



WA Business Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10th 2017
Good Grocer 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:	Andrew Norick Ari Giles Jeff Cowmeadow Kurt Vickman Martha Nemesi Larry Ludeman	Logica Law Firm Hennepin History Museum Calvary Church Good Grocer Learning in Style Lyn-Lake Business Association
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WA Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Marcus VanderSanden, Joey Whitesman

Guest Speaker:

Introductions/Call to Order - Ricardo McCurley

Meeting begins at 3:40pm. Introductions are conducted and the meeting agenda and March meeting minutes are approved.

Spotlight on Business - Good Grocer - Kurt Vickman

Good Grocer used to be Minneapolis Market and was located in the basement of a baptist church. Good Grocer was created to address the Reality of food insecurity and hunger in the community. Started up 4-5 years ago as food shelf, worked with Second Harvest. Wanted to shift the model. Learned to answer the question- how do people with a need help collectively to solve that need. New Model- Asked people to give time in return for what they receive.

- People who are food insecure can volunteer a couple months and
- Walk in price and volunteer price
- 500 volunteers- 400 take 25% off discount
- Even if you are not food insecure you can still shop and profits go to mission
- Whittier is a Diverse neighborhood- how do you build relationships of people in diverse backgrounds - grocery store + social services in one place helps people connect and build bridges

Feedback/ questions

- Great prices, great quality
- Deep belief in value of community
- Joint ownership for people in different income backgrounds
- Will you stay in the neighborhood? Looking at locations along Lake Street near Global Market & Nicollet between kmart and downtown
- Hard time finding properties. Process with Hennepin county is complicated in moving due to 35W expansion
- Timeline for condemnation- within the next month, end of year beginning of next
- In this process, you have to negotiate lease interest and physical space interest

26th/28th St. Bike Lanes- Larry Ludeman

The Goal of discussing the proposed bike lanes- Review all discussions and make recommendations to Whittier Board based on reactions/responses from business owners

Larry's involvement:

Got involved after seeing protected bikeways article in SW neighborhood

Noticed lack of engagement on this issue

Wanted to get word out to as many people as possible

Sentiment that city is going to do this as fast as possible with little engagement

May 16th, next Tuesday- Public Works meeting on issue

Rebecca Hughes, Lisa Bender and Simon Blenski from city came to meeting of lyn-lake Business Association

28th and garfield and has problems with parking- jammed 5pm- midnight Garfield, harriet, etc.

No parking 6:30-9:30am and 4-7pm one of the new rules

Midtown greenway right there...why are these specific streets in need of conversion?

Response: Not enough access points is reason greenway can't serve

Living experiment on 26th/28th in Phillips neighborhood not best results

Larry doesn't see many bikers using it

Comments:

- These are not highways- they are our east-west thoroughfares
- Traffic calming possibilities. But use bikers?
- Why not take less traveled roads and make them protected bikeways like Bryant example- 25th and 27th
- The car is still used, and even millennials have cars
- Snow emergencies concerns
- Minneapolis ranked 15th in country for congestion
- Is this resume building for bike infrastructure or actually good for community?
- Is it a done deal? Likely because of Master Bicycle Plan- Bicycle advisory Committee, committee was made of primarily bikers
- ½ of members were bicycle people, schools, transp., etc. but NO BUSINESS Representation
- Legal challenge is possible due to bias of committee and recommendations
- Tuesday they are voting on approval of all bikeways for the year, 38th, NE, 36th
- This vote is for everything then city then state transportation dept.
- Work could start as soon as late June
- Parking is tradeoff for emergency lanes in some ways
- Inherent bicycle

Ricardo:

Talked to Lisa Bender

3 concerns we brought to her attention

- Business impact
- Residential impact
- Schools impact- She was more sympathetic on parking/ pick up concern (Whittier and Jefferson)

Additional Comments:

-Street parking is a privilege not a right

-Transit study last year- livable streets task force

-Planned bike boulevard 25th-Can we shift resources on to 24th?

-Protected bikeways make it safer for bikers

-24th pedestrian bridge would make that better option

- Engagement is main issue. Postponement until better engagement is desired
- Park board- wanted referendum proposal- betsy hedges 800 million parks (more than initially wanted)
- Case on Tuesday- that engagement was not ok- 26th and 28th
- Comparable budget...would take 2-3 months
- Motion is put forward to consider 24th as an alternative and postponement of moving forward without . push viable alternative
- Would MIA- support the 24th idea?

Motion to postpone May 16th vote on protected bike lanes for 26th and 28th for 2 months until further engagement with local businesses is completed

Unanimous among 5 voting business members

Motion carries

Going forward, perhaps recommend focusing infrastructure efforts on 24th.

35W closure and Associated Traffic Discussion

Ways to support people in 35W closures in 5 year process of 35W expansion project and transit station:

- Ad campaigns to get people to wait for traffic
- Create Task force
- Informational topics and task forces integrating
- Closer knit business association
- Condense info. Into half meeting rest for research and action
- Part of the process is to determine or identify what businesses needs during this time

Table topic for more discussion next time

Old & New Business

- **Whittier Farmers Market**

2nd year better, bigger, starting june 24th, music every week, things for kids, Whittier alliance partnership, always looking for musician, artists, etc.

WA post on website?

Concerns about racial and economic diversity

- **Monthly Good Biz Nominations**

No nominations

- **Business Growth Task Force**

Marcus

Started a resource page for businesses in the neighborhood or entrepreneurs wanting to grow. Will be gathering resources in one place and sending out surveys

- **Walking Safety**
- **Big Ideas Grant**
- **Wells Fargo Small Business Opportunity**

Meeting adjourns at 3:32 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joey Whitesman .