Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2018  6-8:30 PM  
Whittier Park

Present: David Bagley, Christine Popowski, Christina Le, Andrew Nordick, Scott Melamed, Erin Sjoquist, Laura Jean, Martha Nemesi, Mary Gazca, Jen Kader, Chafoxy Mitchner, Geri Jerez, Araceli Perez

Absent: Carrie McCabe-Johnston, Michael Malone

Late:

Staff: Dan Stanton, Kaley Brown

Guests: N/A

*The Meeting began at 6:06pm informally. However, the meeting was not called to order, nor did any voting took place, because quorum had not been reached*

Meeting Agenda Edits
- Mariano Espinoza, NCR Latino Outreach Specialist, will not be present; “Municipal ID” will be taken off the agenda
- We will not be covering December Financials
- Adding Recent Developments discussion to “Old and New Business”

*Those present reviewed November Board Meeting Minutes while waiting for quorum

Call to Order at 6:13pm by David Bagley, Board Chair, once quorum was reached. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Motion to approve agenda with changes. Seconded. Motion Carries.

Comments from the Chair  
David Bagley  
N/A

Secretary’s Report  
Erin Sjoquist

Terminations:
- Kenya Weathers - Kenya missed 3 meetings, did not respond to email/letter sent by WA Staff, and did not attend the following board meeting
- Jesse Oyervides - was reinstated at the October Meeting but then missed the following
  - He has submitted a Board application to run for 2018

Vacancies:
- 6

Reinstatements:
- 5
November Board Meeting Minutes are reviewed:

Motion to approve minutes. Motion seconded. Motion Approved.

Next Board Meeting:
February 22, 2018

Executive Committee
David Bagley

Finance - Christina Le:

November Financials
End of Nov. Cash Balance: $515,420
In November, everything was caught up reimbursement-wise
Balance Sheet - Sunrise Checking went up to $131,233 - very healthy
Trustone Financial is savings account

Nov. Profit/Loss by performance
Jan-Nov. Net Income: under budget by $25,000

As a result of challenges early in the Fall and then subsequent organizational challenges, Stacy (accountant) had to spend a lot of work going over financials → lead to difficulty looking over December’s
  ● She is working with Kaley to properly code certain budget lines
  ● This has also lead to an increase on account budget line

Motion to approve November 2017 Financials. Seconded. Approved.

December Financials
Because accounts were reimbursed, moved operating $50,000 to Trustone account
End of Dec - $503,980.52
  ● On Nov. Financials, there are two Sunrise accounts, but we don’t have access to the second one yet. So, this figure is incorrect.
- $658-worth of items still need to be reconciled from Nov. Financials.
- From years ago, to open a Trustone account, we needed to add $5 -- Stacy has added this into financials

Profit & Loss by Class
Whittier Fundraising - Figure that is something like $9000 -- this total is incorrect, because some of previous year’s fundraising rolled into January’s financials. So, this total will be less overall.

- Sunrise Bank is closing

*December Financials will be approved next month*

2018 Budget - Kaley Brown
Broken down into three main categories:

- Income
- Expense
- Program and Events

Highlight of Main Changes from Last Year:

Income:

- 1st two lines (4010, 4100) - working on increasing grants
- 4015 (CPP) - $143,000 received from Contract Amount + roll over from last year
- 4035B - 22203 (CPP and NRP)
- 4071N - Renamed “Event Fundraising”
  - 2017 had a lofty budget; these events never materialized
- 4078, 4079 (Youth Grant and Facade Grant) - These programs are done in 2018
  - Youth Grant is over, but this year we had 13 applicants and we are awarding 4
- $346,000 - Income
  - Difference between this and 2017’s budget is because of the inflated fundraising goals of 2017 and end of youth grant and facade improvement

Expense

- 1st couple pages: most are remaining the same (bills)
- Page 35
  - 8114, 8116, 8141 - Event Supplies, Mailing Services, Postage, Copying Lines
    - These are linked to the Program and Event Budget
- Page 36
  - Rent and Xcel
    - Budgeted significantly more in the case of rent increase (Apartment Shop)

Program and Events

- Colors correspond to Budget Key
- What we’re going to do this year
Programs

- Highlight programs that are different from last year
  - Entrepreneur Course Scholarships
    - Approved in 2017 by the board but never implemented
- Community Organics Composting Program
  - Allows renters to compost
    - LHENA has a partnership with the Wedge Co-op (9 bins)
      - Through the City; neighborhood association subsidizes ($18 for first bin, $9 per bin after that)
      - Partner with local businesses that will house the bins
      - They have been in talks with Angela Ritchie, Manager at Wedge Table
      - Many of the participants are in Whittier - no restriction for who can do it (as of November, already 350 people participating)
      - Question: what bucket of money will that come out of?
        - There are NRP buckets where it could come out of
- Fundraiser
- Eat Street Fundraiser
- Volunteer Program
  - Develop formal volunteer program
    - Have the WA Farmers Market table always staffed
    - Costs are primarily devoted to t-shirts for volunteers
- Strategic Planning
- Street Harassment and Safety Campaign
  - Prior to his leave, Ricardo hired on two interns to help with design
  - Met with a variety of partners to gain feedback on how the campaign will include all neighborhood partners
    - Self-defense training
    - Mural
    - Bystander training
    - We have identified a grant that could cover a majority of the cost - Bush Foundation Grant - Community Innovation Grant
      - Prioritize Community-based organizations
      - As staff went through the applicability, our program checked off a lot of the boxes
    - Around 1st week of June for deadline
    - Want to pitch other partners for supplemental funds at the end of the month to offset the cost of the project
    - What is the partner grant?
- Open Streets
  - Budgeting for presence at Lyndale Open Streets
- Talking with Becky Lewis at the Park to play a movie at Washburn Fair Oaks Park
  - Could also get popcorn donated potentially
    - Discussion re: Renter Block Party
- Kaley had idea to modify Great Whittier Summer Get-Together, which happens right around the time of National Night Out
- Turn energy of great whittier summer get-together into renter block party at the park
- Same budget line at Ice Cream Social
- **Proposal to keep it inclusive to both renters and homeowners, rather than specifying that it is specific to renters only**

  - **Note about BA**
    - Currently, it’s felt that the BA has not been the most effective
    - Struggling to find full agenda monthly
    - Kaley proposing to do BA Meetings quarterly - spend more time developing more effective agendas, etc
      - Need to figure out by Annual Meeting; this is the time to make a change to Committees
      - Time of meetings might be issue, too
      - This will not affect the budget

**Last three things on the 2018 Budget are items proposed to be cut:**

**Calendar**

- Someone had offered to do the whole thing, minus the costs of printing
- Also, it allows us to reach every household in Whittier
- Going through Budget, Kaley struggled to find an application to Strategic Plan
  - We could spend this money to better reach out to the neighborhood
- The Calendar helps spread awareness about the Whittier Alliance
  - If we do not continue, we have to find an alternative outreach piece
- Can we offer businesses ad space - businesses purchase a month - pay for the costs
  - Neighborhood picture w/ business logo
  - $1000 per page would cover the cost
  - Don’t need to budget for it if we can cover the costs this way
- **Final outcome:**
  - We will not fund this program
  - However, we still want to implement it if we can get volunteered design and business buy-in

**Somali Job Program**

- **Discussion**
  - Something that Camilla was working on, but how can we support this?
  - Strengthen partnership with Tasho Community - work collaboratively with them
  - Not something that we have to allocate budget items towards
  - Calvary also does tutoring; we can promote this aspect - Wednesday nights, they provide dinner for volunteers and the children
  - **Final decision:**
- We will not continue this program

Put Tasho’s volunteer needs in the Newsletter for this month

School Supplies Giveaway
- We will not be doing that this year
- The church always does this

Motion to approve 2018 Annual Budget for Whittier Alliance. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Board Elections and Annual Meeting
- Annual Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 28th at Whittier International School - 5:30-8pm
- 5 seats up for election
- Deadline to submit an application is Friday, February 16th at 5pm
  - Applications can be found on the Whittier Alliance website

Candidate Meet and Greet was last Wednesday at Wesley Andrews
- Five people attended. Four of these attendees are prospective board applicants.

Laura Jean and Erin Sjoquist are up for reelection
All BA Chairs are 1 year terms
- Votes are taken at the BA Meeting

Note: coordinate office hours for those that can’t get to the office during work hours to submit application

| Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions | Scott Melamed |
| Community Issues |

January CI Meeting
- Starbucks donated cookies, coffee and tea; WA provided cocoa
- Becky Lewis from the Park talked about winter events
  - Offering many, many programs
- 5th Precinct Inspector and Crime Specialist
  - Crime is up
- David spoke about board elections
- Solar Coop Speaker - Virginia Rutter
  - Information Session at LHENA’s office (2909 Hennepin Ave, 2nd Floor)
  - Facebook Event

Next CI Meeting - World Cafe-style Focus Group - Whittier Park, 6-8pm
Questions being asked are ones that anyone can answer; if you live here, if you spend time here, you can answer these questions
  ○ Reiterate this in promotion
  ○ Facebook Event

Business Association

Met at Wedge Table

  ● They offer many programs
  ● Meeting itself was sparse content-wise
  ● Hennepin County Recycling Program was there
    ○ Overviewed basics
    ○ Can provide site visits to local businesses
  ● Low Salt Diet

  ● Good Grocer is moving to 26th and Nicollet Ave, building on the lot next to Christos
    ○ Owner, Kurt, has been fairly withholding about information
    ○ One-story building
    ○ WA reach out to Kurt Vickman with WA Design Guidelines
      ■ Also, reach out to City and Ward 10
    ○ Good Grocer is thinking potentially to include apartments on the second floor
  ● Simpson Church (28th St) is being torn down
    ○ Footprint will stay the same
    ○ MPLS ordinance changed: shelter can now be standalone
      ■ However, the shelter will accommodate the church congregation weekly
    ○ Ask Steve Simpson if building materials will be salvaged
  ● More Graffiti in the neighborhood

Environment

No meeting this month
Did Volunteer Appreciation Party
Next Meeting: Solar Co-op Information Session - Wednesday, January 31st
  ● Question for Virginia Rutter: Can businesses participate in solar co-op?

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown, Community Engagement Manager:

Overview of past two months
  ● Accounting and Finance - big chunk of time with budget and making sure everything is paid for
  ● Fundraising and Grants - processing reimbursements this month
  ● 2018 Review Panel for Youth Grants - award letters and denial letters are out
• 2017 Facade Grants - wrapping up
• Street Harassment and Safety Campaign

• Strategic Plan Updates
  ○ Focus Group Dates have been sent out via email to board but also included in the packet
  ○ First of 7 was conducted yesterday - Business Focus Group
    ● Well attended

• Saturday February 10th at Springhouse Ministries (Renters Focus Group)
• Board members can reach out to people that they know in order to help with populating the meetings
• *Staff will reshare the links to the strategic plan focus group folders*
  ○ In each packet is a flier with invitation language
  ○ There is also an outreach sheet; board members should update with invitations
• *Make sure to have child care at Latino and East African Focus Groups*
  ○ *Working on also having translators set up*
• *Translate questions*

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<th>Old &amp; New Business:</th>
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### Developments

*Good Grocer*

*19 E 26th*

  ○ Tax-forfeited property
  ○ On the list to be discussed at city level - Feb. 14th
  ○ Proposals to purchase by City organizations have to be submitted by feb. 12th
  ○ Have to wait till August 31st so that the owners have time to redeem the property
  ○ City will use that value to give it up for auction
  ○ We don’t know price yet
  ○ As of now, the property is office space on the first level and residential on the 2nd
  ○ *Do we want to notify the city that we may be interested?*
    ■ *We should express interest formally, then evaluate the numbers*
    ■ *We can also find out if we are a City organization*
  ○ *If we were to buy a building, we can’t use any of the NRP or CPP funds to maintain it*

*510 East Lake St (Lupe Development)*

  ○ Morgan Luzier from LynLake Bus District reached out
  ○ The Developers contacted her; they are already going forward at the planning commission
  ○ Morgan wants to ask Lupe if they will *send us their designs*
    ■ *Ask them to come to February BA Meeting, open it to the public*

*REX26*

  ○ Zoning and Planning Meeting on Monday
  ○ Proposed changes
  ○ Danny at Common Roots has been working with LHENA
    ■ Will be looking to create conversation/discussion around what buildings they want to see on Lyndale
Denied FAR Variance 4:2
   ■ Developers have a week to appeal
Ronna Village (29th and Pleasant) - Sabri Property
   ■ Eliminate basement parking garage
   ■ Revise 2nd floor from senior apts
   ■ Revise to allow 3 and 4-bedroom apartments
   ■ 121 → 113 units
   ■ Add floor

Adjourn 8:31 PM

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.

Meeting Minutes Approved on ______________________

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David Bagley, Board Chair

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Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary