

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23rd , 2017 6-8:30 PM**  
**Whittier Rec. Center**

**Present:** Fadumo Abdinur Anab, Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, Mary Gazca, Laura Jean, Geri Jerez, Christina Le, Michael Malone, Jesse Oyervides, Araceli Perez, Christine Popowski, ,Kenya Weathers, David Bagley, Marie E. Listopad, Erin Sjoquist

**Absent:** Daphna Stromberg

**Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Joey Whitesman

**Call to Order** at 6:12PM by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

**Motion** to approve the March agenda **Carries**.

Daphna is missing this meeting which is her 3rd. We will vote to reinstate her

**Comments from the Chair**

Erica Christ

This is Erica's last and 144th board Meeting. Hasn't missed one in 12 years.

**Secretary's Report**

Erin Sjoquist

**Review** of February 23rd, 2017 Board Meeting **Minutes**. **Motion** to approve minutes **Carries**.

Board Meeting **Attendance**

Motion to reinstate Erin

13-0-0

Next Board Meeting: 4/27/17

Annual Meeting: 3/30/17

**Executive Committee**

Erica Christ

**Affordable Housing Complaint**

- Ricardo spent the day in Racism Training that is part of the complaint, advised by the committee
- 400 page report from Mosaic Surveys recently released
- Report Issues: study does not adequately address both the issues of race and income. The Committee managing the complaint does not get any say in whether 400 page document is implemented. Sentiment that race has been second to income issues. Consultant hired has been poor in designing research.
- Ricardo had opportunity to meet other complainants, Complainant side seems unsatisfied
- Consulting firm chosen was not what committee wanted but what council wanted
- Doc online + marian notes
- The Committee addressing the complaint has no voting privileges
- We have option to bring lawsuit if complainants not happy
- When commission makes final decision, an addendum will be made to the analysis of impediments. City/County officials and Met council will make the decision

Discussion of the Housing Complaint follows with key points below:

- If affordable housing/ concentration of poverty is the problem, why do a survey and not collect/ analyze data?
- Problems with only looking at data:
  1. The Orfield study highlighting concentration of poverty is controversial in lens/ scope and the language describing poor communities and communities of color is also controversial
  2. Orfield's gentrific studies/ conclusions also controversial
- Data could be used for Inclusionary zoning, etc.
- Process is up to HUD and AI
- School districts is what communities are centered around to Orfield but scale still an issue
- Orfield data older than CURA data
- Orfield reports don't talk enough about race and racial inequality
- HUD might be a different agency under Trump, funding we are arguing about might be gone
- Our process vs. Texas (their case went to the Supreme Court and they won). shouldn't we follow their process? Did they do a VCA?
- With some combining of data from cura/ Orfield, more people might support data
- Whittier is an outlier in some needs- only one talking about supportive housing
- There are Issues in getting data because the Mosaic Survey doesn't fully address demographics- language issues, mental health
- The leap between affordable and market housing very difficult because of the current system
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We'll know in next couple months if we agree with the decision made and take action from there

**Request:** gather summary of process they took in texas so we know if they did VCA/ Steps they took and bodies they engaged with.

### **Approve Annual Meeting Agenda and 2016 Annual Report**

**Motion** to Recommend CI + BA to be acting committees this year

14-0-0

Motion **carries unanimously**

ESTF

Request to be a special committee

**Motion** to call ESTF special committee

14-0-0

Motion **carries unanimously**

There are no motions from the floor at annual meeting.

Next year: 45 day notice of proposed changes to bylaws .

Parliamentarian - Not this year.

We will be explicit and clear in how we are running meeting, referring to bylaws and use Robert's Rules as a guideline

**Finance Committee**

Andy Cohen

**February , 2017 Financial Statements:** The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed.

- For the 22203 NRP contact we still are waiting for reimbursement, more money to come
- Balance sheet reflects: a higher receivable and lower cash, otherwise balance sheet stable
- Move of 100 grand to trustone account from sunrise account
- Closing out sunrise eventually and moving completely to Trustone
- Paypal will be done soon because database can take credit cards

P & L budget

- Feb 2017 numbers solid
- Adjusting needed for income lines on budget- shows we are losing 16,800 dollars(not the case)
- Some numbers got left out of income line
- Budget for year- net income of around \$17k (fall fundraising)
- Quickbooks correction needed

**Motion:** The Board tables the Whittier Alliance February, 2017 financial report until next month. **Motion Carried.**

**Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions****Community Issues**

Ricardo McCurley

Topic Immigration:

- Rebecca, social worker from Learning in Style shared her experience as a Refugee from Zambia- shared story of coming here- difficulty and trauma
- Concerns and fear with federal level changes under Trump administration
- Immigration lawyer spoke about city/county policies
- Lindsey Wallace spoke about city immigration practices
- Felino share the story of the beginnings of the Chicano Center
- Current times reminiscent of past struggles
- No good answers to what a sanctuary city is...city/ county discrepancies are an issue
- Spirit of St Stevens working with lift garage for repair to avoid police stops
- Current atmosphere affecting all immigrants (legal or not)

**Business Association**

Andy Cohen

- Met at MEF school
- Job training Charter School
- Many English Language Learners
- Downtown Council Business Platform
- BA motion on a business platform would have to go to the board? Yes
- Any topic like \$15 minimum wage would maybe go to both committees before organization takes a stance
- Discussion at CI could be good to inform residents

**Crime and Safety - TBA**

City-level crime and safety work is happening with Whittier neighborhood representation  
Working group at police chief level- CCAC, NCEC- city level  
Working groups are sharing resources and best practices, open to community as well as commissioners  
When crime squeezed out of one place goes elsewhere  
Downtown crime moves here because of services  
In Conversation with Fish and Loaves, learned of drug deals in front of building  
Supportive Vs. Punitive approach to get fish and loaves to address problem seems ideal  
They are not paying for security, and they agreed to. St. Stephens is landlord  
Where do we stand with safety? Bring them to the table again  
Concern about decrease in engagement from St. Stephens  
Switching format of crime and safety to separate meeting 2 months, quarterly?  
Past Conversation about level 3 sex offenders could be a good format for the meetings

**ESTF** - working with LHENA on Salt Grant, went to businesses in SW corner and did survey  
Comments:

1. Mint properties meeting to partner
  2. Graphic or poster about salt practices for businesses could be helpful
- Sand missing this year- Parks and rec. Usually put it out. Sand also bad for environment. Ether?
  - Joining forces with Soo Line community

#### **Staff Reports:**

Reports from Paul, Ricardo, and Camilla are in the board packet.  
Ricardo will be emailing tomorrow

#### **Old & New Business:**

[No civic buzz in April because of caucuses](#)

#### **Community Connections Conference**

- 2040 process happening where you can put input into 2040 comp.
- Social Media/ have flyers for it

#### **Development Lake & Harriet- coming to CI**

100 units of affordable housing , 900-1100 dollar range  
Features a Skyway over the alley  
20% 2 bedrooms, Tour was provided  
Potential Issues with accessibility  
National management company- Pinnacle  
Comment on design at CI meeting  
One of four developments that are 70-100 units  
Sentiment that most new development is for young, white single people

**Adjourn**

**8:34PM**

**Minutes submitted by Joey Whitesman.**

Meeting Minutes Approved on \_\_\_\_\_

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Erica Christ, Board Chair

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Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary