

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Park

Present: Erin Sjoquist, David Bagley, Michael Perez, Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Stephanie Brown, Kim Fishman, Mariana Arriaza, Jesse Oyervides, Aldona Martinka

Absent: Jen Kader, Justin Kader, Christine Popowski, Ukasha Dakane

Late:

Staff: Kaley Brown

Guests:

Call to Order at 6:06pm by David Bagley, Chair. Introductions.

Introductions

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

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

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Attendance: 17-0, 0-1, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned-0, Terminated-0, Vacancies-6

Amendments:

- Add a brief discussion to Old and New Business for a recap of the 2019 Annual Meeting

Motion to approve minutes. Motion **seconded**. Motion **carries**.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 23rd, 2019

Finance Committee

Michael Perez

February and March financials are reviewed. Nothing out of the ordinary for either month. NRP contract consolidation will begin likely in May; formal approval from the NRP Policy Board has been given. Motion to accept February financials is made and **seconded**. **Motion carries**. Motion to accept March financials is made and **seconded**. **Motion carries**.

Kaley provides the board with some background info and context on the Treehouse Records Mural project to guide discussion on how and whether we can, could, or should play a role in finally getting a repair effort underway. Brigid, Nate R., and Nate B. will pick up communications for Kaley and do some more research on our options.

Executive Committee

Kaley Brown

Community Agreements

Agreements are reviewed and spoken aloud; red bullet points are new additions from incoming board members.

Finance and Executive Officers Election

Chair: Jen Kader is nominated and accepts with a prepared statement. No other nominations are brought forth. **Motion** to elect Jen Kader to the Board Chair position by acclamation is **seconded. Motion carries.**

Vice-Chair: Cyndi Hovey is nominated and accepts. No other nominations are brought forth. **Motion** to elect Cyndi Hovey to the Vice-Chair position by acclamation is **seconded. Motion carries.**

Treasurer: Michael Perez nominates himself for the Treasurer position. No other nominations are brought forth. **Motion** to elect Michael Perez to the Treasurer position by acclamation is **seconded. Motion carries.**

Secretary: Abbie Speller is nominated and accepts. No other nominations are brought forth. **Motion** to elect Abbie Speller to the Treasurer position by acclamation is **seconded. Motion carries.**

BA For-Profit Seats

There are currently two vacant For-Profit seats following this year's Business Association election for the 2019-2020 term. Two potential candidates have been identified to fill them; as BA Chair Kim Fishman can formally appoint them to serve the remainder of this year's term.

Background Checks for Exec Committee

Continued discussion on how best to research whether or how to adopt an internal policy that incoming Finance Executive Officers should be subjected to a fiscal background check, as they will all have access to WA's bank account information. Kaley shares that it appears no other neighborhood organizations have enacted that policy, but several were interested to learn more as well. It is decided that Kaley will reach out to Jess Birken at Mission Guardian to get have an initial consult and get more information to report back on.

Maternity Leave Policy

Fartun is expecting and is due in mid-July. Whittier Alliance does not have an established Parental Leave Policy, though a former employee was granted 2 weeks of paid paternal leave during his time here. As a small nonprofit, the organization is not required to adhere to FMLA guidelines. Board members discuss the pros and cons of various amounts of leave time, paid or unpaid, and how long an employee should be with the organization prior to accessing the benefit. **Motion** is made and **seconded** to communicate to Fartun that her job will be held for her for up to 12 weeks during her leave and that she may choose one of two options: 4 weeks paid at her current hourly rate + an optional 8 weeks unpaid = 12 weeks total; or 12 weeks at ½ the current hourly rate. A formal "Parental Leave Policy" will be developed and adopted. Kaley will look into the possibility of acquiring a short term disability insurance policy to help pay for her leave.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Justin, Fartun, and Ukasha are working on details with Becky Lewis (Whittier Park) for the free iftar we are hosting on Friday, May 31st for the neighborhood. A postcard went out to all Whittier residents, and we are working on getting some of the food donated by local restaurants and partner orgs. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there!

Business Association

Kim Fishman / Kaley Brown

Kim and Kaley will discuss on the best next steps to possibly appoint two individuals to the vacant BA For-Profit seats. Kim will be working with Kaley on outreach for the Eat Street Festival in the coming weeks.

Housing Issues Committee

Stephanie Brown

Scope of HI-C Committee: Proposing to expand the scope to cover all development projects including commercial and transportation planning, rather than just residential projects. The Community Issues meetings are no longer monthly and have changed format, so this would address any gaps in facilitated discussion on such projects. Stephanie is also going to work with staff to develop a better communication mechanism to publicize project details in advance of meetings.

Yellow Tree's proposed development project at 26th & Blaisdell: There is a small group within the committee mobilizing to help inform neighbors about this project and to generate more feedback on the elements of the project we want to see included. Stephanie believes this will be our best chance to actually influence a project with what we want to see, as the City's feedback was mixed at this stage. She asks board members who would like to be involved in crafting WA's position on this project to get involved now, as she will ultimately be asking the board to support and vote on the committee's desired position at the May board meeting.

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown

Fartun, Ukasha, and Justin have been working on pulling together details and outreach plans for the Community Iftar WA is hosting with the Park and FRAYEO. Marcus has been focusing on a business outreach plan for the Eat Street Festival in addition to the Business Recycling outreach.

Kaley has been focusing time and energy on the Neighborhoods 2020 organizing, Housing Issues organizing around new developments, and staff support. Kaley is pleased to report that we were granted \$36,750 through the Great Streets Grant program for the Eat Street Festival (\$32,750) and programming at the Whittier Farmers Market (\$4,000)!

Kaley has put together a list of all 2019-2020 projects and events that the board and staff have committed to pursue together and key details for each. She requests that board members who are ready to sign up for various projects confirm their chosen spot, and most board members indicate their assignments including short term tasks to support staff workloads in the near term.

Old and New Business

Kaley provides updates on the Neighborhoods 2020 situation and the important dates upcoming. May 6th is the PECE Committee meeting where the coalition we are working with will publicly press for a delay to the process to make space for CURA to rework the recommendations. The coalition was meeting today to develop a strategy for how we will show up together. More info will be shared with the board soon.

Annual Meeting recap: Overall the meeting went really well, and the auditorium space was good. A need for a better plan for the flow of people during the resource fair and registration training. Also need a plan for more signage to direct people. The PA system caused some issues, but nothing we could do about that. Overall, "thumbs up."

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved.

Adjourn 8:28 PM

Minutes submitted by Kaley Brown.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

David Bagley, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary