

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 24, 2017 6-8:30 PM**  
**Whittier Rec. Center**

**Present:** Scott Melamed, Kaley Brown, Christine Popowski, David Bagley, Geri Jerez, Michael Malone, Kenya Weathers, Chafoxey Mitchner, Martha Nemesi, Laura Jean, Christina Le, Carrie McCabe-Johnston, Erin Sjoquist, Mary Gazca, Andrew Nordick

**Absent:** Jen Kader, Daphna Stromberg, Christina Le, Jesse Oyervides

**Late:**

**Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Dan Stanton

**Call to Order** at 6:09pm by David Bagley, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Two changes to agenda:

- Kalley, not Christine, for Environmental Sustainability Committee
- Statement from Andrew is an additional attachment in the board packet

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

**Comments from the Chair**

David Bagley

N/A

**Secretary's Report**

Erin Sjoquist

**Review** of July 27th, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. **Motion** to approve minutes **Carries**

The secretary is not here. David gives the secretary's report.

**Motion** to approve minutes. Motion **seconded**. Motion **Approved**.

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Next Board Meeting:  
**September 28, 2017**

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**Executive Committee**

David Bagley

**Attendance**

7 - no missed meetings

10 - 1 missed

2 - 2 missed

1 resignation - Marie Listopad

## Development Discussion

- How do we handle development organizationally and at the board level?
  - Motions from the WA Board typically have little weight
  - 2449 Lyndale Project
    - This project was rejected because of individual neighbors objecting
- Development projects go to CI Meeting
  - Previously, there was a development & land use committee
  - Important to alert neighborhood concerning upcoming development
- Most effective way to change is through neighborhood participation in planning meetings
- In addition to rallying people, we should be exploring legislative options
  - How can we best engage the City - explore best practices
  - Provide residents with list of contact information of those at the City
    - If done right, we are teaching a more effective level of civic engagement
  - We could have a candidates forum where neighbors can voice their concerns to current candidates; it's an election year
  - We should teach the community, not simply let them rely on the board
- Example: other neighborhoods utilize neighborhood group development committees, where a vote is taken concerning upcoming development. Beyond that, issues are taken to a small focus group, where a second vote is taken.
  - Illustrates community representation and consensus to City Council
- The more we empower people outside of the organization, the less we have to do as an organization
  - What else can we do to make it more accessible to community?
    - Add pertinent contact info to fliers
    - Change meeting times so that residents can act quickly
    - If WA's opinion isn't heard, then we waste time by devoting time to formulating opinions. Rather, that energy can be sent towards empowering those whose opinion can be heard -- residents
- Utilize block leaders
  - They can function as a direct outlet to the community
- Facilitate neighbors involvement
  - Provide scripts, contact information, who to talk to, what to say
  - Have neighbors sign petitions
- Should the strategic plan make way for the direction of the neighborhood plan
- Can we door knock to get direct feedback from those that can't attend meetings?
  - The votes of property owners are counted when it comes to development issues, not those of renters
    - We need to advocate for the weight of renters' vote
- The City will do a traffic study if requested.
- Scott will draft language for activist handout
  - Staff will support by assisting in creation, as well as including contact information for those at the City

## Financial Committee

Christina Le

Ricardo goes through financials + notes from exec.

- Issue with how we were displaying projects
  - Pg 21: Profit & Loss by Job
    - “Job” means “Project”
    - There was a glitch where only two projects would be shown previously
    - That has been corrected; now one can see all current projects
  - One more change: budget performance is broken down into greater detail
    - Now there are breakdowns for individual categories with finer detail

**Motion** to Approve financials. **Seconded**. 2 abstentions.

10 - in favor

0 - opposed

4 - abstentions

Motion **Carries**.

## Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

### Community Issues

Scott Melamed

Scott overviewed the Great Whittier Summer Get-Together

- Positive reactions
- Do we want to throw this event annually?
- Becky Lewis, Park Director, spoke highly of the event
  
- If we decide to do this annually, we could plan and budget for it
  - We would want to replicate the outreach for future years
  - Do we want to continue to have it at Whittier Park, or do we want to move it around the neighborhood?
- Building volunteer relations would be useful
- The confines of the space allowed conversation
- However, it would be good to diversify location-wise

### Business Association

Andrew Nordick

Andrew provided notes regarding BA

- We'll be offering a scholarship from Business Growth Task Force for those looking to start businesses via a training program provided by Neighborhood Development Center (NDC).
  - Creating ten separate \$100 scholarships
- Business Inclusiveness

- In the future, BA meeting will allot 10-15 minutes for sharing news and happenings from around the neighborhood
  - This will allow discussion relevant to the BA Meeting
  - Similarly, this can increase camaraderie and attendance turnout
  - Rather than talk at people, hopefully this will facilitate discussion
- Ricardo, Andrew + Anne met with Zeus Jones regarding 35W closure
  - Use Zeus Jones' expertise
  - Zeus Jones + Anne will work to create wayfinding for detours
    - MNDot lost budget for wayfinding

## Environment

Christine Popowski

August Meeting + Green Corps Inaugural Happening is this Saturday at 2pm

- Youth Farm site as potential focal point for a Fall Cleanup
  - This will be proposed to the ESC/Green Corps to see about interest
- Soo Line Garden Children's Garden in Southwest Journal

## Staff Reports:

Ricardo's Executive Director Report

- Ideally, we will be finishing up filling Paul/Camilla's position for Community Organizer
- There is a gap in our outreach
- Accounts Payable and Receivable is streamlined
  - Paying bills once a month
  - Contractors get bills in by the 15th of the month
- Database updates
  - We transferred to Every Action in March
  - We're working to fully utilize the system
    - Measure attendance with communications
- **Board Retreat Date:** Saturday, September 16th - 8-Noon - Learning in Style (2200 Nicollet)
  - Next step: Robert Thompson and Aria Fine confirmed to facilitate meeting
    - Meet with both of them to figure out outline for meeting
    - Board needs to read through strategic plan
    - We aren't going to create a work plan
      - We will look at current strategies to determine relevance and how to use them
    - Ricardo will send out important documents to read through leading up to meeting

## Old & New Business:

No new updates on the 2449 Lyndale

**Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Carries.**

**Adjourn                      7:43 PM**

**Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Bagley, Board Chair

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Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary

