

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
January 26th , 2016 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Rec. Center

Present: Fadumo Abdinur Anab, Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, May Gazca, Laura Jean, Geri Jerez, Christina Le, Michael Malone, Jesse Oyervides, Araceli Perez, Christine Popowski, Ted Irgen, Daphna Stromberg

Guest: Osman Abo

Absent: David Bagley, Sarah Estey, Kenya Weathers, Marie Listopad

Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Joey Whitesman

Call to Order at 6:14PM by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the January agenda **Carried**.

Comments from the Chair

Erica Christ

- Reminder that WA does not take position on candidates or endorse candidates. This could jeopardize our current Non-Profit status
- Any political speech is as a resident not a board member
- In past we've had board members run for office but Whittier Alliance name can not be associated with specific candidate
- There are 3 people in the mayor's race at least two in the Ward 10 race

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Review of December 15th, 2016 Board Meeting **Minutes**. **Motion** to approve minutes **Carried**.

Board Meeting Attendance

Motions to reinstate:

- Copies of reinstatement letters should be in packet
- Osman will go back to BA in February for reinstatement. Can attend meeting as guest
- Araceli, Fadumo, and Kenya would still like to be part of the board
- No action on Sarah since not present to be reinstated

Araceli and Fadumo- technically BA appointees but can be reinstated at board meeting
Osman is past reinstatable number

Motion to reinstate Araceli- **Motion carries** unanimously 10-0-0

Motion to reinstate Fadumo- **Motion carries** 7-1-2

Motion to reinstate Kenya: **Motion carries** 7-0-4

Next month's board meeting: 2/23/17

Nominating Committee for Board Applicants

The nominating committee will review board applications for eligibility and recruit new people to apply. In the past, the Executive Committee has taken this role but it can be something different. The Election is coming up at the end of March during the Annual Meeting . There are always 5 At-Large (3-year term) seats while the Business association has 1-year term appointees. We are looking for people who are interested and engaged in neighborhood. The list of people who have met board eligibility criteria- 6 months in neighborhood and engaged with us- is in the board packet.

Discussion follows on a few eligible candidates to add and who on the board is up for election again. If re-running, a current board member must fill out an application again. Erica will not be running again and step down as chair. She will continue working on the Reopening Nicollet and Eat Street projects.

Annual Meeting - March 30th 2017

Jim Roscoe, David Schroth, Scott Smith are suggested for the registration table. There is a Volunteer sign up sheet.

ED Review

There is an online survey for an annual review of Ricardo as Executive Director

Eat Street Oral History Project

- Interview's have begun
- On Spotlight's Facebook page Kim Heikell is posting early interview pieces
- Money has been committed for her to do the entire oral history portion
- Translation and production costs are still unfunded, looking for a way to fundraise (if we have our way there will be documentary, book, etc. if we can raise \$50,000)
- Interviews start next month
- Hennepin History Museum will have an exhibit in Fall
- How far back does the oral history cover? Different depending on person being interviewed
- Probably won't talk about what was there before
- Exciting deliverables!

Affordable Housing Update

Surveys have been conducted at Horn Towers, Common Bond's Whittier Community Housing, and one is planned for Whittier Place. We have 34 responses to the housing survey from online. Board members should make sure to fill out the survey before the February 3rd deadline. Discussion follows with the following key points:

- Why did we conduct a survey in the Lyndale neighborhood? Did the Whittier Alliance get recognition for its role?
- For the research in question didn't matter what neighborhood. Metro-wide study. Many residents of Horn towers own businesses in Whittier
- Why are we using Whittier resources on this? This isn't for strategic plan, this is to get Somali input on affordable housing survey. Camilla helped organize
- Survey is also in paper form
- Part of strategy is using facebook. Feedback is a little lackluster

December, 2016 Financial Statements: The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed.

December Financial Statements

- We are owed money from the city still. \$56,000 came in.
- The Balance sheet did not reflect funds we are awaiting
- P & L for month- This will be in the annual report. For income a little more than planned, a little over for expenses (known timing with Marian's departure)
- Ricardo came within \$400 of budget (impressive took over Marian's budget)
- When will we get payments owed by the city? Should be soon.
- Well-managed year financially

Motion: The Board accepts the Whittier Alliance December, 2016 financial report. **Motion Carried.**

Fall Fundraiser

- Only 7 of 19 board members have contributed to Fall Fundraiser, we should set example if asking for money. Please give money to Ricardo so 100% of the board has given
- Ricardo describes Nicollet Business Association donation (no longer active group)
- Zeus Jones on last printing- we ordered 200 cookbooks for the eat street project- they may reprint in October. Wait to buy the cookbook from us
- Can we buy it on our website? How do you buy it? Will be integrated into new Database

City Reallocations

- Bob cooper works at CPED

Motion to move \$2 in funds from graffiti removal to parking plan

Motion carries unanimously

Farmer's Market / Big Ideas

- In December we didn't have dollar amount commitment

Ricardo describes discussions with leadership of Farmer's Market and following questions and comments follow:

- The market is staying in same space behind Calvary Church until they grow
- Jesse introduces teenager program and describes why we should contribute and talks about Green fair/ selling recipe books at market/ he might have a stand
- What's their plan to break even? Looking at model of neighborhood associations supporting them. Goal now is to stabilize retailers. Calvary looking to put in money indefinitely
- Also want to find business sponsors- 2 at \$1,000 dollars each
- WA is not saying we will sponsor indefinitely
- Comment that they should bring business sponsors up and us down
- Vendor fees going up. They were refunded last year

- After realizing many vendors were start-up businesses, they wanted to incentivize them to come back
- How many repeat vendors last year? Not sure
- Wesley Andrews went from farmer's market to brick and mortar businesses
- They should make a three-year plan. They should have a goal
- We can possibly contribute set amount every year because of it being community asset

Big Ideas Grant

- Ricardo reintroduces the grant
- Where did it come out of? Paul and Willow
- Why are we doing this? Engagement with the community
- What other grant opportunities can we create?
- This is an opportunity to engage community and help them feel supported
- Generates interest and opens up doors
- How does it tie into strategic plan? Criteria could be it has to relate to strategic plan
- If pitched creatively, can be anything even if attached to strat plan
- Limit staff time commitment
- Would put together taskforce to manage
- Already looking for grants to fund opportunities
- We make 15% on every facade grant we make for example
- Ricardo dream- Every quarter new opportunity to offer money to community to engage and improve neighborhood
- WA still has money because we did loan programs vs. just giving out money (other neighborhoods groups are broke now)

Decision:

- Big ideas not fleshed out. We can say let's form a task force
- Support whittier farmers market but have a performa. They gather total sales so we should get info
-

Motion to contribute \$5,000 to the Whittier farmer's market this year

11-1-2 Motion carries

Motion to form a task force for Big Ideas Grant

Task force members to lay out parameters for program- Geri, Paul, Willow, Mike, etc.

Motion carries unanimously

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Mike Malone

- Ward 10 staff Lindsey Wallace gave updates
- CPM development proposal. Lot's of opposition
- Lisa bender coming to CI in February
- Survey on CI time/ location change
- \$15 minimum wage possibly discussed at next meeting

Business Association

Andy Cohen

- Liquor license for Tilt. Going into Chroma
- Motion to support liquor license approved
- next month \$15 minimum wage will be discussed

Crime and Safety - Kenya absent. Have not met

ESTF - Mary- nice meeting connections at January social

Strategic Plan Steering Committee

Willow, Mike, meeting

Staff Reports:

Reports from Paul, Ricardo, and Camilla are in the board packet.

Old & New Business:

- Send Card to Zeus Jones to thank them

Adjourn

8:34PM

Minutes submitted by Joey Whitesman.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

Erica Christ, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary