

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2018 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Recreation Center

Present: David Bagley, Cyndi Hovey, Crystal Audi, Michael Perez, Christina Le, Stephanie Brown, Michael Malone, Erin Sjoquist, Scott Melamed, Angela Ritchie, Michael Malone

Absent: Viswa Challa, Jeff Cowmeadow, Martha Nemesi, Araceli Perez, Aldona Martinka

Late: Mary Gazca, Jeff Cowmeadow, Jen Kader, Christine Popowski

Staff: Kaley Brown, Marcus VanderSanden

Guests: Aria Fine, Mike Wilson

Call to Order at 6:07pm by David Bagley, Chair. Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

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

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Attendance: 12-0, 5-1, 1-2, 0-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned-0, Terminated-1, Vacancies-4

Amendments:

- None

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

Next Board Meeting:

October 25th, 2018

Executive Committee

Jen Kader

Community Agreements- Cyndi reviews Community Agreement (Jen is absent)

Board Demographics Survey- Aria Fine

Every other year, starting in 2014, NCR asks neighborhood boards to do a demographic survey.

Goal is to identify and find gaps in representation to see what can be done to address gaps. Results are analyzed based on neighborhood demographics.

City wide snapshot historically underrepresented include renters and people of color.

Review and approve Agreed Upon Procedures- Mike Wilson

Mike Wilson has been doing audit work for NCR for 20 years. Every neighborhood gets audited every 3 years, the fact that Whittier is in the agreed upon procedures process is a testament and considered "low risk"

Would describe us as well run and very healthy in comparison to other neighborhoods.

Few Areas of Concern:

Corporate Governing Structure- feels in past Whittier has had less cooperative decision making

How transactions are processed- deposit money as soon as it received, lock up money as soon as it arrives, board review of transactions with the city.

Delay in receiving information from accountant- when we receive money with restrictions it can be difficult to track

Approving timesheets- elected to make choices that are cost efficient to WA as an organization

Sometimes with turnover (staff, board) things can get a little lax. Policy procedures would help to ensure consistency.

Helpful for Kaley to review our process and opportunity to review fiscal policy. Happy with how it turned out.

Motion to Approve Agreed Upon Procedure- Unanimous

Finance - Christina Le:

Regarding Agreed Upon Procedures suggestions from city, likes the idea of having additional Exec member look over requests to city. Recognizes that it could slow down process but would like them to be at least reviewed by Exec and then turned in.

Eat Street Festival expenses- Extra \$7,000 in Eat Street Festival expenses which will be coming back in Business District Support Grant and City reimbursements. Hoping for profit of around \$10,000 from Festival all sponsors/vendor fees and reimbursements are paid.

Facade Grant was not followed through with for reimbursement. It was paid out last spring without reimbursement. Kaley has followed up with city to recoup these funds.

She will enter reimbursements in months that they come in rather than make them retroactive to August

Motion to Approve August Financials. Seconded. Approved.

Vice Chair Position- Jen Kader

Jen has had significant changes in her office and has to be focused on work, will be working 60-80 hours a week for next couple of months. Doesn't want to commit time that she cannot promise. Will be stepping down from Vice Chair position but will remain on board.

Need to fill vacancy

Christine nominates Michael M. accepts

Stephanie nominates Michael P. refuses

Jen nominates Scott accepts

Scott nominates Angela accepts

Scott is elected as new Board Vice-Chair

Community Issues

Had a few speakers

Sofia Ginis from Metro Transit spoke about improvements to route 2. Less stops, signal priority would like to time it for improved intervals. Test improvement will begin Oct13. Route 2 will be used as pilot for other high frequency routes.

Had representative from Minneapolis Elections office, 30-40% turnout in Whittier one of highest in the city. Broke down election between governments and other election day resources.

Opportunity for fundraising

Election judges paid for time- 8 hours or 16 hours in addition to training- can partner with nonprofits and get 10 people to do whole 16 hours can make up to \$1,300 for their organization.

Morgan Luzier parking committee update concerning surface lot on 29th and Garfield at the end of this year bond is fulfilled and decisions will be made about that lot.

Who will take over as CI Chair? Kaley reached out to Nate only other candidate for chair, feels he is too committed at the moment. Still unresolved and must be done as joint effort between staff and board.

Business Association

Araceli Perez

The Business Association meeting this month was held at Glam Doll Donut.

It was interesting to have it at Glam Doll because there was a Google Film crew who were filming the meeting as a part a promotion they are working with Glam Doll on.

Had speaker Jennifer Neale from the 5th precinct as well speaker from the Department of Labor. There has been some enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the neighborhood and they came to share resources concerning compliance to the FLSA.

Willow Kreibich came and updated committee about Strategic Plan process and distributed cards for comment.

The rest of the meeting consisted of community updates, conversation about the festival and convened with a brief tour of the festival site.

Housing Issues Committee

Stephanie Brown

Turnout was good. Maybe 40 people in the room.

27th and 1st Ave- tearing down single story
A lot of questions surrounding cost,

Must communicate to city that they care about affordability and this is going in to the poorest part of our neighborhood.

Will compose a response to convey the mixed response and concerns of the community.

The question that the committee is being forced to address is what can we really get from developers? What can we get from the city?

Board Conversation

Has there been discussion about when Microunits are going out of fashion?

Are these buildings being built with an eye to the future as an asset to neighborhood.

This is what gentrification looks like \$1050 for 400 sq. ft. There are affordable units on either side of this development.

Michael would like to attend and encourages board comes.

When Northbay comes back to October HI meeting, it's an opportunity to voice these concerns constructively.

Feels like were not working with full/transparent knowledge.

Christina- have to keep in mind that the market might balance itself out with the potential of oversaturation and prices eventually going down.

Oct 22nd next meeting

- Strategic Plan
- Revisit 2745 1st Ave
- What is possible and what is realistic amount of pressure to put on developers

Staff Reports:

Kaley Brown

Big Ideas Grant

Voting is live on the website has been shared via all electronic channels (Social Media, Newsletter etc). 100 votes in. 1/3 whittier resident. 1/3 people associated with either org. 1/3 people who have "relationship" with Whittier.

2018 Finalists

Zest Ed new startup- husband and wife use grant to offer scholarships to families for coaching on outdoor activities.

Hennepin History- install, curate and maintain Native Healing Garden

MFA student from MCAD reached out and has volunteered to take on the BIG Ideas Grant as school project, will work to create unique branding, reach and full marketing program.

Eat Street Festival

ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM BOARD- WOO HOO!

5,000 people estimated

Volunteers had fun and a significant portion of them had a relationship with WA previously.

Waiting on a few reports from beverage garden and food vendors and sponsor dollars to come in. \$10,000 estimated when full reimbursements are in.

Didn't do any mailing or flyering in neighborhood- which is something we can do for next year with more time and capacity

Comment from people on 26th - A couple felt like they were losing access between stage and other activities.

We can brainstorm ways with businesses over the planning process for next year.

Strategic Plan - Organizational Sustainability Strategy Development

Second Draft was taken to different committees meetings, most all comments were positive and comments were strategy oriented. In October we will be having workshop style meeting at acting committees surrounding focus areas.

Idea is if acting committees are a part of building the strategies and plan there will be more buy in. After feedback and Strategy development in November we will generate budget on what we think it might cost to enact some of the strategies.

Board is engaged on Organizational Sustainability Strategy Development.

Old and New Business

NCEC 2 whole committee meetings

February 2nd

Director Worthington took comment on MPLS 2040. About 40 people came and commenting on lack of NCR outreach.

Next meeting on the whole will be discussing BICO report

Community Forum on 2040 Comp plan for Ward 10 will be held at Uptown VFW Oct. 24th from 6:30-8pm.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved.

Adjourn 8:32 PM

Minutes submitted by Marcus VanderSanden

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

David Bagley, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary