



WA Community Issues Meeting Minutes

Whittier Park

Monday, April 10th, 2017

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Attendees: Erica Christ, Paula Horan, Kevin Beaudin, Rick Kreuser, Minkyo Ko, Paulette Will, Matt Barthelemy, Felino de la Pena, Brandon Schorsch, Kyle Voigtlander, Justin Kader, Peter Atkins, Max Musicant, Brooke Erickson, Mary Gazca, Greg Schmidt, Aldona Martinka, Christine Popowski, Kaley Brown, Christina Le, Cristina Castro, Grant Rockwood, Dave LaViolette, Ron Harris, Laura Jean, Joanne Krause-Johnson, Willow Kreibich, Tim Lovett, Dean Dovolis, Mick Stoddard, Teresa Murphy, Araceli Perez, Steve Kelly, Collin, Ehret, Dan Perkins, Isra Salem

WA Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Camilla Jamal, Paul Shanafelt

Presenters: Ron Harris - Ward 10 Council Aide, Zan Associates/Metro Transit, DJR Architecture

Welcome/Call to Order

Welcome at 6:15pm by Michael Malone. He lets everyone know he is not running for the board. Reminds everyone of the obligation and term limit of the CI Chair. It was a privilege and an honor to serve the n'hood, he lets us all know. Agenda was reviewed, Introductions are made. Standard of conduct policy was reviewed. **Motion** to approve the Agenda **Carried**. Minutes from 03-13-2017 CI meeting were reviewed.

Afterward, a motion was made to adjust the Ward 10 Update to happen BEFORE the Election.

Motion to approve the Agenda **Carried**. Minutes from 03-13-2017 CI meeting were reviewed.

Ward 10 Update

Ron Harris did the ward 10 update - Lisa Bender says congrats to all of the new board members.

- Shooting at Up Down last night 4/9/17

- Lisa announced today that she supports the \$15 minimum wage. The CM is working on a draft ordinance to roll in the minimum wage. 3-5-7 year timeline. Raise the wage, no one should be exempt.

Q: What is the ability of the legislature to prevent this wage from occurring?

A: In discussions with Gov Dayton - hoping he vetoes it.

Q: What are the ramifications of not doing this?

A: You will be fined.

Q: Will there be exemptions?

A: Lisa is thinking about the need of small businesses, youth wage, and training wage, may be treated different. They are still working on specific policy.

Announcements/Comments

Announcement: WARD 10 Bike Meeting. Show up 4/24, 6 - 8 PM at the Whittier Rec Center

Point: 26th and 24th are scary and dark. We should have a bike lane on 24th. Hennepin to Nicollet - we need this

Q: Why did we move the time of CI chair election from the end to the beginning of the meeting?

A: Mistake by the office (Says Ricardo)

Mike: Thanks everyone - great job.

CI Chair Election

Ricardo takes over as moderator

Scott Melamed is nominated and accepts.

Brooke Erickson is nominated and accepts.

1-minute opening statement

8 minutes of questions

Scott Melamed:

Happy to be here, live in Whittier, lived here a year and a half, left for college, worked for Obama's campaign, learned how to interact with people, learned how to get people organized - worked in DC. Just say that the main reason he wants to do this is because he wants to organize people who love where they live, and if they disagree, with differences, people overcome them, that we can at least come together and short through our issues. Make plans, come together, and get lots of folks active.

Brooke Erickson:

Moved here in 8/15

Grew up in MN, very proud of being a resident of Whittier, came to the meetings because she felt unsafe, felt empowered by the safety task force, lots of strong people on the WA, and she wants to be a part of it, and be a leader like members of the WA. Thinks the community is awesome, works in HR, degree in accounting, recruits for position, people person.

Q:What will you do to create public spaces in Whittier for organizing to take place? In Whittier we have coffee houses - we don't have public interaction, where people can interact anonymously. How will we ORGANIZE?

Brooke: I feel like there were a few questions there - public spaces where everyone come together is important, lots of vacant lots, we can convert these! Lots of thought goes into developments, we can do direct marketing for a conversation. Ask if they want to partner and put on a event.

Scott: We could form relationships with the folks who own spaces and vacant lots. Lots of segmentation between owners and renters. Lots of people care about the place but don't have places of meetings. Nice new basement in Cavalry - one idea is to hold quadrant meetings: hold meetings where people live and meet them at their own place and own time.

Q: How to get more people to attend? How do you make people show up?

Scott: The point is to create a space that people feel heard. We need to meet people where they are. Different populations and demographics meet in different ways - we need to provide ways for people to meet, regardless of their background. We need to make a space where people feel comfortable.

Brooke: We need direct marketing - connect with people one on one. The value of postage is important. We need to host something that is appealing - a festival of nations, a dance, a theatre, who ever wants to represent themselves, do a dinner, involve art, you cannot make them. No pressure, low pressure.

Q:What is the biggest opportunity in Whittier that CI can activate?

Brooke: Capitalize using the Whittier Alliance, we have to support our businesses and really ensure that we're looking at growing those businesses, and increasing the people that want to live here and increasing the quality of life for our residents.

Scott: The national election is our best opportunity. Capture that energy about how worked up people are. Make meetings NOT boring. Organize the meeting in a way that it is a funnel for energy for people.

We are voting by ballot, as opposed to hand count

Development Proposal 2449 Lyndale Ave

4 unit family apartment building. 2 upstairs, two downstairs. 4 bedroom and three bedroom. 1500 sqft for 3 bdrm, 2000 4 bdrm. Zoned to r2 - ratio of one and a half. Upper levels have the deck. Fits with the scale of the street - it will be small and unique. Family style, as opposed to 1 bdrm or studio. 4 stories.

Q: how many stories?

A: 4. Upper units are 3 levels. Main floor is two story.

Q: Where's the entrance?

A: porch in front and back

Q: what are the specific rules for a side entrance?

A: Irrelevant! We have only front and back entrances.

Q: What's the matter with the current four plex?

A: we're adding diversity of options. Young professional or a family there.

Q: What else have you done?

A: One north of Franklin Ave.

Q: are you going to move the house?

A: We're going to try. We're working on finding a way to salvage it. Still structurally sound. Can we find a way to move it? Let's find out! We'll spend the demo money on it.

Q: What are the materials on the exterior?

A: 30 year life for the board. Hard to do brick and keep it affordable.

Q: Can we blend the house with the space?

A: Gables are tough and expensive.

Q: What is the lifespan on this building. Long standing materials and tenants - we aspire to it to be generational. If we keep it dry, it will last for 100 years.

They're Perkins Lavine - they do turkey sandwiches.

Variance: They are looking for a three-foot setback variance. The neighbor is super close - we need to get a variance to make it okay. We're thinking of being further south to prevent shadows from hitting the house to the north.

Q: What is the timeline:

A: Build starting end of summer, early fall - opening for renters in early spring 2018.

Q: What is the demo budget?

A: We don't know. We plan on salvaging it - go to deconstruction off of Hiawatha. Then we sell the leftovers.

Willow: makes the motion.

So now we're doing questions

Q: Have you spoken with the tenants or property owners of adjacent buildings?

A: Sort of - we're waiting to hear from everyone, then we're going to be in touch. Public notification.

Motion: Approve the variance for the three-foot setback. **Motion passes 15-9-4.**

I-35W Construction & Transit Plans- Zan Associates & Metro Transit

Reconstruct 35w from 32 to the 94 commons - enhance transit service

Create transit structure

Create two ramps - southbound and northbound entrance and exit ramps. New pavement, new bridges.

Lots of bridges and pedestrian bridges will be replaced

Lake street will be reconstructed from Blaisdell and 5th

Schedule - levy in June, August will start -will last 4.5 years.

Tons of streets are getting worked on (Clinton, 3rd, 4th, 26th)

We want to optimize connectivity.

Most of the work in Whittier will happen right away, during the first couple of years.

24th st bridge will be closed for so long, but the bridge will be lowered a level, and expanded to 14 feet, grade will be reduced. Sidewalks on all the bridges will be increased.

26th & 28th bridges will be built consistent with bike lanes.

Major detours by transit

Q: how are we stopping burbs from plowing through our town?

A: considering larger benefits for transit riders - you can harass your state legislator, find out who is on the state transit board and bug them. Working with the center for transit studies at the U. try and encourage people to e-work.

Encourage people to take the blue line, too!

They'll prioritize opening the 5th street entrances.

This route and these developments: NOT RAIL READY

There are no plans to help people compensate from the potential loss of wages.

They have hired consultants to work with business owners and outreach to help.

They are to inform, and ask what the most effective way to communicate with the neighborhood?

Flyers, radio, Facebook, community newsletter? They want to communicate with the neighborhood.

The project starts in August, and they ask that they use their website.

Open house is coming up!

Southbound ramps will be open for a while, then northbound. If problems arise as a result, we'll look into it.

Greenway will be closed, if ever, during the work week, as opposed to weekend. Only small segments.

Soundboards will be made uniform.

Two initiatives: Certified Disadvantaged Businesses = get priority on the project. There are also a variety of jobs available for non-skilled, semi-skilled, and skilled workers.

Community Issues 2017 Agenda Setting (Using Strategic Plan as Guide)

How can we look at new ways to do the CI meetings - we're going to let the chair look at this.

CI Chair goes to Scott Melamed.

Old/New Business

- **Monthly Good Neighbor Nominations**

Good Neighbor/Good Business Awards will be collected all year, and then we'll make announcements all year.

Earth Day Clean Up - 4/22, there will be coffee, cleaning supplies, disperse and eat pizza.

Big Ideas Grant: Get \$4K grant to engage and support community. the Whittier Business. Schools, Businesses, Individuals, need not be non-profit. RFP goes out 5/15.

No community Issues Meeting Next month - 5/8 we're hosting a meeting with all the other neighborhoods - MLK JR Park, dinner, childcare, and the goal is to look at how Comm Orgs are restructured, are they working, and how should they be funded. Will it come from NRP, or will it come from somewhere else. We are unsure where we will get funding in the future. Funding is not entirely up to the city - partially from the city, partially from the state. Also comes from TIF funding. 130k a year goes to the WA. In a few years, that money can go to anything - the city's general fund will have it then. The worry is that we'll have to fight for funding every year, not every three years. We can also look at other options. We need people out helping us. There are currently no plans to have anyone from the federal gov't there to help - only working at a municipal and state level.

There will not be a soiree. It might focus on the oral history of Eat Street. The WA is funding the recording of these histories. The fundraiser might go toward the final project being a video, a book, or some other form of material representation of the event. Hennepin History Museum will host this in the summer/fall.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:00pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tim Lovett