more intensely on the mental aspect of yoga practice. She has a free event on Sunday, April 1st from a visiting instructor which she encourages the group to come check out.
- Angela shares some updates from the Wedge saying its been a busy few weeks. The Linden Hills Co-op is now part of the Wedge group and they have worked with them to revamp their menu. They have begun a new partnership

with Rise Bagels which will be available at all locations. The Wedge Table will be rolling out a new made to order sandwich line as a part of their food service. The Wedge Table has also obtained a license to put up

- Martha is working with Erica Christ (Black Forest) to mend and fix clothes sometime in May at Learning In Styles on site donation store the Clothes Closet. They will have 3-4 people working to fix and mend clothes either as a service to them or for the clothes to be donated. Martha feels strongly that the better and more confidently someone can present themselves it helps them. The date is TBD but the Clothes Closet is open Wednesday and Thursday 11-2 or by appointment.
- Community composting program is up and running and drop site at Wedge table will be available April 1st. Any businesses who would like to participate are welcome. Angela and the Wedge found it very easy to set up, only true requirement is accessibility for the pick up truck.

Whittier Alliance Board of Directors Seeking One-Year Business Chairs for 2018-2019

5 business representatives will be elected to the Whittier Alliance board of directors at the April Business Association meeting. Martha and Andrew both currently serve and said they have enjoyed the opportunity to be more intimately involved in the neighborhood and found it very rewarding to gain a better understanding of the place they live and work.

Member and Voter Registration Requirements

Member and voter registration requirements including business representative requirements are explained in anticipation of board elections at April meeting.

Business Association Structure Conversation

Kaley, Andrew and Marcus introduce that the Whittier Alliance is having conversations around changing the existing structure of the Business Association in 2018 and beyond in the new strategic planning period. It is made clear the benefits WA sees in the committee as a way to engage and ensure the flow of information between WA and attendees however there may be ways in which the committee can change and are seeking input. Several themes became clear throughout the conversation.

Increased Community Oriented Programming- The idea of more programming to engage the business community was suggested, in different forms than the BA meeting such a more social setting or mixer. In addition to business to business engagement there was interest in how the Business Association can better engage the public in the form of programming. Ideas such as workshops or a business fair accentuating the business community as an asset or meet and greets with different community business leaders. There was interest in working collaboratively as a business community.

Identity- In conjunction with increased programming there was a general interest in having the Business Association being a more forward committee. Increasing engagement, making presence known and having a focus, task and goals presented under the Business Association. Putting the business community forward.

Form and Function of Meeting- Attendees noted they enjoyed the rotating meeting locations as a good way to see different spaces but a set time of around 2pm was offered as a best practice to get best attendance. The suggestion of quarterly meeting was met skepticism regarding the ability to push projects forward or optimal communication. Every other month was suggested. People enjoy the ability to be the face of their business so that the community and WA know who to reach out to. There will be a monthly Business specific

Old & New Business

Whittier Alliance is still seeking nominations for the Good Neighbor and Good Business award. Nominations have been low so everybody is encouraged to promote or nominate- only 2 days left to nominate.

Meeting adjourns at 5:30

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marcus VanderSanden