

Whittier Housing Issues Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2020, 6:30-8:00pm  
Zoom Digital Meeting

**Attendees:** \*Stephanie Brown, \*Nick Hutchinson, \*Jennifer Wollner, \*Nate Rastetter, \*Nate Broadbridge, \*Nate Rastetter, \*Shannon Dotson, \*George Rishmawi, \*Jo Ann Musumeci, Aaron Keith, \*Zach Levonian and \*Brigid Higgins

*\*Asterisk indicates they are a registered voter*

**Staff:** Kaley Brown, Julie Strand

**Speakers:** Andrea Gibson, President of LHENA (Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association)

**Welcome/Introductions.**

The chair stated that this meeting will consist primarily of updates and then working teams time. The chair reviewed the subgroups: Developer Engagement, Anti-Displacement Strategy, Unhoused Neighbor Support, Kmart Site Visioning.

**2003 Aldrich Ave - Advocacy and Support for LHENA:** Alicia Gibson, President of Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA)

The over 100 year old building at this location was naturally occurring affordable housing in LHENA. The units were priced at \$900-\$1,100 for a 1 bedroom or 1 bedroom plus units. The building was damaged by a developer next door working on the Pure Lowry project. The damage started in July and Aug 2019. In October 2019, a crack went up the building. Tenants had to leave within 72 hours and people were displaced.

In March 2020, the property was sold to the developer who caused the damage. LHENA has been in touch with the developer with the goal of ensuring the same amount of affordable units are made available by the developer. However, their current plans are to offer 40 above market rate units.

As of right now it looks like the developer has demolished the old building and excavation/construction is in process. A letter writing campaign is underway to ask the city to ensure that the affordable housing is replaced at the same amount as was available before. The campaign is going to expand to include letters to the developer as well.

**Ask: Can WA join the advocacy campaign to the city and the developer?**

**A meeting member made a motion made to ask city zoning and planning departments to halt all developments and permits immediately. The motion was not seconded.**

The chair asked the committee if anyone had questions for Alicia.

Q: Do you know if the developer has received permits?

A: The city did not give any info when asked. LHENA will continue to ask for them.

Meeting members added, maybe there is a permit to demo but not to build. Excavation is going on. The zoning office outreach is the best next step in addition to letters. Peter Crandall might have more info on

the site plans. LHENA should ask him. Another member directed attention to [this page](#) where active permits for the project are available.

Q: Is there any info online, guidelines for the letter writing campaign? Is there a thorough write up with up to the moment information?

A: Yes. There is [a page on LHENA's website](#) recording what has happened so far including newspaper articles. The page also contains guidance for letters and advocacy.

Q: What sort of legal counsel has LHENA engaged. ACLU? Other?

A: None at this time. It appears that the developer has found a loophole and the city has stated that this is legal.

On a related note, Alicia mentioned a desire to coordinate communications with developers by aligning WA's and LHENA's developer scorecards.

### **Policies Review**

The chair recognized and reviewed the standard of conduct policy, non discrimination and anti racism policy, and conflict of interest policy.

**Motion to approve agenda.** Seconded. **Motion passes.**

**Motion to approve minutes.** Seconded. **Motion passes.**

### **Updates on Neighborhood Developments**

The presentation last month sent follow ups to the committee on accessibility and the management partners other properties. Anyone who is interested in looking over these can contact the chair.

Other new developments: A vacant lot at 25th St & 1 Ave was bought for a single family home. It will be 4 bedrooms and 2 stories to fit into the neighborhood. Construction is set to start this fall. A development that size doesn't go through the committee's scorecard process. If anyone wants more info on this development contact the chair.

Next month the committee will look at a new project on Lake Street between Kmart and the highway. It is a proposed redevelopment. The Kmart sub-group might think through this development during their working time.

Next month the anti-displacement subgroup would like to present to the full group. If you are interested in joining the convo before then the chair can connect you.

The city is starting a housing advisory committee and looking for a diversity of perspectives. The chair would love to help someone from this committee [apply](#).

November's meeting will be replaced by the WA special meeting, please come.

**Motion to adjourn for working groups.** Seconded. **Motion passes.**

### **Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm**

HI Meetings Every third Tuesday of the month

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 20th, 6:30-8:00 pm @ Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes submitted by Julie Strand.**