

Whittier Housing Issues Committee Meeting
Monday, June 18, 6:00-8:00pm
Children's Theatre Company, Target Lobby

Attendees: Kevin Chavis, Eleonore Wesslerle, Angelica Perez, Jen Kader, Shannon Dotson, Cyndi Hovey, Mary Gazca, Hawaye Omar, Wendy Darst, Scott Melamed, Michael Perez, Laura Jean, David Schroth, Adi Penugonda, Stephanie Brown, Crystal Audi, Aldona Martinka, Brandon Schorsch, Gary Dombuoy, Nate Rastetter, Jessica Donahue, Nate Broadbridge, Alec Glass, Lily Osborne, Jesse Oyervides, Greg Schmidt, Krista Lucas, Tammy Wong, Cat Hammond

Staff: Kaley Brown, Marcus VanderSanden, Dan Stanton

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm by Kaley Brown, Whittier Alliance Executive Director.

Agenda & Code of Conduct are reviewed.

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Approved.

Overview of meeting structure.

Scott Melamed reviews past two Visioning Sessions & how we got to this point

- At the last Annual Meeting, Brandon Schorsch proposed a new Committee - the Housing Issues Committee
- 2 Visioning Sessions leading up to this
 - Big Topic Areas that came out of these:
 - 1) Shaping new housing development
 - 2) Influencing City Hall, government officials, policies
 - 3) Building relationships across Whittier; hear everyone in the community
 - 4) Being a resource of support for renters, homeowners & landlords → making sure there is space for everyone

Is there anything missing from these topic areas?

- This is a work in progress → come in with an attitude of openness & contribute

ELECTION

Responsibilities of Chairperson

- 1) Chair person serves a term of 1-year on the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors (April 2018 - April 2019)
- 2) Chairperson will be responsible for coordinating regular meeting times: speakers, agendas, working on procedures, making recommendations to WA Board
- 3) Serves as HI Committee Liaison
- 4) 8-ish hours per month minimum, including regularly scheduled meetings with Board, Committee & staff
- 5) Serves as fiscal agent for the organization, by way of board of directors
- 6) Ambassador of Whittier Alliance and the neighborhood as a whole

Is there anything else?

- Remain neutral as a moderator
 - Can the chair advocate for the ideas and views of the committee outside of the meeting?
 - Distinction of - Personal opinion VS speaking on behalf of the Committee
 - Up to the Chair to use their discretion when discussing these topics on the street
- Function as a great facilitator, making space for all the interest areas involved

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - you can nominate someone else or yourself

- 1) Matt Barthelemy nominates Stephanie Brown, **accepts**
- 2) Gary Dombuoy nominates Brandon Schorsch, **declines**
- 3) Gary Dombuoy nominates Tommy Wong, **declines**
- 4) Jesse nominates Laura Jean, **declines**
- 5) Gary Dombuoy nominates Kevin Chavis, **declines**

Q&A -

Stephanie Brown -

Why do you want to do it?

Urban planner by trade because she likes place and space and where people live. Our neighborhood has potential to change so much very quickly.

How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

3 years

How do you feel about neighborhood businesses?

She loves that they are here; lived in Powderhorn before, but now that she can walk to all the businesses here she's spoiled and loves living here → grateful for this

Thoughts on 2040 Plan and how do you think that would affect Whittier?

Has read Housing in detail; aspects are great but light on details → doesn't think it would change this neighborhood much more than it will already be changing. Will influence height of development. Concern that Plan won't actually increase Affordability? Plan right now doesn't explicitly require that you put more affordable housing in

Want to hear everyone. Obviously, that's difficult without everyone here. How do we decide what issue carries as a very small representation of the whole? How are we representative?

We can do more to have more people in meetings but also acknowledge the limitations

Last few sessions, discussions around creating other ways to get out information and extend our reach. Have to get creative, build relationships across community, meet people where they are, etc.

Disabled Persons - how do we work on accessibility?

Have to lay out vision as a whole so that we can speak to these issues

Matt: appreciates Stephanie stepping up

Jen - **Move** by acclamation to appoint Stephanie Brown as Housing Issues Committee Chair.

Seconded.

Approved.

NEXT SEGMENT - Rekindle the energy from the Visioning Sessions

4 Conversation Tables

- 1) New housing developments
- 2) Influencing gov. Officials
- 3) Building relationships
- 4) Resources and support

Questions:

- 1) Why did you choose the group you chose? // why you showed up tonight?
- 2) You have the list of main ideas from the visioning sessions. How does that look today? Is there agreement in the group on where to start?
- 3) If people want to make progress in this category, how do we make this work? // what pitfalls might get in the way of working together?
- 4) Next Steps - don't be lead on by overeagerness and fear

Name someone as point person to work with Chairperson & Office

WRAP UP

July 16th or week after that, we will have the next Committee Meeting. As far as best day of the week/time, open.

Group Reporting:

Group #1: community relationship building group

- 1) Identify homogenous community groups - homeowners, somali community, renters, for example - for representatives to come inform the larger conversation
 - a) Part of meeting people where they are at
 - b) Not everyone feels safe, comfortable coming to these meetings
 - c) Next steps:
 - i) Identify those groups

Group #2: resources

1. Everyone shared a desire to be a part of the solution that's geared towards equity
2. Saw immediate need for resource hub
 - a. Create draft and then have something tangible to get community feedback on
 - b. Living document that lives on Whittier ALliance website
 - i. All go to it to see resources that are applicable to them
 - c. Once we know what's important to community members, then we can do informational forums
 - i. For ex: training for renters, training for new landlords, training for new homeowners
 - d. Create email list & google doc to share resources → create first draft

Group #3: Developers, development

1. Make sure Whittier is affordable & accessible
2. Want to be educated more on general government process

- a. Get development 101 going, so everyone has an idea of what it takes to get a development into creation
- b. Have presentations from experts in their designated area
- c. Create guidebook for developers coming into the area
- d. What topics do we want to learn about?

Group #4: Influencing gov. Officials

- 1) Communicate as a group
- 2) Identify those issues as they come up and use multiple voices, not just one → influence

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.