



WA Business Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 11th, 2018
Mia (Friends Community Room) 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Attendees:

Andrew Nordick- Nordick Law Firm- Board Chair
Nate Broadridge- Coffee Roaster/Lamp Manufacturer
Grant Rockwood- Realtor/Health Insurance Agent
Denise McAlpin- NuWay
Martha Nemesi- Learning In Style
Araceli Perez- Marissas Bakery
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 - Mia- Krista Pearson

Mia Upcoming and Current Events

- will be hosting clean-up the 23rd if not May 7th
- Art-in-Bloom April 26th-29th
- Power and Beauty Exhibit goes through May 27th - will send code to group

Krista would highly recommend. The exhibit is a reinstallation of chinese collection by a theater set designer can be very experiential and sensory.

- 6-month Egypt will be coming in November
- May 11th ELL educator partnership with tenement museum- gathering stories and relaying immigrant stories through objects to bring experience together.
- Whittier and Phillips residents get 50% discount on Mia classes
- Youth programming June through August- mobile Mia will be going out to Whittier Park once a week as well Central Green, Peavey Park and to several events including movie in the park at Washburn Fair Oaks as part of Art in the Park program
- Second youth mural on the horizon, but no call for artists or location yet, but start to keep that mind and brainstorm potential walls

Mia is always interested in working on community based projects based on community need and it should be a fun summer of programming.

Word from Chair and Current Representatives

Andrew- Chair reports to board at Large about any motions or happenings, rewarding experience.

Monthly two and half hour board meetings in addition to BA meeting- totalling around a 5 hour commitment. Has found it to be a rewarding experience to know the community more intimately and be informed about the happenings of the neighborhood.

Martha- passionate group of people on the board and has enjoyed her year. Representing non-profit and for-profit not that different. Rewarding and enjoys collaboration and being involved.

Araceli- In third year has still found it rewarding and enjoys the opportunity to stay informed about the community.

Christina- first year as treasurer and found it very rewarding, looks forward to running again.

Geri- Enjoys the ability to communicate with the community and enjoys the heated discussion because it means people are passionate.

Whittier Alliance Board of Directors Responsibilities

Kaley- Ideal candidates will be open to collaboration and are eager to build and work actively with fellow board members, community and Whittier Staff. Strategic Plan in process and building business community has been marked as priority

Nominations

- Angela nominates herself for chair and for-profit
- Araceli nominates Christina for chair and for-profit
 - Christina accepts
- Christina nominates Araceli for chair and for-profit
 - Araceli accepts
- Araceli nominates Martha for non-profit
 - Martha accepts
- Nate nominates himself for both
- Grant nominates himself for both
- Jeff Cowmeadow nominates himself for non-profit
- Nate withdraws from for-profit seat contention
- Christina withdraws from board contention

Candidate Introductions

Angela- From hometown in Wisconsin that was very co-op centric and feels passionate about community and the co-op model. She loves working at the Wedge for its mission and the people, she has lived in other places but feels very passionately about the capacity of community in Minneapolis. Feels that Wedge can be more active in the community and that has been a missed opportunity in the past and would like to bridge that gap.

Araceli- Business has been in the neighborhood for 25 years so she has essentially grown up in this neighborhood

Grant- Longtime resident, looking to be more involved. Whittier Alliance has had positive impact on his engagement and would like to expand that to other businesses and stakeholders. Has done educational seminars in the neighborhood and would like to expand the capacity of the business association with more activities, engagement and as a hub for businesses.

Nate- Has lived in Whittier for 2 years as a homeowner and has started 2 companies which are headquartered out of his home. He is a blend of homeowner, resident and entrepreneur and would like to bring that mix of experience and investment into the BA. Is detail oriented and feel communication and wrangling information is a strong suit.

Christina- Feels it is an important year for stability for the organization. Her background is in business and owns business and property in the neighborhood, wants to bring the voices of those communities to the BA and Whittier Board. She is concerned over the 15 dollar an hour and would like to focus on that issue that will acutely affect business and sees the K-Mart site as a concern for the WA moving forward. Would like to work toward Whittier Alliance acquiring community space.

Results.

Board Chair- Araceli Perez

Non-profit- Martha Nemesi and Jeff Cowmeadow (no vote necessary)

For-profit- Christina Le and Angela Ritchie

Current News and Events

Clothing Mend and Swap- held at Black Forest Banquet Room. people can bring in textiles and clothes that need mending for donation, recycling or swap. People can bring their things in and take it back home or bring for somebody else. Learning in Style often get clothes donated that are not in working condition and this is an engaging event to mitigate that and promote the Clothes Closet. **Clothes Closet is currently in need of household items (towels, sheets, cups, mugs).**

April 27th- Latino Day at the Children's Theater 7-8pm

Whittier Sat. 21st - Earth day clean-up. Snack beverages adding section of Greenway that sometimes get missed. Will be coordinating with Mia to not double efforts

Calvary- First "First Friday" went well will look to build on that
Whittier Farmers Market- still looking for vendors and volunteers

Big ideas Grant- Trailhead games last year recipient, applications are due the 31st.

Eat Street Festival - more updates will come as planning continues.

Annual Meeting Recap

Formation of Housing Committee- working on date to set up first meeting

Good Business recipient went to Kurt Vickman and Good Grocer.

Old & New Business

Meeting adjourns at 5:30

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marcus VanderSanden