

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2016 6-8:30 PM Whittier Park Recreation Center

Present: David Bagley, Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, Ted Irgens, Laura Jean, Christina Le, Jesse Oyervides, Araceli Perez, Natascha Shawver, Erin Sjoquist, Brett Vandenburg, Kenya Weathers **Absent:** Daphna Stromberg **Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Lucy Lawson

Call to Order at 6:10 by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the January agenda **Carried**.

Comments from the Chair Erica Christ

ED Transition

Ricardo has been in ED position for a couple of weeks and we're tracking well.

Secretary's Report Natascha Shawver

Minutes from December 16, 2015, were reviewed and a **Motion** to approve as written **Carried**.

Executive Committee Erica Christ

Previous Exec meeting went for 4 hours. EC has worked out a contractor arrangement for Marian.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues (CI) Committee Brett Vandenburg

There were no votes at the CI/BA meeting.

Task Force update

Environmental Sustainability Task Force

The TF met for the second time yesterday, and passed a motion about the office environmental audit. Made some interesting connections through attendees to the Children's Theatre and Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association. LHENA already do environmental initiatives like collecting excess salt in winter. Ricardo is now a member of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission, and they are working on the plastic bag ordinance. Might work on creating Whittier reusable bags for our resource fair. Board member raised whether low income residents who use their shopping bags for garbage bags may struggle with the ordinance. Ricardo will forward the board further details about the ordinance.

Crime & Safety Task Force (CSTF)

Bike Patrol proposal – if it is going to start in April, the board needs to take action. Proposal was presented at the Fall CI meeting, with an informal show of support from attendees. The money cannot be allocated to anything but police patrols, either foot or bike. The TF is up to meeting 3, and could work with the bike patrols. The police could also work with existing citizen patrols. Board members raised whether there is a way of measuring outcomes. Other n'hoods, such as Lyndale, have these patrols and feel it is a big positive for the community's relationship with the police. Board members raised the positive deterrent effect but also concerns that the police could use it as an excuse to reduce patrols and that the NRP funds will only last a year. Could use half the funds and then assess progress.

Motion: The Whittier Alliance board approves the use of up to \$31,000 from NRP contract #23503 for a bike patrol for Whittier of up to 17 weeks, and for the Crime & Safety Task Force to determine the timing and locations of the patrols. **Motion Carried: 10-1-1**

Strategic Plan

Reopen Nicollet workshops

Last workshop was exciting. The board chair for Lyndale came, and made some really interesting contributions. It appeared the board members of Lyndale didn't really know about the process previously. As for next steps, we will assess what we paid for already and what is left over, and hopefully put everything done so far on a website. It is hard to distribute a booklet widely, so a website seems the best option. Hope to get Cuningham Group to present to the CI with a more polished design in next few months. Board members raised making sure the designs Cuningham puts forward look attractive and interesting, not like white boxes, and that the suggested rents are fairly accurate.

It will be an uphill battle with the City for the Nicollet purchases to go through – the Kmart lease is ungodly, and the \$8 mn for Reopening Nicollet will be competing with the North Harbor Project. There are rumors that Kmart may remodel, now Target is moving into former Cheapo Records site in Uptown.

Annual Meeting & Board Candidate Meet & Greet – Thursday, February 4

List of people who have been heavily involved in the organization for the last 6 months was distributed to board members so they could reach out to people and encourage them to attend. The office will receive the candidate applications, photocopy their ID and so on. If there are some odd applications, the Exec committee can form a committee to vet them formally.

Finance Committee

Andy Cohen

December 2015 Financial Statements: The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed. The income and expenditure for 2015 tracked the 2015 budget remarkably closely.

FC Motion 1: The Whittier Alliance Board accepts the Whittier Alliance Dec. 2015 financial report. **Motion Carried.**

Old & New Business:

2118 Blaisdell – Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission nomination

Ideally, the City will grant a six month extension, and then application goes to CPED shortly.

Youth Grants

All applicants were given some money, although not all were given the full amount.

2601 Stevens (CPM Development)

CPM has changed the design a little, Bill Blanski caught them on it, and they are willing to talk to the public about it. Architects are saying they are ‘showing off some new design features’.

2905 Harriet

This large-scale project is being presented to the next CI meeting. They contacted WA after the last CI meeting. They already have most of the land, if not all of it. Midtown Greenway Coalition has reviewed it but they are generally only concerned with shade lines. One single family home will be lost. Most of the space is currently taken up by a surface lot. The location probably makes sense for a development, and need to work with the developer to get a good design.

Board discussed developers presenting to CI meetings: a lot depends on the developer, the rules don’t actually require talking to n’hoods. The City is unlikely to give n’hoods more power in the zoning process. There is a huge debate about density at present. Board members discussed whether the board could allocate its time better in terms of making an impact – like actively recruiting good developers into the n’hood, or working with other n’hoods to make a collective impact. Could have a discussion about updating the design guidelines. The new Environmental Sustainability Task Force would like to be involved in that process. Board members discussed CI meetings and their impact and purpose. Will discuss creating an active multi-neighborhood taskforce at next board meeting.

2900 Pleasant Ave – Sabri Properties ‘

The developer stated they will not present to the neighborhood association. No plans formally submitted but plans reviewed for City feedback at the Jan 28 City Planning Commission of the Whole (along with the Harriet project).

2601 Lyndale Ave – Aldi Project

Gerberding is asking for a fifth floor, and will present the revised design at the next CI.

Staff Reports:

Ricardo McCurley

Will deal with Enviro TF motion about the Energy Smart audit next month – out of time.

Adjourn

8:16PM Minutes respectfully submitted by Lucy Lawson.