Community Issues Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 10th, 2018—6:30–8:00pm—Whittier Park

Attendees: Felino de la Pena, Christine Popowski, Willow Kreibich, Morgan Luzier, Becky Lewis, Tim Schwarz, Sophia Ginis  
Staff: Kaley Brown

Welcome  
Welcome at 6:30pm by Kaley Brown, Whittier Alliance Executive Director.

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.  
Motion to Approve Agenda. Seconded. Approved.

Motion to approve July Minutes. Seconded. Approved.

Announcements/Community Comments & Discussion

Community Updates

Becky Lewis - Park Director at Whittier + 7 area parks  
- New programming coming up at Whittier Park includes Teen Night, Youth Futsal program, open gym  
- There’s an upcoming opportunity to become a Citizen Pruner to help steward the public trees on boulevards and other public areas throughout the City. Trainings are on October 10th and 13th.  
- The new school year food program (partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools) starts on Monday the 17th, and they’ve added Saturdays due to many requests for it.

Kaley Brown - Whittier Alliance  
- Whittier Farmers Market has 3 weeks left in the season for 2018 in the lot behind Calvary Church  
- Finalists have been selected for the 2018 BIG Ideas Grant: Zest Ed and Hennepin History Museum
  - Zest Ed’s proposal would provide scholarships to families of color and/or low-income families for coaching on outdoor and wilderness activities — communities that are traditionally underrepresented in those activities.  
  - Hennepin History Museum’s proposal would all for the creation of a Native Healing Garden to be installed, curated, and maintained in the outdoor space alongside the Museum as a way to provide more opportunity for historical representation of Whittier’s multicultural and indigenous residents.

Metro Transit Bus Route 2 Improvements  
Sophia Ginis - Metro Transit
Route 2 is a highly utilized service, and they are hoping to use these improvements as a “pilot” to then model other frequent stop route improvements on.

Improvements will happen in 3 major sets: reducing the number of stops, adding transit signal priority to get through problem intersections, and overall schedule improvements.

They examined what stops made the most sense to close and found that they could still maintain stops within a ¼ mile walk, which is the standard they use for a reasonable distance.

October 13th is the rough date for starting implementation of the first two sets of improvements, but that isn’t set in stone.

They will have updates on their website and will be announcing the changes to Route 2 riders in the coming weeks.

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**Minneapolis Elections and Voter Services**
Tim Schwarz - City of Minneapolis

- The Minneapolis Elections and Voter Services or Minneapolis 311 will have all info on upcoming events and all-things elections-related.
- The County and the City split duties on voter registration, election judges, precincts, campaign finance; the Secretary of State manages voter canvassing.
- The Whittier Neighborhood contains wards 10-7, 10-8, 10-9, and 10-10.
- There was a huge surge in younger voters in Whittier in the 2018 primary this spring -- roughly 38--40% of eligible voters cast a vote.
- The early voting site in downtown Minneapolis open 46 days prior to the elections on Sept. 21st (217 S 3rd Avenue).
- They hope to have more 7-day early voting sites open in the south, west, and east regions of the city.
- Election Judges get paid $17.75 per hour; there is a paid, 3-hour training, and each judge must commit to a minimum of 8 hours on election day; the full 16 hours is preferred.
- They also allow student judges (unpaid) for those 16 and older who want to be involved and learn the process; judges 18+ get paid.
- Elections and Voter Services has started a new program that hasn’t yet been widely publicized where they partner with nonprofit organizations to recruit election judges.
- The nonprofit secures 10 people to donate the full 16 hours of their time as a judge, and the nonprofit will be paid $130 per person; a total of $1,300 raised for the organization on the day.

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**Lyn-Lake Parking Committee Update**
Morgan Luzier - Lyn-Lake Parking Committee Chair

- The parking lot on Garfield Ave behind Fuji-Ya and the Jungle Theater has been paid on a 20 year bond by business owners in Lyn-Lake; at the end of this year, the bond will be paid in full.
This has been an example of a successful collaboration between the business community and the City.

- The Committee is interested in solidifying a resolution between private partners and Public Works regarding the parking lot’s future, but the outcome is yet to be seen.
- There will be some decisions that will need to be made in the coming months, so she’s just giving folks a heads-up to start the conversations.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved.

Adjourned 8:06pm

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.