

**The Whittier Alliance Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2021 | 6:30-8:00pm**  
**Held Virtually via Zoom**

**6:34 - Zoom Virtual Meeting Opens**

Kaley Brown, Executive Director, introduced interpretation needs. Navigated some technical issues. Kaley shared about the webinar interface, outlined Q&A and chat features.

Cyndi Hovey, Board Chair welcomed all, acknowledging the compounding crises folks are navigating. Agenda was reviewed. An overview of the bylaws project was provided. Who is on the call was discussed. Attendees were asked to add pronouns to name and to introduce themselves in the chat. Board members were introduced. Staff were introduced.

The standard of conduct policy was reviewed by Brigid Higgins, Vice Chair.

**Whittier Alliance Updates:**

Kaley Brown, Executive Director gave an update on programming and a year in review: Helping businesses access relief funds, developing strategies to reach under-engaged residents, committee turnover resulting in less formal meetings, but serving the community who needed it new and different ways. Created a rent/bill pay relief fund and secured grants to BIPOC businesses who sustained damage, among many other initiatives.

Marcus VanderSanden, Business Outreach Coordinator BA update: Business community had a tough year, communicated resources, relief opportunities, government opportunities, and communicating what was available and being a conduit to get the needed help. Worked with a local artist on the Spend Big on Small campaign. During the Uprising, WA helped to secure and install plywood for businesses with support from volunteers. The plywood art was collected and stored in partnership with Lyn-Lake area organizations and volunteers until recently donated to a Black-led grassroots art collective going by Save the Boards to Memorialize the Movement and their partners at the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum & Gallery.

WA secured a grant for Save the Boards to support their plywood mural preservation efforts and to plan a joint event in 2021 for community members to gather, reflect, and remember the movement. WA has been working with other neighborhood orgs on grant collaborations. We received a Minneapolis Foundation Grant to support businesses affected by the uprising through grants along the lake street corridor. WA took an administrative role in that project.

Fartun Ismail, Community Outreach Coordinator-WA worked on our Housing Navigation Program helping neighbors find housing in Whittier. We worked on taking down language barriers and housing access barriers for 30+ families. We also did 2020 census outreach and voter registration pop ups at the Karmel mall and other locations, created informational videos on the census, flyered neighborhoods, and had lots of conversations with neighbors. Additionally, Fartun supported neighbors in emergency relief fund navigation and application. A lot of work went into helping the most vulnerable residents in Whittier stay in their homes.

Stephanie Brown, Housing Issues Committee Chair-The HI committee reviewed development projects, was active on a range of policy and support projects, supported unsheltered neighbors in Whittier, and is currently working on Tenant Opportunity to Purchase advocacy. There is a subcommittee working on advocacy around the redevelopment of the former kmart site as well. The committee meets the 3rd tuesday of every month. The link to join meetings was shared in the chat and is available on the WA site.

**Neighborhood Artist Performance:**

[Jamie Kubat](#): Whittier neighbor and interdisciplinary artist was introduced and they shared a short story poem with the group.

**Proposed Bylaws Presentation:**

Board Chair Cyndi Hovey reminded everyone of the [full video presentation](#) that has been available on the WA site. During the meeting, the video was played from 4:10 to 26:25.

In the recorded presentation, Cyndi and Abbie Speller, WA Board member, shared that the proposed edits are guided by the four pillars of Whittier Alliance's current strategic plan. Each proposed bylaw change was laid out, highlighted, and explained in the video. Side-by-side comparison documents were also referenced and shared in the chat.

**Proposed Bylaws Q&A:** Abbie Speller, Aldona Martinka, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Broadbridge & Stephanie Brown

During the screening of the presentation video, meeting attendees submitted questions to the Q&A feature and comments in the chat. Board members answered questions submitted with text responses. Transcripts of these are attached as addendums to these minutes.

Stephanie Brown moderated the Q&A panel, asking panelists questions compiled from Q&A and chat. Aldona Martinka, Cyndi Hovey and Nate Broadbridge were panelists for this portion and provided answers to Stephanie's posed questions.

Q: What proof of eligibility is needed to vote and why did that feel important and sufficient to make these changes?

A: (Aldona) WA looked at city policy and other neighborhood orgs and modeled the revisions on them. Current WA policies are extremely restrictive. It keeps people out, especially renters, students and undocumented neighbors. Opening up ways to vote was more important to us than worries about fake IDs and bad actors. For the most part they mirror the Secretary of State and other neighborhood orgs' qualifications. We walked through different potential scenarios to increase accessibility without violating the integrity of the process.

(Cyndi) While there was an instance of a bad actor six years ago that isn't a reason to keep others out. The reality that there are bad actors is unfortunate, however it is not grounds to potentially disenfranchise the majority of the residents (nearly 90% renters) of this neighborhood. We are still keeping a process and having a registered voters list up to date and active.

Q: There was a question specifically on the volunteer and absence policy for the board. Can someone review and share why we had the change?

