

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2018 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Park

Present: Aldona Martinka, Angela Ritchie, Araceli Perez, Christina Le, Christine Popowski, Crystal Audi, Cyndi Hovey, David Bagley, Erin Sjoquist, Jeff Cowmeadow, Jen Kader, Martha Nemesi, Mary Gazca, Michael Perez, Viswa Challa

Absent: Michael Malone

Late: N/A

Staff: Kaley Brown, Marcus VanderSanden

Guests: Colleen O'Dell- MPRB

Call to Order at 6:07pm by. Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Amendments to agenda:

- Jen would like to open "old and new business" to updates and check- ins

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. **Motion Carries.**

MPRB Southwest Service Master Plan

Colleen O'Dell

Southwest service area ranges South of 394 west of 35W

Has not been planned since mid 70's, MPRB got money from city to do comprehensive planning divided city into 5 districts- **downtown, south, southwest, north and east river**

Done with downtown and south, north is in progress

Southside will be switching to more soccer fields

Southwest planning is just beginning will doing major outreach and engagement push throughout the summer, would like hear from Whittier Alliance about what we think

Striving to work with artists to make more creative spaces

Plan will not be looking at buildings but rather outdoor amenities, also only looking at neighborhood parks not regional because regional parks receive more funding, buildings are part of a separate study and project happening right now

About a year and half turnaround for the plan- in fall striving to have two designs for each park and bring those to each park- Plans will likely be decided on early summer 2019, and will be gauged against budget and voted on by parkboard

Whittier- MPRB created equity metric for parks look at 7 key indicators 4 of which are community based- people under 18, diversity and poverty are two prominent factors that are prevalent in Whittier so there is possibility Whittier Park will receive good funding.

Leaving comment cards for people to fill out and send in to

Questions

Area has seen large increase- how is population growth being factored in to plan- will be looking at those things as part of the plan as housing in areas

In Southwest many parks and schools cohabit- will be working with these schools to meet needs of children who use the park facilities

Scott brings up Washburn Fair Oaks and the potential for that, has been contentious space in the past

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Last month's minutes are reviewed. No amendments.

Motion to approve minutes with proposed changes. Motion **seconded**. Motion **Approved**.

Next Board Meeting:

May 24, 2018

Executive Committee

David Bagley

Finance - Christina Le:

Overviews last months finances.

Jen has question about discrepancy in 10,000 difference is attributed to reimbursement schedules

Motion to **Approve** April Financials. **Seconded**. **Approved**.

Q1 Reimbursements - Kaley Brown

Reimbursement requests for Jan-Mar were submitted on Monday- Kaley will be updating this quarterly as reimbursements come back to Whittier Alliance- should expect Q1 reimbursements within the week. Will be switching to NRP 2203 when CPP funds are exhausted typically around July so moving forward financial reports will reflect that change.

Strategic Plan Moving Forward- David Bagley

Steering Committee would like to use Wed. 30th meeting to establish clearer structure and goals internally before the Strategic Plan is presented to the group at large again. Might move forward without existing consultant. Hoping to build on groundwork that has been done.

Erin- train has left the station, work has been getting done

Viswa- is there opportunity for new board members to be informed on existing work and updates

Goal of steering committee meeting will be to gain clarity of vision and present information and plan moving forward.

Comp plan 2040- David Bagley

David's thoughts- city wants response by July 22nd, leaves a lot to be filled in. 5 identified issues.

- Upzoning of the city - many neighborhoods taking issue with this because it will increase developer reach into neighborhood single family level- decreasing single family home/starter home availability
- Affordable housing - affordable housing at 60% AMI presumes \$55,000 family income not the case in Whittier- concerns of gentrification
- Transportation- priorities will be walking, biking then car. Will support public transport but not fund parking will remain infrastructure concern
- Plan will supercede any small area plan- including pedestrian overlay, shoreline etc
- Would like city to take more time for input- there is existing request for more time

Viswas thoughts- believes it would have positive impact- considering population growth and generational progress. Would like 45-60 minutes to debrief on his thoughts. Wants to review the document deeply and thoroughly. Would like to do a presentation. Wants to avoid bias.

David- would like to have CPED come present in depth about plan at Community Issues or to board or both.

Plan remains unsummarized by CPED or other city body. Deadline for comment is July 22nd. Several other neighborhoods have requested an extension.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Viswa Challa

May Meeting

Speakers: Jeff Cowmeadow, Becky Lewis, Hennepin County Library

Viswa spoke to committee about potential changes and sought feedback on how Plans were not solidified but very preliminary.

G&L- Abe spoke mostly about personal story and development was generally well received by group

Good Grocer- some controversy mostly surrounding design

Motion passed to have Whittier Alliance be proactive in information distribution surrounding fireworks and their use- Christina proposes an informational flyer that uses pictures to offer a language free communication

CI Structural Amendment

Viswa- introduces literature surrounding goals of Community Issues moving forward.

Would like to see major outreach push to reach the community at large in addition to following up with current participants

- Has pulled Census Bureau data surrounding Whittier demographics to ensure representation
- Less recurring informational pieces- bring in more speakers make it more event oriented
- Have subgroups that work on things
- CI would begin with sub-group debriefings
- Striving for over 100 attendees representative of community

Will invite more conversation surrounding changes at June CI.

Babies, Puppies and Lemonade could potentially drum up interest (joke)

Viswa and Scott will be very dedicated and put time into these changes.

Questions

David- fears that it is a little abstract- might get negative reaction from community

Viswa- intentionally abstract- wants to crowdsource ideas from community not come from on high

Mary- Thinks it might be beneficial if sub-committees are formed

Viswa- haven't finalized sub-committees, but looking at all notes from

Cindy- What can the board do to support you in this

Viswa- 2 major things- Wants input and recruitment from board members "bring a friend next time"

Jen- Removing recurring info, is concerned that electronic only communication might cut people off information
Viswa- acknowledges that concern

Business Association

Araceli Perez

May Meeting

Attendance was relatively low topics surrounded:

- Adding quarterly social hour component
- Calendar- likes idea- would be willing to organize sub-committee- \$3,000 dollars raised on the spot.
Erin has designer who will do it
- Moving away slightly away from Eat Street focus
- Wants to increase engagement and exposure about
- Environmental Initiatives
 - Increase awareness about Hennepin County grants
 - Follow up meeting with Hennepin county and EI concerning potential grant administration and grant money for staff time
 - EI would train staff member to sustain program

Environmental Sustainability

Kaley Brown

Earth Day Cleanup went well

Clothing Mend Swap- 15-20 things mended, a lot of donations to Learning In Style, Steeple People picked up all the extras

Martha- felt positively about the community coming out, a lot of

Christine- could be replicated? Talks of doing it twice seasonally

Wed, 30th next meeting

MN350 will be there

Housing Issues Committee

Aldona Martinka

First meeting established - issues, actions of committee, other big picture items

Took those ideas, Nate B. did some data analysis creating 5 categories - Development Oversight- Community Engage and outreach- Resources to Community- Government Influence- Structure (logistics of meeting)

- People went to two areas of most interest
- Structure
 - Settled on, one chair first meeting setup will continue discussion on meeting time evening potentially saturday mornings
 - 3 month scheck in on metrics of attendance of participation - talked about sub-committees
 - Will ask chair for 3-4 hours of commitment outside of meeting time
 - Developer requirements- preset questions

Aldona proposes- basic committee structure for first 3 months to gauge attendance and energy, meeting time will be fluid, and will report back to board after 3 months. Chair will established at meeting June 18th

Martha moves to approve. Jen seconds.

Jen believes Housing Issues would be more about the personal level of housing where CI may still function as larger oversight

Mary- goals of the committee

Aldona- hopeful attendees establish goals, housing discussion is people feeling powerless about housing decisions at city hall would like to establish connection there

Viswa- will facilitate connections between CI and HI

David would like to recommend development stays in CI

Vote - all yes- 1 abstention

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown

Would like to highlight two important things:

Whittier Works Together- Community Building

community safety initiatives directive. Form is online to submit questions. Friday summer kickoff party at Simpson. Mobile mia, good grocer donation. Engage with parts of neighborhood not typically in. Saturday, skill building. Search for home training, krav maga, bystander skill. Good feedback, hoping for good turnout.

Eat Street Festival

- Receiving official branding from Brave New Media
- Looking for sponsors
- Map provided (in board packet)
 - Two stages, two beer gardens, kids zone
 - WA will be selling water, raffle, and wristbands
 - Upcoming meeting with city about traffic and street closure

What will be on the stages

Brian at Icehouse will be doing the booking. Mix of local acts and cultural groups.

Will the event be zero-waste - could ESC help with this.

Whittier Farmers Market- soliciting vendors and volunteers

Bring somebody not from Whittier Alliance

Putting monetary effort into market so want to have good presence

Will sell cookbooks

2507 1st Ave- will be rebuilding as 4-plex

Office was contacted by resident who was upset by NuWay expansion. Reached out to him for specifics, implied that WA was involved at beginning of progress and opposing it, wanted WA to continue that position.

Multiple floor and multiple rooms on each floor

NCEC has seats that need filling. Traditionally would vote on candidates who would like, district is large and only received 3 candidates. Each neighborhood will choose candidate and will send elector to June 14th meeting. Viswa volunteers to be elector.

Have not spoken with Kenya Weathers. Questions whether, candidate knew the context of this application.

Martha would like to endorse Erica as a strong community member.

Viswa moves to send vote to city as total votes. Amended to most total votes with the majority vote getter being Whittier endorsement however providing vote tally. Seconded.

General concern that vote in different format would diminish Whittier voice

Motion vote- yes- 10 no- 4

NCEC Representative Vote

Erica- 10

Kenya- 0
Cohen- 0
None of the above- 4
Abstention- 3

Work group opportunity for NCEC- If interested in digging in for 2020 plan. Have until June 18th to decide. Commit for 6 months duration, possibly bi-monthly (twice per month) 6 hours a month estimation until November

Old & New Business:

Scott is concerned about the functioning of the board. Proposes opening dialogue on how we can better function as a team.

Executive Director Search

Staff is excused for closed voting

KALEY BROWN CONFIRMED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WHITTIER ALLIANCE



Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved.

Adjourn 8:50 PM

Minutes submitted by Marcus VanderSanden.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

David Bagley, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary