

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2016 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Park Community Center

Present: Fadumo Abdinur Anab, Osman Abo, David Bagley, Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, Sarah Estey, Mary Gazca, Laura Jean, Geri Jerez, Christina Le, Marie Listopad, Michael Malone, Jesse Oyervides, Araceli Perez, Erin Sjoquist, Brett Vandebussche, Kenya Weathers **Absent:** Ted Irgens, Christine Popowski, Fadumo Abdinur Abo, Daphna Stromberg **Staff:** Ricardo McCurley

Call to Order at 6:05pm by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the September agenda **Carried** after striking discussion of crime and safety Task force and moving discussion of Strategic Plan to Executive Committee section.

Comments from the Chair

Erica Christ

Erica introduces Ariaah, the new NCR representative.
Oktoberfest starts tomorrow at The Black Forest Inn.

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Minutes from August, 2016 were not reviewed due to printer issues and a **Motion** to table until next meeting is **Carried**.

Two members of the board have resigned.

Executive Committee

Erica Christ

Affordable Housing Complaint Update

Erica describes the analysis of impediments (AI) to fair housing process and potential role of Whittier Alliance. The Fair Housing Implementation Council is hiring a consultant and outreach groups to survey the community. We are considering applying for a grant to be one of the outreach groups. If we receive the grant, we will be given questions, and we have to figure out with whom to conduct outreach.

Discussion around applying, facilitating the surveys, and action to take follows:

- Camila brought up as possible facilitator.
- Hesitation of involvement when outreach questions chosen for us but also expression that this is the one chance for board to make a case.
- Ricardo describes process of focus groups, voice recordings, CI (how Whittier would carry out outreach) Ricardo knows a social worker at Jefferson.
- Clarification of why Whittier should do this and who else could even apply
- Question of Doing analysis whether or not Whittier receives \$3500 grant.
- Mention of Involvement of other neighborhoods also filing complaint against HUD.

Motion to apply, seconded, unanimous 15 for 0

Oral History Project

Erica reports on Tuesday's meeting concerning the Oral History Project of Eat Street:

The archives from the project could live at the Hennepin County History Museum and be incorporated into 20 year anniversary of Eat Street.

Discussion of funding sources and timelines:

- Legacy fund main grant source idea and deadline coming up. Smaller funding sources looked at but to get at least part of this done by mid summer 2017, we need to start now. funding source remains to be determined.

Bottom line: Yes or no question and if we do this how much does it cost? 24,000 dollars

Discussion of Yes or No to project continues along with funding thoughts:

- Alliance has money to spend but best use of NRP?
- We're looking at splitting things up. Grant has stringent requirements. under \$10,000 looser rules vs. more rules for more than \$10,000 proposals
- Possible contributors: history museum, businesses involved. Erica: Cultural history grant, Mcknight grant. -
- - Is Work of emanuel (also doing Whittier and Eat Street Research) connected to work of Oral Historian Kim Heikkila so can efforts or funding be merged? NO
- Dr. Haikela split budget between 2016 and 2017. Initially 7,000 and then 16,000 hopefully covered by grants

Discussion of Output and worth Whittier investment:

- Output is digital archive of oral history of about a dozen businesses on eat street. Exhibit is likely to come out of it. Work is done in anticipation of 20 year anniversary so the hope is to come up with some materials for display or plaques. Other possibilities: book, TPT special. We will have transcriptions too.
- Why not use what we have already from Emanuel? What we get from this is more academically rigorous process
- \$24,000 a lot and emanuel work can perhaps fit all our needs and concerns on prioritizing this project versus other more brick and mortar uses.
- Oral History Project cannot be undervalued and it's part of strategic plan. This could be great project to build off of, multi-uses for the future.
- consensus to move forward proposed by Kenya. Also noted if we fund it in the beginning, historically we have followed through.
- Other budget concerns: full budget may include \$15 grand for photographer
- Family foundations as source of grants, role of NCR
- This project is invaluable regardless of Eat Street Anniversary timeline.

Motion to approve budget of 23,745 for Oral History of Eat Street Project
(regardless of if desired grants are won)

Vote: **15:00 Unanimous vote to approve 23,745**

November Meeting

Laura and Erica presented: This will be a social meeting and each board member will also write 10 letters to community members/ businesses asking for donations. More of a personal ask but if not comfortable can help with assembly of stamps and envelopes. **November 17th tentative date** for board meeting. **6:00pm** and Calvary Church possible space. Also fundraising idea discussion on Hosting event at Blaisdell Manor- find out if we can get everything free again, find some entertainment. Maybe tie in Whittier's 40th.

Strategic Plan

Mike initiated a discussion on the current Strategic Plan and reported on results from surveys handed out at the annual meeting. Lists results: 64% believed inequality is an issue and 90% that outreach is an issue. He found that these themes were addressed in 18 parts of the NRP and 2 parts of the Strategic Plan. \$21,000 in budget for these areas not being used. Mike proposed several questions: Can we spend outreach capital, and are there concerns in increasing impact in these areas? He created a plan to initiate conversation for working on some of these issues and thought of pursuing it as CI chair vs. through the strategic committee.

Reactions/ Comments from Discussion:

- We haven't had the leadership in these areas which is part of reason funding isn't used but some related programs are now funded

- Excited that Mike is looking at what we have in Strategic Plan and turning it into ideas and projects -
- Streamlining process of engagement and actions with groups that are not trained in Association formalities, acronyms, processes, etc.
- **Do we have how to's for how to participate in meetings process?**
- Because of conflicts to engagement- jobs, time, acronyms- Whittier Alliance should go to the table of unrepresented communities versus them coming to our table. We need to build outreach infrastructure. CI meetings don't represent neighborhood.
- Mention of Whittier translation but still we need more for outreach
- Questions of "why should we get involved if leadership won't listen and it won't make a difference
- Attendance of CI meetings/ general interest usually based in single issues for compartmentalized parts neighborhood but residents need to know how an issue in part of neighborhood affects all parts
- Ricardo gave example of existing and potential kinds or cross-outreach to occur: friendly fronts yards, intern development to do this outreach/engagement work
- General agreement that these conversations on outreach and engagement are important to have and should start in greater part from outside this room in the diverse communities of Whittier
- Questioning if Alliance has consensus about what the organization is for. How can we evaluate our achievements and compare them to future goals
- Different Directions: quantity versus quality of initiatives, projects, and impacts. Need for clearer priority of the Alliance's many goals
- Geri concerned with engagement and outreach (her background) and has met with Paul and Ricardo to talk about youth engagement. Can offer expertise but sees room for growth
- Kenya brought up One Minneapolis goals and the importance of distinguishing the terms "Engagement" vs. "Outreach" and Block leader experience that "meet people where they're at"
- We are lacking in engagement
- Challenges on the basis of poverty affecting ability for volunteer involvement.
- Another challenge in engagement is reaching these diverse communities through the issues they care about

Mike thanked board for discussion and looking forward to continued discussion and work.

Finance Committee

Andy Cohen

August 2016 Financial Statements: The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed.

Andy stated that \$430,282 is the actual cash the Whittier Alliance has. We are running close to payroll number, we are low on fundraising, nothing alarming in month to month financial performance. Bike cops come out of professional services (over budget but gets reimbursed). In the past Marian would not include these but label them as a "pass through" item. We followed lyndale program but spent more for bike patrol. conflict of schedule so we've stolen some bike patrol officers.

Motion: The Board accepts the Whittier Alliance August 2016 financial report. **Motion Carried.**

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Mike Malone

Ricardo discovered the 40th anniversary of the Whittier Alliance organization when re-doing the website.

CI Feedback:

1. Washburn Fair Oaks Park possible space for 40th celebration
2. Possible coupling for a fundraiser attached to a 40th celebration

Discussions of a Gateway Project Idea to celebrate Whittier's 40th:

- Evaluation of current gateway signs in Whittier
- Connect with MIA students, furniture resources, welding
- Create a task force for an anniversary

Rainwater Garden demonstration: October 1st, Willow’s house. There is no grant for alley scale of project but we can and should apply again. For David, Rainwater project clarified the: Tangible neighborhood project Vs. Long-term large impact projects that Whittier oscillates between.

Christina felt they are both important and going back to earlier strategic plan discussion asked about a CI **google Doc Outlining the Process of CI Meetings** (primer page)- to make available

Business Association

Andy Cohen

Business Association meeting was held in the Kmart pop-up park. The agenda included Open Streets, Renderings of KMart removal and visions for the space, and Eat Street possibilities for a 20th anniversary celebration. We are forming a task force.

ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE

- Whittier Wheels program is in development reaching out to businesses and design work with the help of interns.

Mary: Next meeting there will be a report from the Environmental Task Force

Staff Reports:

Reports from Paul, Ricardo and Camilla are in the board packet.

Open Streets

1. Success, event broke even
2. Next year they want to extend all the way to Franklin

Old & New Business:

Harriet and Lake Development: There was a SW journal article announcement. The developer is being elusive in communication with us.

New Board Member Training: is soon and there will be an RSVP.

Whittier Calendar: will highlight the work of the last 40 years/ 12 stories (one for each month). Kmart protests, board fights, etc.

Pedestrian Overlay on Nicollet: Council Members are using template from here to apply to other streets
 CI format: Mike has bunch of ideas to be discussed in future / CI dinners twice a year could be helpful for outreach.

Adjourn 8:37PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joey Whitesman.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

 Erica Christ, Board Chair

 Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary