

Community Issues Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 9, 2017— 6:00-8:00pm — Whittier Park

Attendees: Jen Kader, Grant Rockwood, Felino de la Pena, Christine Popowski, Mary Gazca, Kathryn VanDuynhoven, Joanna Krause-Johnson, Dan Rogers, Andrea Dahl, Colleen Jackson, JoeAmrhein, Siad Ali, Amina Gesole

Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Dan Stanton

Presenters: Jim Grube, Gary Cunningham

Welcome

Welcome at 6:30 by Jen Kader, Whittier Alliance Board Member. Addition to agenda: 27th and 1st Ave - frequent crashes that have happened there. Change to agenda: Jim Grube will be presenting. Agenda was reviewed. Standard of conduct policy was reviewed. **Motion** to approve the Agenda **Carried**. Introductions were made. Introductions: name, where you are in neighborhood, and what is your hope for neighborhood. Minutes from September Community Issues Meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve made. Seconded. **Carried**.

Announcements/Community Comments & Discussion

Note: post upcoming forum for Park Board Elections on WA social media

Upcoming Candidate Forum - Tuesday, October 17th at Calvary Church

- Questions Survey will be used to create ½ of the questions for the forum. The other half will be taken for Q+A during the forum. These are available in both English and Spanish, and this will be available in Somali soon.
- Suggestion: have live Q+A without writing down questions.
 - This will be brought up and compared with League of Women Voter's ground rules
- Community can help facilitate diversity by promoting via word of mouth.
- Promote to friends, etc that live in other neighborhoods in Ward 10 as well.

Ward 10: Whittier, LHENA, CARAG, ECCO, East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association

Issue of 24th & Nicollet - Redoing the curbs on the corners

- Also making way for the resurfacing of 24th St, which is slated for 2018
- The redone 24th St lights will incorporate accessibilities for people with hearing/visual disabilities in the neighborhood.
- 24th & 1st: Will go back to Stop Lights

27th & 1st Issue

- On ramp from 35W two vehicle accidents within the last week, both caused property damage; using changing of traffic to leverage with Public Works
- WA has data from previous traffic study that includes that data and can be provided.
- Whittier Alliance has certain level of power: knows who to talk to

- However, this power is limited; best to have every voice included

Question for Jim Grube (Hennepin County) - What can be done for rerouting?

- Start out with Councilmember
- Get in touch with people at the City
- Allen Klugman, Steve Mosing - Good people to get in touch with at the City level

Jim Grube presentation:

American with Disabilities Act - 1973 been working on pedestrian ramps since

- 12-13,000 ped ramps in Hennepin County: these are being updated to match current standards and guidelines
- These are 50% or so done
- Audible pedestrian systems: allow individuals that are visually impaired

Good Grocer Situation

- Corner of Lake St & Stevens Avenue, where Good Grocer is
- Kurt Vickman, owner of Good Grocer
- From the beginning, it was understood that Good Grocer would be moved
- Hennepin County is trying to help Kurt Vickman move Good Grocer to 27th & Nicollet
- Hennepin County has used eminent domain
- Updating the 35W access
- They are not getting the \$25,000 bonus to build on vacant property, because the property isn't eligible for it
- A portion of the alley (just on the north side of good grocer) will be closed off; will rebuild alley so that it goes south to Lake St.; need variances from zoning ordinance because the parking lot nearby is not allowed currently in the area
- Nico Products is currently occupying site bound by Stevens, East Lake, 1st Ave
- Jim will continue to keep CI updated as things progress

Ward 10 Update Office of Lisa Bender - Tina Erazmus

Neither of Lisa Bender's Aid's were available; Ricardo reads notes from Office:

- Discussion at last CI regarding Lake Street/Harriet Development + 2449 Lyndale Ave Development
 - Current state: everything has moved forward with 2449 Lyndale
 - Lake St. Development is being held up by City Council
 - Housing vouchers problem
 - Problem with design of building as well
- Ward 10 connection with Whittier School regarding safety, traffic and school pick-ups on 26th St.
 - School is happy because traffic has slowed
- Making event for announcement of new Police Chief

Metropolitan Council District 7 Updates

Gary Cunningham - Met Council Rep.

Regional planning authority - promotes quality of life, economic stability

- Done lots of work on homelessness

- One of founding members of Greenway Coalition to create Greenway
- Worked on a lot of school issues - how do we help young African American children do better
- Now, president CEO of MEDA
- Board is made up of many fortune 500 companies in MN
- Change economic situations of people of color in this community
- Representative on Met. Council
- Met Council is a regional planning body, handles buses, water treatment in metropolitan area, has largest section 8 housing in state of MN - serves most of suburban regions, also connected with regional park and trail system
- Livable Communities Grants - get communities to do more affordable housing, work with all cities to allocate resources for grants for affordable housing, Gary chairs this committee; also, give grants to clean up sites for contaminated areas
- Regional Development Plan - sets stage for how development will occur in the region; what type of lot sizes you will have for density purposes
- Focuses on equity, this region is very much threatened if nothing is addressed
- People of Color are not using the Park System, both suburban and locally

Gary Cunningham: 612-978-8200, call or text

Sunshine Adult Daycare - CUP of Daycare 2612 1st Ave

Sunshine Adult Daycare (proposed in 2011) - have to reapply but already got approved before

- Has a lot of past experience and expertise
- Will work with neighborhood
- Community based program for adults with functional impairment, adult day care with meal service, socializing, games, news reading, field trips
- Want to create safe environment for elderly and community
- Experience with multiculturalism
- Targeting not only East African population
- Started new business here in 2004: small homecare agency, expanded to different areas
- Asking for a conditional use permit: activity is permissible under current zoning with conditions
- Take vote to show support
- The vote is then taken to the City by Whittier Alliance
- There will be 8-12 employees (CNAs or Home Health Aide)
- Ratio of 1:8 employees to those served
- ~35-40 clients
- 2612 1st Ave S

Area is currently zoned for commercial activity, so a change is needed to operate slightly differently than what the zoning requires

Motion to support application for conditional use permit. Seconded.

7 - yes

1 - abstention

0 - no

Motion Approved

Motion to Adjourn: 8:17pm

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton