

Community Issues Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13th, 2019— 6:30--8:00pm — Whittier Park

Attendees: Justin Kader, Jen Kader, Nate Rastetter, Joanna Krause-Johnson, Mary Gazca, John Edwards, Sydney Burroughs, Jim Heideman, Ella Kampelman, Dave LaViolette, Shannon Dotson, Ron Stevens, Lee Sverkerson, Hannah Wiesner, Kathryn VanDuynhoven, Mary Gazca, Christine Popowski

Staff: Kaley Brown, Fartun Ismail

Presenter: Jordan Kocak, Lara Scheuth, Insp. Amelia Huffman, Jessica Kawas, Becky Lewis, Larry Matsumoto

Welcome

Welcome at 6:35pm by Justin Kader, Community Issues Committee Chair.

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to approve April minutes. Seconded. Motion carried.

Introductions.

Community Updates

Whittier Alliance - Kaley Brown & Fartun Ismail

- Whittier Community Appreciation Night is coming up on Monday, December 9th from 6-8pm at the Wedge Table; if you or someone you know might be interested in running for a WA board seat or even Chair of this committee, that is a great opportunity to ask questions and hear about the experience of current board members.
- WA is also hosting a workshop on 12/12 for Whittier landlords interested in learning more about the 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program; City staff will present on the program, and Mint Properties will share their own experience as program participants and provide advice. Renters are also welcome to learn and share info with their own landlords.
- The WA Housing Issues Committee has launched a neighborhood-wide Livability survey to connect face to face with more neighbors, hear about their current housing situation and other n'hood concerns, and bring more people into our processes to address them moving forward. Please take the survey online or here at the check-in table if you have not already.

Whittier Park Updates - Becky Lewis

- Free, drop-in/flexible programming is the name of the game at Whittier Park; youth ages 18 and under can take any classes or participate in programs as long as they have an "Active Pass" which needs to be signed by a parent or guardian.
- They serve a meal and snack every day after school and on Saturdays to anyone ages 18 and under, including on snow days. They are open on early release days, as well.
- They have an active futsal program at Whittier, and earlier that evening the Park Board naturalist had a snake on site for kids to interact with. They are always looking for new ideas for programming that can be done on a free or donation-based basis.

MPD 5th Precinct - Inspector Amelia Huffman & Jessica Kawas (Crime Prevention Specialist)

- Crime is up across the city, including in Whittier. Whittier is in the top 5 busiest neighborhoods for 911 calls in Minneapolis.
- Property crime is definitely more prevalent than violent crime. With multiple commercial corridors, this area is appealing for those committing break-ins and theft. They are working on prevention tactics, but the message is not getting through. They encourage secure locks on garages and all exterior doors; do not leave valuables in your car for any amount of time.

- Question: Have there been more car accidents recently? A: Car speed is always an issue, but they do not have a full traffic enforcement unit, but often rather is one squad dedicated to responding to various accidents, etc. per shift.

2020 Census Opportunities

Lara Schueth - U.S. Census Bureau

- They are now recruiting census takers to complete their work in the spring and summer of 2020. Takers would be knocking on doors to those who did not respond to the mailer.
- Hennepin County is at the largest risk for being undercounted, and Minnesota overall is at risk of losing one House of Representatives seat in 2020, taking our seats down to 7 from 8.
- Census takers will be paid \$20/hr. with a flexible work schedule to put in as many or as few hours as you would like to based on your schedule and availability. You are sent a tablet to utilize and then you go out.
- Anyone ages 18 and above can apply, and they most often will assign you the neighborhoods in which you live. This year there will be special teams to focus on apartment buildings and other difficult-to-enter places.
- There is also an opportunity for organizations or other community groups to become certified as “Complete Count Committees” to help advertise the census, its importance, and encourage people to participate.
- Applications are open now; the hiring process will take a while. Work will begin in April 2020.

2020 Street Resurfacing Project

Larry Matsumoto - City of Mpls Public Works

- Public Works will be doing a Mill and Overlay project affecting Whittier in 2020; they identify certain streets and neighborhoods to do this in each year by following a rotating schedule city-wide. They will complete 26 miles of street resurfacing in 2020.
- There are 3 kinds of projects:
 - 1. Reconstruction - they do not do much of this; means brand new street, gutter, etc. rather than just a new top layer.
 - 2. Renovation - they do not do any of this in Mpls any longer
 - 3. Mill and Overlay - there are 850 miles of streets to manage in Mpls; they have resurfaced 300 miles of streets in the last 12 years.
- There is an assessment component for adjacent property owners, which will be designated for this project at a public hearing on December 3rd. They sent a notice to all affected property owners that they will be assessed; then a formal public hearing at City Hall will take place on April 7th at 10am, for which affected residents will receive a mailing.
- Public Works staff will be available at an informal pre-assessment meeting at Whittier Park on April 1st at 6:30 pm to answer everyone’s questions in person.
- Q: Are there other stretches of road in the planning phases? A: They inventory areas in the same order as when they roads were built.
- Q: Are other pedestrian or cyclist improvements considered during these Mill and Overlay projects? A: These projects are only to replace the asphalt; cement will be raised to meet the gutter evenly, but they are not connected to other road usability improvement efforts.

Franklin Ave Corridor Visioning

Jordan Kocak - Hennepin County Planner

- The County has started taking a comprehensive look at the Franklin Ave corridor in case opportunities arise in the coming years to implement improvements. They have been doing engagement meetings with other neighborhoods, community organizations, etc. along the corridor.
- Recent improvements and studies have been conducted by the County and other parties and have been taken into account during this visioning process.

- Timeline: Fall 2019 is the data-gathering period; Winter--Spring 2020 will focus on engagement and determining a preferred layout for the roadway based on community input.
- Not all users experience the road in the same way, as there are many variations to Franklin Avenue as you travel east and west beyond Whittier. They are using other information from the Transportation Action Plan, the Vision Zero Plan, Minneapolis and Hennepin County's bicycle plans, and a parking analysis to inform their study.
- Hennepin County has also been working with Metro Transit to consider what changes could be possible to bus usage on Franklin. This plan would include signal timings and audible timers, but not new crosswalks unless City and County coordinate their improvements.
- There is nothing in the capital budget now, but due to the age of the road and need regarding safety improvements, changes will be coming at some point in the near future.
- There is an open house at Plymouth Congregational Church to gather more community feedback - Thursday, November 21st from 4-7pm. There is also an interactive online map to provide feedback, as well as an online form.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kaley Brown.