

**Community Issues Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 10, 2017— 6:00-8:00pm — Whittier Park**

**Attendees:** Dave LaViolette, Ivy Girdwood, Jesse Oyervides, Kristin Hendrick, Laura Jean, David Saarreca, Greg Schmidt, Paul Wilmes, David Bagley, Mohamed Cali, Emanuel Tekle, Jen Kader, Brian Foster, Grant Rockwood, Kevin Baudin, Felino de la Pena, Kelsey Bank, Erin Sjoquist, Kurt Nelson, Elowyn Pfeiffer, Mary Gazca

**Staff:** Paul Shanafelt, Camilla Jamal

**Presenters:** Tyson Forbes, Emanuel Tekle, Becky Lewis, Jeff Cowmeadow, Paul Shanafelt, Mohamed Cali, Elowyn Pfeiffer, Lindsey Wallace

**Welcome**

Welcome at 6:30 by Scott Melamed, CI Chair. Agenda was reviewed. Standard of conduct policy was reviewed. **Motion** to approve the Agenda **Carried**. Introductions were made. Minutes from June CI meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve made. CI meeting minutes **Carried**.

**Announcements/Community Comments & Discussion**

Tyson Forbes from Tiger Lion Arts- runs theater production company in the parks.

- Their current play is touring in parks all over the United States. The play covers topics of connection to nature etc.
- The play is about Ralph Waldo Emerson (whom Forbes is a descendent of).
- Tiger Lion Arts wishes to bring the play to Fair Oaks
  - 12 performances in the park.
  - Professional ensemble made up of Minneapolis actors. Actors range in experience and includes a community chorus.
  - Chorus looking for members who would like to get involved, no experience required, ESL welcome.
  - Volunteer positions also available for setup; would require some heavy lifting. Showings will be available to students as well. Some showings will be free.
  - Audiences range from around 100-400 people. People who have seen show describe it as a unique outdoor experience and recommend it to others in community. All ages welcome.
  - Collaboration between several local organizations such as MIA, Waldorf, etc.
  - Funding for show from several arts-related and park board grants.

Jeff Cowmeadow from Whittier farmers market- second year of farmers market sponsored by sunrise bank and Whittier Alliance.

- Market is set up at 7:30am every Saturday at Calvary Church
- Market is open 8:30-1pm.
- Volunteers needed as vendors and assisting in setup.
- Asks for help from the community in raising awareness about an intersection (26th & Blaisdell) where lack of traffic light has caused several recent accidents.

Becky Lewis from Whittier Park- free programs for kids 10-4pm allowing kids to explore parks in Minneapolis area including a biking and swimming program.

- All kids welcome, only requirements are guardian signature and transportation to Whittier park.
- Free lunch served every day at Whittier park 12-1pm, free for anyone 18 and under. Snack offered at 4.
- Other activities are available throughout the day at the park center. Naturalist comes in every Wednesday at 4pm to teach kids about nature and engage children in outdoors activities. Sports at Whittier park include two different soccer leagues.
- Whittier park also offers field trips throughout the year to institutions in the community.
- Lewis asks community members to think of children who would be interested in some of the activities at Whittier park and says if anyone has a child in mind they should contact her and she can help set them up.
- Movie in the park July 24th Space Jam; food will be available.

Conflict Resolution Center- community mediation center.

- Grant is being used to develop a mediation program to mediate landlords and tenants before eviction occurs.
- Currently, reaching out to tenants in the neighborhood and inviting them to a meeting to help form the mediation program through feedback and education about what the program is.
- More information about meeting is available through flyers.
- Center also offers mediator trainings that consists of 30 hours of trainings over the course of 5 days; scholarships available to help cover training fees.

Emanuel Tekle for CAP HC-currently working for Community Action Partnership at Hennepin County.

- Tekle is a community developer.
- CAP HC is doing a survey through urban Hennepin County to learn more about what programs are lacking and what resources are needed.
- Federally funded partnership.
- Many volunteer positions are open through CAP HC.
- Organization hopes to become more involved in the community in order to promote accessibility and involvement outside of suburban areas.
- Survey is offered in English, Spanish, Somali, and Hmong. Survey is available online but paper copies are available upon specific request.

Paul from Whittier Alliance

- Caffeine and Kickstands at corner of 25th and Nicollet.
  - Free bike tune-ups and coffee from spyhouse (July 20th - 4-6pm).
  - National Night Out (August 1st).
    - Sign ups to throw a block party due July 28th, otherwise it will cost \$85 to throw a block party.
    - Big Ideas grant applications due upcoming friday.
      - Applications open to anyone. Applications will be narrowed down to three finalists and \$4000 will be awarded to winner based on community vote. Applications in English and Spanish are available on Whittier Alliance website.

Mohammad Cali- KRSM radio station hopes to engage people in Whittier area and spread awareness to more communities.

- Hopes to educate youth in neighborhood about the area they live in.
- Suggestion made to put radio station on the agenda next month for community to discuss.

#### Ward 10 Update

Lindsey Wallace

- Minimum wage bill has been passed
  - Councilwoman Bender has been working on this policy for most of her career.
  - No tip penalty in final bill.
  - Separate tier for small businesses that extends the deadline to implementing new minimum wage.
  - New policy supports small businesses through small business work groups and staff support for opening and maintaining small organizations.
  - City continues to implement measures to support small businesses.
  - All businesses in Minneapolis now required to provide one hour of Second Safe time in 30 hours of work.
  - Second Safe time is considered a victory for many service workers in Minneapolis among others. Minimum wage bill includes an ongoing study conducted by city.
  - Businesses with 100+ employees will reach \$15/hr by 2022 and businesses below 100 employees will reach the new wage by 2024.
  - Inflation will be indexed the two years following 2022. City does not have jurisdiction over the county or University of Minnesota therefore new wage will not apply.
- City now has super value lease and Kmart site.
  - Currently negotiations are being held between the city and Kmart and Sears concerning their lease which is valid until 2053.
  - Questions surrounding possibility of Kmart going bankrupt and how that would affect their lease are being discussed; no collective conclusion has been reached.
  - Development plans concerning site in the future are being discussed but Wallace asserts that these issues will be more relevant down the road.
- Several development ideas from Whittier will be addressed by city in the next couple weeks. Meeting attendee brings up concern about housing codes and materials used in construction.
- Wallace asserts that housing codes in Minneapolis are safe but offers to look into it.
- Bike lanes are being added on West side of freeway to Hennepin on stretch between 26th and 28th in the coming week.
  - Community members bring up safety concerns about parking for Whittier school and several intersections nearby.

Scott asks meeting attendees about their responses to questions asked at beginning of meeting concerning the Whittier neighborhood's challenges, resources, and changes.

#### 1.) What one change would have the single greatest impact on Whittier?

- Maintaining balance and mutual growth between development and established neighborhoods
- Relationship with city council and staff
- “Representativeness”

**2.) What do you see as our neighborhood's greatest resource?**

- Mix of residents, businesses, organizations, destination restaurants, proximity to downtown and lakes
- Different cultures
- Public transportation of greenway
- Whittier Alliance
- Variety of activists and activist causes

**3.) What one change do you think would have the single largest impact on our neighborhood?**

- Maintaining increasingly affordable housing
- Renters getting to know others in a high turnover community
- Increasing bike safety and accessibility
- Increased family and youth participation in community
- Neighborhood organization to have a real voice at city level
- Connect Eat Street to other institutions such as MIA, CTC etc.

**Whittier Strategic Plan**

Ricardo McCurley

N/A - Not Discussed.

**Sneak Peek: August Whittier-Wide Meeting on Community Issues**

Structure of upcoming meeting- anyone can come with an issue. Depending on the available spots, as many individuals as possible will introduce their issues and discussions will be opened in small groups. Newcomers are encouraged to attend.

**Motion to Adjourn: 7:59PM**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Ivy Girdwood**