

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 27, 2016 6-8:30 PM**  
**Whittier Park Community Center**

**Present:** Fadumo Abdinur, David Bagley, Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, Sarah Estey, Mary Gazca, Laura Jean, Christina Le, Marie Listopad, Erin Sjoquist, Kenya Weathers **Absent:** Osman Abo, Ted Irgins, Michael Malone, Jesse Oyervides, Araceli Perez, Daphna Stromberg, Geri Jerez **Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Scott Melamed

Erica introduces guest, Jason. **Call to Order** at 6:16pm by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the October agenda **Carried**.

**Comments from the Chair**

Erica Christ

Welcome to Scott.

**Secretary's Report**

Erin Sjoquist

**Minutes** September 2016. Aiah, correct Black Forest Inn. Kim Heikl's name, capitalize Tuesday. **Motion** to approve September minutes **Carried**.

**Executive Committee**

Erica Christ

**Facilitation Training - Jason Brown**

Erica describes outreach coming up, plus new Strategic Plan. To that end, crash course on listening and discussion facilitation, introducing Jason Brown.

Jason describes his background. Leads group in activity, "requires art appreciation and interaction with another person in room." Jason hands out cards. Everyone looks at their cards and considers their thoughts. Everyone partners up, Jason has the group say one thing they learned about their partner through their questions. People say they didn't have a tough time asking questions. Laura says around 20-30 seconds left, questions were hard to form. Erica says she wanted to give her opinion first, then ask. Andy says, the topic was an easy one. Marie, I worked to not insert my opinion. David says, basis of respect for others makes it easy.

Jason speaks about facilitation. Sometimes easier to be facilitator than to be facilitated. Hallmark of good facilitation: don't give opinion at all, to find out and be curious about what others think. Sarah, my questions built on his answers. Marie, I came to appreciate the art more from discussion. Ricardo, moving forward: are we writing all the questions, do we trust ourselves to write all the questions. Or are there elements we should hire someone for? Erica, for Aff. Housing, questions dicated. But for Strategic Planning, up to us. Last time, bulk of facilitating, done by very good facilitators. Took our questions, but if something came up that was different, hearing that and following it. Other times, kept it on course.

Re: Aff. Housing. Sarah, what's involvement of Board? How many eyes will see Qs to snub leading-ness? Erica, we don't have much say. David, who decides who facilitates with aff. Housing questions? Laura, no rules. Ricardo, they ask for 8 demographics, we have those in Whittier, and we can reach out to them. Minimum people: 15 engaged.

Jason, work at Guthrie. Going through SP process, recent change of leadership. Prior to new leader, wasn't strong sense of service to community. Right now, messy process of putting on plays that speak to diff people, new programming with residents of communities that haven't traditionally accessed the community. Independently lead SP process 6-8 months, discovering how little we have access to any community in Twin Cities. Patrons all certain kind of person. And a sense that there are bunch of rich people want to give tickets to poor people because don't have art - not great mindset, trying to change. We're trying to give kids experiences instead. So, interested to hear about similarities.

Erica, going into SP with some directives. "More engaged, more diff. Communities." Questions, how much leading the questions, or how much process just open? Jason, I think it's going to be hard to do what we're saying we're going to do. Everyone thanks him.

Marie, what about after our analysis, people want it differently than we thought they did? Erica, that becomes clear early. All along, people are talking. Erica, nutshell of last time: Board got together, threw all at wall, what are top 10/5/3, facilitator combined to 5 categories, and from there, set up focus groups. It was in that early stage, no one talking about youth programming, or crime and safety.

#### **Youth Grant/NRP - Erica**

Youth microgrants. Currently, rewriting grant application, to make it more accessible to orgs that don't have staff to write a grant, or the time to offer a lot of info, but still due diligence. That re-writing is happening now. Everyone asks Ricardo to send the draft around. Ricardo, also looking about reporting expectations. Laura Jean, Kenya, Marie, Mary - want to see the application. To be done by next Friday.

#### **Finance Committee**

Andy Cohen

**September 2016 Financial Statements:** The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed.

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

#### **990 - Ricardo**

Ricardo, it's been taxing to get it done this year. State-appointed help (Mike) created a messy 990, Stacy helped improve it. Ricardo, I feel confident that between Stacy and Mike, it looks good. Passes 990 around, for a vote. **Motion** to accept 990,

We, the undersigned state and acknowledge that we are duly constituted officers of this organization, being the chair and treasurer respectively, and that we execute this document on behalf of the organization pursuant to the resolution of the Board of Directors adopted on the 27th day of October, 2016, approving the contents of the document, and do hereby certify that the Board of Directors has assumed, and will continue to assume responsibility for determining matters of policy, and have supervised and will continue to supervise, the operations and finances of the organization. We further state that the information supplied true, correct, and complete to the best of our knowledge.

**Seconded and Carried. 10-0-2**

Must vote on state forms, but they need work.

**2017 Budget Overview - Ricardo**

Ricardo, I'm working with Stacy to set up new system for chart of accounts. New, because WA has three ways we look at books - funders, programs, tax-filing. In ideal world, all would be aligned. Working on a final version. Copy of programmatic side of budget, passed around.

Some questions though. Look at next year through lens of capacity - what do we want to do, what can we afford, what do we have time for. Want to include Board in process. History project already approved; 20th Anniversary of Eat Street, festival and passport; Open Streets is in here, but no excitement, only reason keeping it because Matt D. (Bike and Ped) and Ethan Folley want it to go downtown. Marie/Sarah, why do "Open Streets" before actual open streets.

Kenya, curious about where they are at re: decision making. Ricardo, are we okay with an event of this magnitude happening in our neighborhood with little to none of our involvement? Andy, if we weren't involved, could it still happen? Everyone, "no."

Issues of last Open Streets? Erica, we were left off the map. Lake Street open, 31st open. Kmart nightmare to work with. We overstretched ourselves. Laura, sounds like throwing a train wreck. Others agree, don't see advantage for us.

David, what is the most important thing we're doing next year. Laura, raising money. Erica, strategic plan. Ricardo: anniversaries (including history), strategic plan, fundraising (soiree).

David, of the things we've listed, what benefits the community. I feel like we've lost the plot. Laura, and more than we have the capacity we do. David, *none* should be. Must be one thing -- Laura, if not fundraising, can't do anything. Andy, much of it, but not on list.

David, we have more things to do than people to do it - in business, community, what are most important things. I feel like the premise in which we have historically been oriented is development. I would argue we are aiding the city in pulling one over

Marie, I have priority - it should be engagement. English classes - exercise classes. Kenya, I understand what you're expressing David. Desire - we need time and space, to sit down and talk about this.

Laura, why are events separate, 20/40. David, can I be constructive. Major promotion of whittier - priorities.

Sarah, I wish people my age in community had place to be prideful and forum for that -- the potential.

Erin, let's stay on track. No to Open Streets. Ricardo, let's do a candidate debate. Ice cream social. Ricardo, meeting with

Andy, there is a way, not just a packaging change, but to articulate in less of an isolated event kind of way, but of a reinforcing of strategic plan. What's good for the neighborhood, what do people want - way to tell the story differently, that grabs people and makes them stay.

**Fall Fundraiser - Erica**

Sending out fundraiser, offer to match neighborhood. Laura, need 100% of giving from the Board, does not need to be large, but we need to be able to say everyone on the Board contributing. Ricardo passes out scratch paper to pledge for year.

Next month, we'll have letters to work on. Pledges collected.

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

**Community Issues**

Mike Malone

**Community Issues**

Marie, nothing to bring up. Concern: very few people. We need to get more people there. Ricardo, we've been talking about this a lot. Switching the format, perhaps. Reality, a lot of interesting meetings happening in neighborhood of different formats.

Erica, background: used to be several committees. Youth, Crime, Property, etc. At a certain point, less people came. So we combined it all to community issues. For 12 years, that worked. People would pile in, 4 heated hours. It may be that we are swinging back the other way. Erica, it is an ongoing conversation.

**Business Association**

Andy Cohen

Andy, suffers from low attendance. At Blaisdell Manor, looks nice. Talked about open streets, 20/40, task force for 20th. (Add a name that's not on the minutes for the BA)

**Crime and Safety - Kenya**

Talked about harassment in neighborhood at MCAD meeting. Crime against livability.

**ESTF - Mary**

Report on how it went, specifically about salt matters.

**Motion to receive and file ESTF 1. Motion approved.**

Kenya salutes Erica for leading on Strategic Plan stuff.

**Staff Reports:**

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

**Old & New Business:**

Affordable housing - Erica, already discussed, gives summary. Oral History, been submitted - had very good meeting on this yesterday. National Oral History convention will be here in fall. TPT in. Harriet and Lake development, talk and no action.

Kenya, has community been engaged? Ricardo, not really.

**Adjourn                      8:37PM**

**Minutes submitted by Scott Melamed.**

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

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Erica Christ, Board Chair

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Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary