Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2018  6-8:30 PM  
Whittier Park

Present: Andrew Nordick, Jen Kader, Christina Le, Martha Nemesi, Michael Malone, Christine Popowski, Laura Jean, Mary Gazca, Geri Jerez, Scott Melamed

Absent: David Bagley

Late: N/A

Staff: Kaley Brown, Dan Stanton

Guests: Viswa Challa

Call to Order at 6:14pm by Laura Jean, Vice-Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Agenda is reviewed.

Addition to agenda:
● Add update on ED search

Motion to approve agenda with changes. Seconded. Motion Carries.

Comments from the Chair

Laura Jean

N/A

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Attendance overviewed.

● Chafboxey will be added to resignations; she resigned today.
● We have lost a significant amount of board members this year.
● Why is this?
  ● Lots of new people?
  ● Board trainings haven’t been as comprehensive in past years
  ● ED transition could have played a part, as well

● How can we encourage more board participation?
  ○ Make time at the next board meeting to discuss this

February 2018 Meeting minutes are reviewed.

Motion to approve minutes. Motion seconded. Motion Approved.
Next Board Meeting:
April 26, 2018

Executive Committee
David Bagley

Finance - Christina Le:
Everything was on track in February
Received reimbursements in February

Motion to Approve February Financials. Seconded. Approved.

Contract Reallocation - Kaley Brown
We also need to notify the public about this; will be moved to agenda for April Board Meeting

AM & Board Elections
- Volunteer Duties
  - See: handout noting volunteer duties
  - If anyone has a major conflict with something they are signed up for, note to the office and we can switch things around
  - Note: Araceli can do takedown
- Board Registration
  - As soon as the registration opens at 5:30, all board members need to register immediately
- No campaign materials inside meeting room
- If you’re on Facebook and haven’t rsvp’d to the Facebook event, please do
- Good Neighbor & Good Business Award
  - 1 Neighbor
    - Morgan Luzier for her hard work on neighborhood developments
  - 2 Businesses
    - NuWay House
    - Good Grocer
  - Motion to support Good Grocer
    - Provide community with good resource
    - Seconded.
- Background information about Snyder Mansion & NuWay:
  - WA advocated for boutique hotel or embassy; wanted to get it nationally registered
  - Historic building
  - WA did not want this housing in the area because of concentration of this type of service in the neighborhood
- Comment: NuWay and Denise have been fantastic this year; have welcomed BA multiple times and been very accommodating
Does NuWay serve the community?
- Yes, NuWay opens themselves up to events, has been good stewards of the community

**Motion** to support Good Grocer:
- 7 - For
- 0 - Opposed
- 3 - Abstentions
  - Approved.

**2017 CPP Report - Kaley Brown**
- Annual Report → NCR
- Has to be approved by the board
- Ariah said it looks great

Question #14 (extra boxes to check)
- “Met with other agencies…”
  - Met with Tasho
  - Can check this box
- Great Whittier Get Together counts as “popup”

**Motion to approve.**
10 - for
0 - opposed
0 - abstentions
Approved.

**Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap - Kaley Brown**
- This report is the culmination of workshops and community meetings and online feedback
- The 3 options presented are not the only options; they are just 3 main suggestions NCR has come up with
- Public comment period is through April 30th
  - Public can give suggestions
  - Then, working groups will come together to determine the how
- No plans whatsoever to consolidate neighborhood orgs.; they are all independent non-profits on their own

**3 Options**
- Option 1 feedback has been very negative
- Option 2 (pooled services) - mixed bag that City has not leveraged yet
- Option 3 has been used as the working model
  - Current Model
As a board, we need to come together with collective suggestions

Comment:
- Number three has the most autonomy
  - However, it still has the same funding
- Can we vie for our own taxes dollars funding the neighborhood organization
  - Include this language in the comments
  - Special TIF for neighborhood organizations?
  - Plant in there with the word of gentrification
- Comment - we would be more tied to government funding
  - Promote independence
    - Theme: diversification of funds

*We have one month to come up with a cohesive statement to submit (deadline: April 30th)*
*Please, also submit individual comments online*

March 27th - Mpls Central Library at 5pm - Meeting open to the public

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<th>Acting Committee &amp; Task Force Reports &amp; Motions</th>
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<td>Community Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaley Brown</td>
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Scott couldn’t attend the full meeting, because of a family emergency

Kaley gives overview:
35W Construction
- Franklin will open in May or June

Jennifer Neale, 5th Precinct
- Mentioned a lot of car thefts

Whittier resurfacing this summer
24th St Bikeway conversation that will coincide with 24th st resurfacing

After this, there was a 24th St Bikeway Presentation and Discussion at LHENA’s Office
- Went well; tried a new discussion format with small group table discussions developing single questions to ask Public Works
  - This was effective
  - Parking discussion on 24th near MIA?
    - MIA will be redoing their whole parking situation

LUPE Developments
- Came back to show us the rest of their design that they presented back in the Fall
- Note: Morgan Luzier is working with them to help find businesses that might be interested in leasing the 1st floor commercial space
  - Right now, LUPE is reluctant to have 1st floor commercial and not be able to fill it
• LUPE is applying for grant money through the county so that they can do affordable housing
  ○ However, their housing is not affordable for Whittier residents based off the income of the neighborhood
  ○ They have requested a letter of support from the neighborhood to help influence their grant funding application
    ■ We need to offer it up to the community
  ● Put it on the agenda for April; invite them back to April CI
  ● Post updates on our website leading up to CI

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<tr>
<th>Business Association</th>
<th>Andrew Nordick</th>
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BA was at Calvary Church

Agenda was about future of BA
  ● April Elections
  ● BA Structure itself

Registration Requirements
  ● BA representatives don’t need to reactivate every year
  ● Can businesses sign a form to say that their articles of incorporation
    ○ Reach out to lawyer to check what the best way to handle this is
  ● Is there a way to do this at the BA?
    ○ This has been brought up many times - at BA’s and emails
      ■ Include in all communications and emails

Business Association Restructuring
  ● General consensus to have more programming
    ○ More structure, more things to do, take advantage of the service
    ○ Increasing engagement within the community?
      ■ Pick up trash, housework, etc?
        ● This sentiment is good but the application needs more work
  ● Attendance at BA is roughly 8-12
  ● There was consensus on going to an every-other-month meeting model
  ● There will also be a monthly business association communications newsletter to better communicate the things that happened monthly
  ● Have we surveyed them?
  ● Monthly business-specific meetings that are industry-specific
    ● Nonprofits
    ● Service-industry
    ● Special services
    ● Etc

Some missing pieces in the meeting minutes - sentences that cut off short

**Araceli Reinstatement Discussion**
Motion to reinstate. Seconded. Motion Approves.
Araceli is reinstated.
Environment

- Met last night, talked about different ways to get involved besides just coming to meetings
- If people have a certain skill set or know of something that happened in a diff neighborhood, come forward with ideas
- MPLS green teams collaboration group that reached out to get involved
- Sat April 21st - Earth Day Cleanup with Minneapolis Parks
- April 1st - Community Organics starting
  - Flyer apartment buildings

Staff Reports:

See: board packet

Old & New Business:

Executive Director Search Update:

- Extended ED search for another two weeks
- We want to make sure it’s a robust time period, open and that word has gotten out
- Approximately 6 applicants
- Interested in a few but want to make sure the search is robust

Committee - Christina, Chafoxey, David, Marian Biehn, Willow Kreibich, Laura Jean
  - For the interview portion, they will be bringing in a few community members, as well

Committee will put together criteria used to determine who is chosen
Board will vote to hire or not hire whoever is recommended

There hasn’t been a lot of progress in the process

Strategic Plan - Kaley Brown

- Report highlights feedback gained throughout planning process
- Positives about neighborhood are self-explanatory
- Challenges - parking and housing
- Common throughout - negative reactions with the language that was used

Comment: there is an issue with trust; many people didn’t want to take the survey or participate because people feel that WA will not take their input seriously
  - Ethiopian, Latino and Somali communities do not feel incorporated by the Whittier Alliance
  - Huge consensus by social service groups about how they are perceived by the Whittier Alliance and how they are involved in the neighborhood
  - Housing - 5 score - very important
  - Businesses and Commercial Corridors - scored 5
- Maintaining businesses but also supporting non-food-related businesses

- Environmental Sustainability
  - This should permeate all our activities, rather than being a pillar/main theme for initiatives

- Biggest theme - outreach, community engagement piece

- Main themes
  - Community engagement/outreach
  - Housing
  - Supporting businesses/commercial corridors

Next Steps:
We want to have something at the annual meeting to show progress and engage
We won’t have a written plan by next week, but we can have a board on an easel with three themes
  - People can put a sticker on the board to prioritize 1-3
  - Comment: also include the following action items on this so that the community knows what’s happening
Then, we need to get the board together for a half day some time in April to synthesize this information
  - Come up with plane and promote for people to digest it
  - Vote at a following meeting (need to get 50 people to vote on it)

*to increase transparency, put all the strategic planning data that was used on our website*

Motion to table BA restructuring and development projects till next meeting. Seconded. Approved.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved.

Adjourn 8:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.

Meeting Minutes Approved on ______________________

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David Bagley, Board Chair

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Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary