Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2017  6-8:30 PM
Whittier Rec. Center

Present:  Andrew Nordick, Kaley Brown, Chafoxney Mitchner, Scott Melamed, Erin Sjoquist, Martha Nemesi, Christina Le, Laura Jean, Michael Malone, Kenya Weathers, David Bagley, Geri Jerez

Absent:  Jen Kader, Carrie McCabe-Johnston, Araceli Perez, Christine Popowski, Daphna Stromberg, Jesse Oyervides, Mary Gazca

Late:  N/A

Staff:  Ricardo McCurley, Dan Stanton

Call to Order at 6:10 pm by David Bagley, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Amendments to Agenda:
●  Add Lake Street Council’s Lake Street Bash to agenda under BA
●  Add formation of 35W Task Force under BA
●  Add Ward 10 Forum to Old & New Business

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

Comments from the Chair

David Bagley

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Review of August 24th Board Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve minutes Carries

Attendance:
6 - 0
8 - 1
4 - 2
0 - 3
0 - 4
0 - 5

Amendments to August Board Meeting Minutes:
●  Board members are only late if they missed ½ of meeting. Otherwise, their arrival time is the only thing that needs to be noted. Those that were marked as “late” from last meeting can be moved to “present”.

●  The minutes read that there was no secretary’s report; however, David gave the report, and this qualifies as the secretary’s report.
Motion to approve minutes with proposed adjustments. Motion seconded. Motion Approved.

Next Board Meeting:
October 26th, 2017

Executive Committee   David Bagley

- Kaley has applied for Community Organizer position with Whittier Alliance
  - Because she is a board member, our bylaws state that you cannot be paid by the alliance for one year
  - Can we allow her to take the position if she will be paid?
  - This is permissible given a ⅔ majority vote by the board
  - She has been offered the position
    - Two previous candidates had turned down the job before her
  - Are we okay going forward with this from a board’s perspective?
  - Concern: shift in opinionated → having to remain bipartisan

Motion that the Whittier Alliance approves the hiring of Kaley Brown, pending her resignation from the board
Seconded.

9 - in favor
1 - abstention

The Motion is Approved.

Financial Committee   Christina Le

No financials this month; these will be overviewed next month when Stacey is here. Our bookkeeper is on vacation.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions   Scott Melamed

Community Issues

- We tried a new format for development
  - Encouraging those at the meetings to provide their voice at the City level
  - We provided attendees with contact information for representatives, planners, etc at the City level
- Very contentious conversation re: the development at Harriet & Lake (Lupe Development)
○ Has not been well received by the City, orgs., or neighbors/citizens
○ Subsidized housing project (Section 42 - income restrictions - single person has to have income of 42,000 no more no less)

● 2449 Lyndale Ave
  ■ Has already gone before the city planning commission
    ● Has been approved for size, building footprint
    ● Did not get approved for the height (4 stories)
    ● Neighbors on either side have convinced planning that the building was too tall and it would have an adverse effect on their houses
    ● Concern with the proximity to the street
      ○ In the plan, they were pushing the building towards the street, closer than the surrounding buildings
    ● Because it already went to zoning & planning, and it fits within the ped. Overlay, it’s being sent straight to city council
    ● Teardown has already started; they are moving ahead
    ● We should be thinking about that corridor, meet with the residents of those houses to inform them (about pedestrian overlays, zoning, etc)
      ○ More we could be doing ahead of time, rather than after the fact

  ● Zoning + ped. overlay encourage moving closer to the street
    ○ This means it will continue on the block
  ● Revisit the pedestrian overlay and zoning → we can help inform residents so that we can work to mitigate

■ Ped overlay was implemented on Lyndale last November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Association</th>
<th>Andrew Nordick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Met at MCAD
● Brought up issues with safety and street harassment, students and faculty feeling unsafe
● They have seen a recent increase in street harassment, so that they want to address this
● At the moment, they have a lot of ideas, but there is not a concrete focus yet
  ○ What kind of action can help and be most effective?
● We will have a meeting with them to discuss how we can partner with MCAD to help mitigate this issue
● Addressing the neighborhoods tolerance to these issues
  ○ Neighborhood watch
  ○ See something; say something
● Utilizing the artistic + creative abilities of MCAD students would be useful
● Partnering with the park for community ed. Self-defense - idea
● Broaden to Community Issues Meeting
● Does MCAD have a safety escort service?
● MCAD is going to be doing some remodeling of property on 26th
● Oral History Eat Street Project is on display at Henn. History Museum
  ○ They have a contract with City Hall to provide exhibits
● Waldorf School has been presented with an opportunity to buy 7th Adventist Church’s space
○ 7th Adventist Church has approached Waldorf and asked them if they want to buy it
○ Spirit of St. Stephens has been without a permanent home; they currently rent from MCAD, and they gave them a time limit on their last lease
  ■ This could be a positive connection between the two of them
○ All of this was spawned out of a new BA method: going around the table to let each business provide updates and news, as opposed to Andrew talking at everyone

● 35W Task Force has been formed
  ○ Zeus Jones on marketing/creative side
    ■ Offering their skills/labor for free
  ○ Sunrise Banks - financial support
  ○ They are ready and willing to contribute, but they need direction
    ■ We need added voices to help provide direction
  ○ Reach out to State Reps for helping the community
  ○ Need government interest
  ○ Reach out to owners of Electric Fetus
  ○ Great opportunity for local businesses to have an interest and influence on what happens here
  ○ Goal is to keep it light-weight so that conversations can be made efficiently
● Lake Street Council is having a fundraiser at the end of October
  ○ Tapping Lake Street Council would be useful
    ■ Nice to build relationship with them

### Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kaley Brown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Last meeting when very well
- Brainstormed about events, projects, classes with Green Corps; what can we do to engage people
- Willow and Kaley are scheduling things ahead once a month
- Fall Cleanup - October 14th at Whittier Park - 10am-1pm

#### Staff Reports:

**Strategic Plan** - Follow up after retreat:
- Idea of two sections:
  - Visions and values
  - Priorities
    - a) Vision and values should be owned by the board
    - b) This is our role as board members - what the org values
    - c) Priorities are linked to actions that we will take over the next five years

- Activity:
  - Take a final tally of our current priorities, place sticky notes on “go”, “keep”, “change” and “add”
  - Time to review current strategic plan priorities
- Values and Priorities:
  - Example of what our plan may look like
○ Focus on the structure: what our vision for the neighborhood is, value that will guide us, lense for how we will tackle priorities
○ What’s in here can be changed, but this is a first stab at what we might want it to look like
● Time taken for Sticky Note Activity
● Next Stage:
  ○ Making a lot of effort to engage different groups
  ○ Hiring consulting
  ○ Nominate project manager?
    ■ There should be someone on exec to work alongside project manager
    ■ Proposing Scott as Project Manager
  ○ Scott will meet with exec + Ricardo to go over next steps and division of labor

**Inspector Kathy Waite - Police Inspector at fifth precinct**

● Jennifer Neal has worked with Fifth Precinct before; she is going to come on mid-October as crime prevention specialist
● Board Introductions around the table
● Board is going through a series of meetings to hear Waite’s thoughts on how we can be more effective, how we can work more effectively

Kathy Waite
● Communication is really important
● Gov. Delivery
  ○ Way of communication from police to block leaders to neighbors
  ○ Open rate is very small percentage, however
● Now, pushing alerts forward through Next Door
  ○ Not the most effective on their end
  ○ They aren’t able to view anything, can’t receive information back because they have 20 neighborhoods and can’t sign up for each neighborhood
  ○ Could receive information from Crime Specialist and then distribute through WA social media
● Handout: crime reports from Sept. 1-28th
● Updates:
  ○ Lots of robberies, 7 robberies
  ○ Most common: property crimes
  ○ Theft from motor vehicles is high
● At the moment, crime is up
  ○ Also, in relation to significantly low crime in recent years
  ○ Difficult to locate the cause
● A lot of robbers are looking for people that are under the influence of alcohol
● Summer months: targeting people leaving the bars
● Recently: some occur during the day, more earlier in the evening as it starts to get darker
● Washburn Fair Oaks
  ○ Park Police’s jurisdiction
● What can we do?
  ○ Bike Patrol - unsure of the success of this
○ Neighborhoods are buying cameras; it can be effective depending on where you put them
  ■ However, these don’t deter crime because they are nondescript and small
  ■ Inspector Waite - cameras are positive
    ● They can help solve crimes after they happen
    ● They aren’t constantly monitored, but they are very useful
  ■ What’s most useful for prevention?
○ Street Harassment w/ MCAD
  ■ What can we do?
    ● Call 911
    ● What are neighborhood expectations?
    ● Communication is what makes change, community involvement, being engaged with your neighbors
    ● More participation at meetings
    ● How do we reach out to different communities?
    ● Provide information about becoming a block leader
    ● Get people involved and then invite police to participate
○ Police Resources update
  ■ Typically lose 20-30 officers a year to retirement
  ■ Budget is more or less the same
○ What alternative solutions are there?
  ■ Prevention: officers driving around, education, affecting “crimes of opportunity” through disseminating information
  ■ Cameras: securonet - company that contracts with city to collect info from anyone willing that has an exterior camera
    ● They say it is not a prevention method; it is a investigative tool
○ Bring this up again at BA, since many of these crimes occur in commercial corridors
○ How effective is street lighting?
  ■ Lighting a street always helps; however, often trees obscure the lights
  ■ Lighting comes at a price - approvals and extra funding, etc
  ■ If you can light up an area, it is to a community’s advantage
○ Useful to build community at both micro and macro level
  ■ Neighbors are at the ground level
  ■ An active, committed community is very helpful

Pilot project - co-dispatching program where police work with mental health professionals

### Old & New Business:

**Big Ideas Update:**
Report on big ideas grant

- Awarded a winner, based on 700+ votes: Trailhead Games
- Process started with creating more grants with WA
- Paul and Willow worked on Big Ideas Grant - $4,000
- Money given up front, work with individuals AND organizations, upfront would enable more individuals to apply
- 5 applicants
- Task force determined two finalists: tigerlion arts + trailhead games
- Voting: in-person at events + online vote
- Online vote and social media: not just whittier was voting
- However, we had addresses to figure out who was in whittier and who wasn’t
- Determined metrics to scale votes
- Trailhead Games won on every metric
- Total vote count: 700+
- Majority were online
- NE Open Streets - trailhead reached out to individuals there - about half were from Whittier and new to our organization, they provided us with their info

Ward 10 - On the 17th of October in Carag - all the candidates will be there

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

Adjourn 8:29 PM

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.

Meeting Minutes Approved on ______________________

_________________________________________________

David Bagley, Board Chair

_________________________________________

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary