

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 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.

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

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.