A: (Cyndi) In terms of absences and the board, current policy forced members to resign or leave the board even though they were putting numerous hours for the organization outside the official meetings. We would like to be able to keep our actively engaged board members on the board so the rule changes would allow that. We feel this structure will provide more balance to allow for quorum and necessary meeting business to still take place but also better support board members in how they can show up.

(Aldona) The flexibility that this provides board members is improved. It does not make it more restrictive. You are not required to make up an absence, but hours you put toward WA outside of board meetings can eliminate an absence.

(Nate) What I am most excited about this change is the idea that people will now be encouraged more to sign up and run for the board knowing that there is flexibility and respect of schedules.

Q: What change are you most excited about?

A: (Aldona) I'm super duper excited about the change that will make it easier for people to run for the board. We need to be recruiting a board that is representative of all the amazing people in the neighborhood. It is so important that our board reflects the people in Whittier.

(Nate) I am most excited for the lowered age limitation for participation. It encourages a much broader audience. And excited for what this means philosophically for the direction the Whittier Alliance is heading. Still lots of work ahead. It sets a precedent of a willingness and commitment to change and evolve for the good of the community.

(Cyndi) Our voting process brought up to speed with the realities of technology and people's schedules. To not have to be at one meeting at one time to be able to participate in neighborhood business and things you care about is important.

**Voting opens on Bylaws Proposal:** Kaley Brown & Cyndi Hovey

Quorum & Resolution: The totality of eligible voters casting a ballot during the voting period must be at least 50. 64 people participated on the call tonight, and more can vote online through the next 7 days. Links to voting forms are on the website and were dropped into the chat. All three language options are also on paper in the office by appointment or during office hours. Office Hours were shared in the chat. Ballot requires voters to supply documentation to verify residence or ownership in the neighborhood in accordance with the current, unrevised bylaws. Invitation to provide reasonings behind your vote on ballot, as well as suggestions, encouragements or concerns for the Whittier Alliance was made.

**Artist Performance:** [Guante](#)

Guante, a poet, educator, and activist based in Minneapolis, MN shared poems and talked about the importance of us all showing up to work together, despite systems of violence and oppression working against us.

**Closing:** [Jamie Kubat](#)

Jamie Kubat closed us out with a reflective prompt.

The Voting period length of 7 days was reiterated. Gratitude for attendees, community members, board members, task force members and interpreters was expressed by Kaley and Cyndi.

**8:30 meeting ended.**

**\*Voting Results:**

The voting period continued through 8pm on Thursday, January 21st. Ballots submitted both online and in person were reviewed, processed, and certified by a neutral third party at the City of Minneapolis. The results of the voting period were announced on all WA communication channels on Saturday, January 23rd and are as follows:

From: Fine, Aariah B  
Date: Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:46 AM  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WA Bylaws Third Party Review & Tally  
To: Kaley Brown

I have completed the voter eligibility process and vote tally as a neutral third party and the results are as follows:

Votes in favor of / in support of the proposal: 88  
Votes in opposition to / not in support of the proposal: 26  
Total number of eligible votes cast: 114  
Total number of incomplete/ineligible ballots: 13

I confirm the above vote count.

Sincerely,  
Aariah Fine  
Neighborhood Support Specialist  
Neighborhood and Community Relations, City of Minneapolis

**Participating voters:**

Nicole Weiler, Brigid Higgins, Justin Kader, Alec Glass, Stephanie Brown, Willow Rheault Kreibich, Jeff Nelson, Lauren Bevington, Caroline Alkire, Katie Heimer, Morgan Appleberry, Nate Rastetter, Christine Popowski, Gwendolyn Jenkins, Kathryn Nettleman, Sadie Luetmer, Bunnard Phan, Christopher-Michael Perez, George Rishmawi, Ella Kampelman, Camree Tierney, Byron Millea, Sydney Larson, Jen Kader, Cyndi Hovey, Guinevere Keith, Thomas George, Nicholas Hutchinson, Margaret Reid, Laura Jean, Bridget Siljander, Aldona Martinka, Krista Martinka, Aisha Chughtai, Brandon Schorsch, Deborah Girdwood, Josh Kreibich, Hannah Wiesner, Tamar Herman, David Bagley, Nitin Savant, Rita Stodolka, Elly Fireside-Ostergaard, Daniel Perez, Dominique Bereiter, Mohamud Isse, Sarah Liuzzi, Brooks Mahoney, Joanna Krause-Johnson, David Gilbert-Pederson, Abigail Speller, Rochelle Woldorsky, Larry Ludeman, Marie Campos, Larry Sanderson, Brian Golberg, Gary Dombouy, Tom Kremer, Stacey Rosana, Althea Willette, Ben Bauch, Will Elsas, Ronald Johnson, Nathaniel Broadbridge, Tammy Wong, Eli Edelson-Stein, Alexandria Araiza, Rachel Schmitt, Joseph Coluccy, Jeaneen Gauthier, Shinjan Sengupta, Anthony Hawn, Kevin Chavis, Harry Greenberg, Rebekkah Schulz, Erica Christ, Mbemba Camara, Shane Morin, Kendra Perez, John Kim, Georgiana Shmagin, Natalie Strait, Ryan Jones, Erika Shepard, Monica Moses Haller, Jeffrey Carlson, Jesse Nagamatsu, Cory Froelich, Sydney Burroughs, Chris Carrow, Kameron Brodie, Jim Baker, Jesse Oyervides, Matthew Gabb, Charles Block, Madeline Schwartz, Sarah Lentz, Mitch Roth, Daniel Tyler, Gregory Schmidt, Jennifer Kochaver, Nazir Khan, Doug Vanderveen, Kanad Gupta, Charles Ryan Hampton, Patrick Alcorn, Kevin Beaudin, Tatiana Lafayette, Kimberly Bedell Rhodes, Pete Rhodes, Morgan Bird, James Wrayge, Angelica Perez, Daniel Kauppi, Shannon Dotson, Jo Ann Musumeci, David Schroth, Pat Aronsen, Mark Mahoney, Maria Cecilia Laden, Shaun Laden, Corinne Zwickey, Tom Bissen, Linda Martin

*\*2 test ballots and 1 duplicate submission were tallied as incomplete/ineligible ballots (3 total)*

18:37:30 From Laura Jean to All panelists : I can't hear your instructions

18:37:30 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to All panelists : She should hit mute original audio if you only want to hear the channel you are on

18:37:41 From Margo Fritz (she/her) to All panelists : I'm not seeing a toolbar

18:37:49 From Karla Hovde to All panelists : I can't understand what you are saying because both languages are overlapping.

18:37:51 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : Hi! FYI we're hearing the Spanish interpreter on top of you all!

18:37:52 From BD Nate Broadbridge (he/him) to All panelists : Paul, please wait for Cyndi to be done before you speak

18:37:58 From BD Nate Broadbridge (he/him) to All panelists : Cyndi please take pauses

18:38:26 From Kate Nettleman, she/her to All panelists : I'm sorry, would you please share again how to hear the meeting in only one language? Thanks

18:38:35 From Julie Strand to All panelists : I can hear English and Spanish at same time

18:39:02 From BD Nate Broadbridge (he/him) to All panelists : It's not working, still.

18:39:09 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) to All panelists : Please choose your preferred language and then mute original audio and that should mute the spanish

18:39:11 From BD Nate Broadbridge (he/him) to All panelists : OK now it's working

18:39:16 From Laura Jean to All panelists : THANK YOU!

18:39:29 From Shane Morin to All panelists : I have done this and I am still hearing both

18:39:32 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : Muting original audio also muted Daniel.

18:39:33 From Gwen to All panelists : its not working! I've chosen the channel and muted original audio and its still not working.

18:39:43 From Karla Hovde to All panelists : I have chosen English, and can still hear Spanish.

18:39:56 From BD Nate Broadbridge (he/him) to All panelists : Explain once more that they need to MUTE the other channel

18:39:57 From Kami Brodie (she/her) to All panelists : I have English selected but hear both

18:39:57 From Fartun Ismail to All panelists : IT WORKED FOR ME

18:40:09 From Nico/le ((she/her)) to All panelists : I've selected English and I can no longer hear Paul, but I can hear Cyndi and Kaley

18:40:15 From Gwen to All panelists : I know it's tricky-I've had to do it before :)

18:40:17 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) : To hear in only one language, you should choose the language channel you want and then hit "mute original audio" to only hear your channel. If it does not say "unmute," you need to choose mute.

18:40:18 From Nico/le ((she/her)) to All panelists : Seems to be working, but the chat is only to y'all

18:40:18 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : Seems better now.

18:40:39 From Shane Morin to All panelists : This isn't working  
18:40:41 From Margo Fritz (she/her) to All panelists : I love that  
you're incorporating real-time interpretation, thank you! I'm just not seeing a  
toolbar.  
18:40:42 From Kami Brodie (she/her) to All panelists : Still hear the  
Spanish having done all that  
18:40:55 From Julie Strand to All panelists : I did it the right way  
and I still hear both.  
18:41:27 From Fartun Ismail to All panelists : I can hear English but  
spanish  
18:41:40 From Fartun Ismail to All panelists : not Spanish I mean  
18:41:42 From BD Cyndi Hovey (she/her) : Thank you again for your patience  
everyone.  
18:41:56 From Justin Kader (he/him) to All panelists : yes  
18:41:58 From Julie Strand to All panelists : Yes  
18:41:58 From Lauren Bevington to All panelists : Yes!  
18:41:58 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All  
panelists : Yes!  
18:41:59 From Gwen to All panelists : yes  
18:42:00 From Morgan Appleberry to All panelists : Yes  
18:42:01 From Alicia Gibson she/her to All panelists : I can hear you  
18:42:01 From Nico/le ((she/her)) to All panelists : yes  
18:42:01 From Shane Morin to All panelists : I can hear you  
18:42:02 From Margo Fritz (she/her) to All panelists : I can hear you!  
18:42:02 From Laura Jean to All panelists : Yes to hearing English  
18:42:03 From Michael P (he/him) to All panelists : Yes  
18:42:04 From Fartun Ismail to All panelists : yes  
18:42:05 From WIlLOW Rheault Kreibich she/her to All panelists : YES!!!  
18:42:07 From Karla Hovde to All panelists : Yes, I can hear English.  
18:42:18 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : Yes  
18:42:24 From Shane Morin to All panelists : I am on the English  
Channel and still hear Paul  
18:42:24 From BD - Erin Sjoquist she/her to All panelists : I can hear  
Paul and I am on the English.  
18:42:25 From Gwen to All panelists : yes  
18:42:25 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All  
panelists : Nope  
18:42:26 From Lauren Bevington to All panelists : No  
18:42:27 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to All panelists : No  
18:42:28 From Justin Kader (he/him) to All panelists : no  
18:42:28 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : yeah we heard Paul :(  
18:42:29 From Julie Strand to All panelists : The English channel can  
hear him  
18:42:29 From Margo Fritz (she/her) to All panelists : I heard the  
Spanish as well  
18:42:29 From Camree Tierney (she/her) to All panelists : yes  
18:42:31 From Alicia Gibson she/her to All panelists : I did not hear  
Spanish  
18:42:32 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : It's working!  
18:42:33 From Matt Barthelemy to All panelists : I didn't

18:42:40 From Julie Strand to All panelists : Yes  
18:42:40 From Gwen to All panelists : yes  
18:42:42 From Karla Hovde to All panelists : Issue seems to be resolved now for me.  
18:42:42 From Camree Tierney (she/her) to All panelists : yes  
18:42:43 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) to All panelists : Kaley, is there a setting that is on that means attendees can't chat with one another?  
18:42:47 From Danielle Haidet to All panelists : I have English selected and could hear Paul's Spanish translation. I selected mute original audio as well.  
18:42:48 From Shane Morin to All panelists : I have mute original audio and am tuned into only the English channel  
18:42:50 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : yes I selected mute and am on the original channel  
18:42:58 From BD - Erin Sjoquist she/her to All panelists : Yes, I have selected "mute" and I can still hear both.  
18:43:02 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : I wonder if Paul is in the English  
18:43:03 From Kami Brodie (she/her) to All panelists : I heard Spanish, on the English channel, with the original muted  
18:43:06 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : channel  
18:43:06 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to All panelists : Can you tell people how to find the toolbar?  
18:43:09 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : I think that's the issue  
18:43:10 From Margo Fritz (she/her) to All panelists : I don't think everyone has access to the toolbar, perhaps only panelists can see it?  
18:43:17 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) to All panelists : Can we also call out the chat dropdown function?  
18:43:42 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) to All panelists : to send a message to all attendees  
18:44:03 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : Could you hear me when I talked to Fartun?  
18:44:06 From Matt Barthelemy to All panelists : are we not supposed to see the other participants?  
18:44:07 From Kami Brodie (she/her) to All panelists : Are you hearing Daniel when he talks? I am  
18:44:40 From Shane Morin to All panelists : This isn't working for me  
18:44:42 From Julie Strand to All panelists : Stephanie needs to be let in  
18:44:44 From Gwen to All panelists : I don't think there's an option to select "all panelists and all attendees" fyi!  
18:45:23 From WA - Kaley, she/her to All panelists : Fixed Gwen!  
18:45:26 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : working now! hooray!  
18:45:33 From Shane Morin to All panelists : yep. I keep going back and forth trying it many times and it isn't working  
18:45:38 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Thank you for making the chat available to community  
18:45:39 From Nick Hutchinson : 🙏  
18:45:42 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : thank you! I know this

is stressful and hard :)

18:45:47 From Shane Morin to All panelists : Going to leave and come back

18:45:49 From Zachary W Levonian to All panelists : FYI, we had to switch laptops to let interpretation work; the version of Zoom we were running had no Interpretation feature visible. Not sure how many people this might be effecting..

18:45:52 From BD Nate Broadbridge (he/him) to All panelists : so when I'm on the Spanish channel, I can't hear Paul...

18:45:59 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : Same!

18:46:04 From BD - Erin Sjoquist she/her to All panelists : I am going to log off and log back on.

18:46:11 From WA Marcus - he/him : Reminder to all attendees to please sign-in using the form below

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwWdVR4gxOSAKf\\_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwWdVR4gxOSAKf_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform)

18:46:55 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) to All panelists : Kaley is there a way to allow attendees to communicate with one another in the chat box?

18:46:59 From Kate Nettleman, she/her to All panelists : You must be in fullscreen mode to access the language icon, in my experience here (FYI, if people are asking)

18:47:11 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Would someone please let Stephanie in?

18:47:37 From Shane Morin to All panelists : Okay - I left the meeting and was prompted to download an update. Now it's working correctly

18:48:07 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Thank you, Shane, Please make sure you have the most up to date version.

18:49:22 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) to All panelists : Could we let Stephanie in?

18:49:44 From Wendy Darst (she/they) : left and came back. had to use the passcode and meeting code. still hearing Spanish.

18:50:07 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him to Wendy Darst (she/they) and all panelists : Click "Mute Original Audio"

18:50:15 From Laura Jean : Where is the Agenda? I know I saw it somewhere but I am not finding it now? Thanx.

18:50:37 From Wendy Darst (she/they) : it is muted

18:51:08 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : Do we have a Somali interpreter?

18:51:10 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Agenda:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YtBPnId0NRsyyUjVCv3FVJswEgth1SBDvm\\_tRyFZ2XM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YtBPnId0NRsyyUjVCv3FVJswEgth1SBDvm_tRyFZ2XM/edit)

18:51:36 From Aldona Martinka :

<http://www.whittieralliance.org/special-meeting.html> Most of the documents you'll

need for the meeting can be found here

18:51:37 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : If you're hearing Spanish or Somali, hover over the bottom of your screen if on a computer, click the globe that says Interpretation, select the language you want to hear and also select "Mute Original Audio"

18:51:42 From Christine Popowski to All panelists : Christine Wendy click on interpretation then click English and mute

18:52:01 From Aldona Martinka : And make sure your zoom is up to date if possible

18:53:08 From Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre : Yes- in case anyone is still struggling with this, I had to leave the meeting, \*update zoom\*, and then the process worked for me

18:53:20 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : KYLE! <3

18:53:32 From Christine Popowski : Wendy click on interpretations then click English then click mute

18:53:42 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Agenda:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YtBPnId0NRsyyUjVCv3FVJswEgth1SBDvm\\_tRyFZ2XM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YtBPnId0NRsyyUjVCv3FVJswEgth1SBDvm_tRyFZ2XM/edit)

18:54:41 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : I'm Nico (or Nicole), she/her, 24th and 1st, and I love to walk my Deaf dog Sloane in her super cute sweater while all the neighborhood folks fawn all over her.

18:54:44 From benbauch : Ben B. Snowballs. Blaisdell Ave

18:54:47 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : Unfortunately, I think you had to name yourself when you logged in. No video box with three dots, or other way in.

18:54:55 From Patrick Alcorn (they/them) : Patrick (they/them): 25xx Harriet @

18:54:56 From Kate Nettleman, she/her : Kate Nettleman, she/her, 25th and Stevens, sledding with my daughter at Fair Oaks!

18:55:02 From Danielle Haidet (She/Her) : Danielle she/her 22nd & Nicollet - learning how to cross country ski this winter

18:55:13 From Harry Greenberg to All panelists : harry greenberg - he him- 25th & Garfield

18:55:29 From Zachary W Levonian : Hi folks, we are using an institutional account that can't have it's name edited, but we are Alex Aspell (he/him) and Zach Levonian (he/him) at 24th & Girard. We like going and staying indoors.

18:55:30 From Matt Barthelemy : Matt Barthelemy, he/him, 24XX Grand Ave. I've been finding joy in sledding and taking walks with buds

18:55:41 From Jeff Nelson : Jeff N. he/him 24th & 1st

18:55:48 From sadie (she/her) : Sadie Luetmer she/her 2400 block Pleasant Ave - just taking walks in the snow and slowing down

18:55:48 From Karla Hovde : Karla, she/her, Garfield and Franklin intersection, learning how to winter bike in the city!

18:55:48 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) to All panelists : Daniel can you add BD to your name?

18:55:49 From George Rishmawi : George Rishmawi, 26th & Garfield, going to try snow tubing!

18:55:49 From Willow Rheault Kreibich she/her : Willow, She/her, 24th/Pillsbury playing with my kids on the ever evolving snow pile created by our neighbor clearing the parking lot behind their building.

18:55:56 From rachel schmitt (she/hers) to All panelists : Rachel, She/Her. 22nd & Grand, teaching my brother-in-law and niece how to ice skate this winter!

18:56:10 From Nick Hutchinson : Nick he/him 26th and Pills ... I like riding my winter bike

18:56:14 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton : Hey folks! Jen Kader, right by Clinton Field Park. Trying to get out for regular walks to still enjoy all the beautiful things you only get to see/experience in winter in MN.

18:56:17 From caroline alkire (she/her) : Caroline A (she/her), 22nd & pleasant, drinking coffee indoors and staying warm! And walking with friends

18:56:24 From Nekessa (she/her) : Nekessa (she/her). Pleasant/24th  
18:56:30 From Krista Martinka to All panelists : Krista, she/her, 27th  
and 2nd  
18:56:32 From WA Marcus He/Him : Sign In!  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGWwDVR4gxOSAKf\\_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGWwDVR4gxOSAKf_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform)  
18:56:34 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Bridget Siljander,  
she/they. Franklin & Nicollet.  
18:56:46 From Matt Barthelemy : This is awesome!  
18:56:46 From Shane Morin : Shane, he/him, 24th and Blaisdell!  
18:57:02 From Alicia Gibson she/her to All panelists : Alicia she/her,  
visiting from Lowry Hill East. Snowy walks with my snow dog.  
18:57:03 From David Gilbert-Pederson (dgp) to All panelists :  
david/dgp, he/him, 27th and 2nd.  
18:57:03 From Michael P (he/him) : Michael, he/him, 25th & Blaisdell &  
drinking cocoa or tea  
18:57:05 From Kami Brodie (she/her) : Kami, she/her, 28th and Pleasant. I  
enjoy baking and watching snow fall from inside  
18:57:07 From Christine Popowski : Christine 26th & Ppleasant Chilling  
indoors.  
18:57:11 From Justin Kader (he/him) : Justin Kader he/him 24th and Clinton.  
Winter walks!  
18:57:33 From Wendy Darst (she/they) : wendy (she/they) 28th & harriet  
screen breal  
18:57:39 From Justin Kader (he/him) to All panelists : Lovely seeing  
all of your faces! It's been a while  
18:57:45 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) to All panelists : We're see  
the agenda not the code of conduct  
18:57:51 From Lauren Bevington : I'm Lauren! She/her, 25th & Grand. And a  
new fan of cross country skiing!  
18:57:57 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) to Justin Kader (he/him) and  
all panelists : Same, Justin!  
18:58:02 From Wendy Darst (she/they) : \*breaks  
18:59:06 From Wendy Darst (she/they) : is there closed captioning  
available? still have double audio  
18:59:31 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to Wendy Darst (she/they)  
and all panelists : There's not. We were struggling to do that and the translation.  
Kept having errors.  
18:59:56 From Julie Strand : I was having the double audio issue as well  
and then I updated my Zoom quick and it fixed it.  
19:00:03 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to Wendy Darst (she/they)  
and all panelists : Have you clicked the globe link and picked a language? Then go  
below all the languages and choose "Mute original language."  
19:00:17 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Is it possible to  
get a copy of the meeting norms?  
19:00:21 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to Wendy Darst (she/they)  
and all panelists : If you're still struggling, you can reset zoom.  
19:00:22 From Wendy Darst (she/they) : yes. have done that multiple times.  
19:00:22 From tom bitten : Tom Bissen Clinton Ave  
19:00:31 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him : Nate Broadbridge -

25th/Harriet - He/Him - Broomball! Otherwise staying indoors and growing house plants :)

19:00:38 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton : Wendy--yes! Select "Audio options in the lower left, and then select accessibility.

19:00:41 From Steven Frich : Hello everyone, my name is Steven Frich. I'm running for the ward 10 city council seat. My pronouns are he/him and I'm located at 28th and Colfax. Thank you to the Whittier Neighborhood Alliance for hosting this meeting.

19:00:56 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to Bridget A Siljander and all panelists : Do you mean the code of conduct, Bridget? I can try and find a link for you.

19:01:52 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Yes, thanks, BD Stephanie Brown.

19:02:21 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : How long has my face been showing there? I didn't realize that I was on the screen????

19:02:22 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to Bridget A Siljander and all panelists : Here is the code of conduct:  
[http://www.whittieralliance.org/uploads/8/2/6/0/82609372/whittier\\_alliance\\_standard\\_of\\_conduct\\_policy.pdf](http://www.whittieralliance.org/uploads/8/2/6/0/82609372/whittier_alliance_standard_of_conduct_policy.pdf)

19:03:44 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : We have some great candidates running for CP Bender's seat, as she's decided not to return to represent Ward 10. There are several campaign folks for Aisha Chughtai for Ward 10 on the call as well!  
[Aishaforward10.com](http://Aishaforward10.com)

19:04:56 From WA - Kaley, she/her : Sorry folks, cannot do any campaigning in this space tonight.

19:06:10 From Daniel Perez : Hi everyone! If you're still hearing Paul and Marcus simultaneously and you only speak English, please do the following:

1. Select the English channel.
2. Select Unmute Original Audio

19:06:27 From Daniel Perez : You should only be able to hear Marcus now

19:06:36 From Camree Tierney (she/her) : I also had to update my zoom app

19:06:48 From Erin Sjoquist : And if that doesn't work (because it didn't for me) go to Zoom and down load the latest updates.

19:08:23 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Shout out to the Whittier Alliance staff for all the work they do!

19:08:39 From Daniel Perez : Si tienen preguntas en español, por favor ponganlas aqui y yo las traducire y las ponder en la seccion de Preguntas y Respuestas (Q&A)

19:11:22 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) : To sign in and/or sign up for specific work:  
[http://www.whittieralliance.org/uploads/8/2/6/0/82609372/whittier\\_alliance\\_standard\\_of\\_conduct\\_policy.pdf](http://www.whittieralliance.org/uploads/8/2/6/0/82609372/whittier_alliance_standard_of_conduct_policy.pdf)

For further housing issues questions, contact Stephanie Brown:  
[stephanie@yellowhouseideas.com](mailto:stephanie@yellowhouseideas.com)

19:11:23 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : ^^^^^^ Housing Issues! Thank you Stephanie

19:12:08 From Fartun Ismail to All panelists :  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfC6FG2\\_XjEVOLBVdsPAWu9ZzEzGFf8k2wQwa8Huf1P](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfC6FG2_XjEVOLBVdsPAWu9ZzEzGFf8k2wQwa8Huf1P)

oUfveg/viewform?fbzx=-5487752674556497509

19:12:59 From WA Marcus He/Him : and all the best volunteers in the worrrllddd!!

19:13:05 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Thank you! It's a link to the conduct policy :)

19:17:31 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) : Apologies for link confusion! Here's the sign-up where you can express interest in housing issues or other topics/teams:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwWdVR4gxOSAKf\\_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwWdVR4gxOSAKf_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform)

19:18:34 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : beautiful. Thank you so much Jamie.

19:18:41 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) : Thank you!

19:18:44 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Beautiful! thank you Jamie!

19:18:47 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton : Thanks, Jamie!

19:18:48 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : That was so so lovely

19:18:49 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Thank you, Jamie!

19:18:50 From Shane Morin : Thanks!

19:18:50 From benbauch : snaps

19:18:55 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him to Lauren Bevington and all panelists : Thank you, Jamie!!

19:19:02 From Lauren Bevington : Beautiful, thank you!

19:19:10 From Steven Frich to All panelists : Thanks so much Jamie!

19:19:17 From Shane Morin : Hey all - Katie Jones is also running for ward 10 - [www.katieforward10.org](http://www.katieforward10.org) she isn't from Whittier but her campaign manager is ;) and there are some of her supporters on this call as well

19:19:23 From Kate Nettleman, she/her : Beautiful, thank you

19:19:31 From BD Brigid Higgins She/Her to All panelists : Beautiful! Thank you!

19:19:58 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him to Shane Morin and all panelists : Reminder: no campaigning in the chat

19:20:28 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton : Abbie's audio is not coming across.

19:20:29 From Julie Strand : Can't hear it

19:20:29 From WA Marcus He/Him : If you are new to the meeting or have yet to do so a reminder to sign in here

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwWdVR4gxOSAKf\\_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwWdVR4gxOSAKf_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform)

19:20:30 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) : No sound

19:20:38 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Because we've all muted original audio we can't hear

19:20:39 From Karla Hovde to All panelists : Video has no sound

19:20:51 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to All panelists : Unmuting original audio does not help

19:21:00 From WA - Kaley, she/her : Apologies

19:21:25 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : Kaley, when you go to "Share screen", you should have an option at the top to share computer audio.

19:21:45 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : Thanks for your patience and

understanding folks! This is our first big meeting in a COVID world

19:21:48 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him to All panelists : On "Sharing Screen" there's a button on bottom left corner that says "Share Audio"

19:21:56 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : I \*think\* that will still work with the muting of original audio.

19:22:20 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : YAY!

19:22:22 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Yay!

19:22:24 From Justin Kader (he/him) : it's working

19:22:25 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him to All panelists : BOOM BABY

19:22:27 From Daniel Perez to All panelists : It works!

19:22:28 From Julie Strand : Can hear it!

19:22:36 From BD Cyndi Hovey (she/her) : Y'all are the best. thanks for the support!

19:23:05 From Justin Kader (he/him) : The minor inconvenience of these small tech issues is worth it if it means we can be inclusive and have language interpretation

19:23:31 From Brigid Higgins : Great reminder, thanks Justin!

19:23:43 From Shane Morin : Agreed, Justin. Worth the wait to figure how to make it work

19:25:21 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Thanks for all your work, Exec team!

19:25:48 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : This is great! Thank you!

19:25:59 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Link: <http://www.whittieralliance.org/special-meeting>

19:26:00 From BD Brigid Higgins She/Her to All panelists : <http://www.whittieralliance.org/special-meeting.html>

19:27:41 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : LOVE the idea to include youth in our voting process

19:29:11 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : YES! We have SO many renters here, plus students! There are so many reasons why someone wouldn't have photo id.

19:29:17 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Oh thank you. This is so important

19:29:23 From benbauch : I rent!

19:29:44 From Kami Brodie (she/her) : Vouching is SO important!

19:29:52 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : If you have recently moved and haven't yet updated your ID, this would allow you to still vote! That's so rad.

19:30:01 From Brigid Higgins : Renter power!!!

19:30:16 From Shane Morin : Knock em down!

19:32:49 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Wow! A LOT of very thoughtful work went into this! I am going to bring these changes to a board I sit on as an example of inclusive policy

19:32:59 From Christine Popowski : How do you keep people from another neighborhood from coming to our meeting and voting

19:33:16 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Very impressive work!

19:33:28 From WA Marcus He/Him to All panelists : Checking in on our interpretation crew. Pauses are adequate and able to keep up?

19:33:50 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Christine, feel free to pop your question in the Q&A section so it can be addressed

19:34:00 From rachel schmitt (she/hers) : I am loving what I'm hearing so

far- both creative and inclusive!!

19:34:07 From caroline alaire (she/her) : Sounds awesome!!!

19:34:45 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : I really appreciate you working to expand access! When I first moved here I had a very hard time voting as a new resident and renter.

19:36:14 From Ella Kampelman to All panelists : oops gonna send that again to everyone :)

19:36:50 From Ella Kampelman : I really appreciate you working to expand access! When I first moved here I had a very hard time voting as a new resident and renter.

19:36:51 From Shane Morin : As someone who just moved back to Whittier - I am just blown away by how awesome everything I'm seeing is. This organization has made tremendous progress since I left

19:38:34 From Justin Kader (he/him) : All of these changes are so vital to Whittier Alliance becoming even more inclusive and accessible. It was a TON of work and a long time in the making. I am really proud to have served on the board and to be a part of the process. HUGE shoutout to Jen Kader and the other Bylaws Task Force members for their incredible leadership on this and the rest of the board for their continued work moving this forward.

19:39:28 From rachel schmitt (she/hers) : I wish all Boards were this intentional!!!

19:41:06 From Matt Barthelemy : YES!

19:41:06 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Cyndi LOL

19:41:21 From BD Cyndi Hovey (she/her) : sorry bout it :)

19:41:27 From Daniel Perez : YES!!!

19:42:13 From BD Cyndi Hovey (she/her) : Thank you for all the question submission. keep em coming, everyone!

19:45:01 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : YESSSSSS

19:45:07 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : anti-ableist

19:45:42 From Kate Nettleman, she/her : Thank you for that video presentation and all the work crafting bylaws changes!

19:46:01 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton : So exciting to see this meeting happen. I'm so proud to have worked with the task force and staff over the many months this took place while still on the board. Shout out to all the participants of that effort—current and past exec and board, community members at the community workshop in 2019, and all the people who have chimed in for years on challenges and opportunities! It's also heartening to see the feedback from participants shared in the chat.

19:46:09 From WA Marcus He/Him : Also a reminder for to sign-in with the following form if you have not already  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGWdDVR4gxOSAKf\\_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffcGwOjUcRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGWdDVR4gxOSAKf_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffcGwOjUcRw/viewform)

19:48:04 From Christine Popowski : Christine Appreciate the answer.

19:51:52 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : It's important to not get too bogged down on what MIGHT happen as we look forward to inclusive policies that highlight what CAN happen when we're thoughtful and intentional

19:52:13 From Kami Brodie (she/her) : Yes, Nicole!

19:52:34 From Justin Kader (he/him) : Hear, Hear!

19:53:10 From rachel schmitt (she/hers) to All panelists : What Nico said!!!!!!

19:53:25 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : I'm loving how much work when into this and how these bylaws were written with the hope of representing folks who make our neighborhood and haven't been invited to the table rather than a misplaced fear or excluding folks who already have power and influence.

19:53:38 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : \*of excluding

19:54:05 From rachel schmitt (she/hers) : Thank you for articulating what I was feeling, too, Nico. These bylaws feel hopeful.

19:55:58 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : ^^^^^^ Nate B!

19:56:12 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : I, for example, work a lot of evenings...

20:00:37 From Alec Glass to All panelists : Keep up the good work, team!

20:02:06 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) to All panelists : can you mention how we will verify eligibility?

20:02:21 From Jesus Oyervides to All panelists : what was the reason that no body contact me when I wanted to be reinstate after I resign me

20:03:11 From WA - Kaley, she/her : English voting form:  
<https://forms.gle/EKeAeqArtmj1ZpxX7>

20:03:35 From Alicia Gibson she/her to All panelists : I really admire the intentionality of these changes and the meeting itself. Thank you for providing an excellent example for the ward for a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.

20:03:42 From WA Marcus He/Him : 33 Sign-ins, 46 Attendees, so close! Sign-in here for our records and to ensure we have your contact information for future meetings and opportunities  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwDVR4gxOSAKf\\_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGwDVR4gxOSAKf_uhFdchKHbohWF4jIPHVo2ffCgWojUcRw/viewform)

20:04:20 From WA - Kaley, she/her : Votar en espanol:  
<https://forms.gle/dUVGoxYNHkEPeYe7>

20:05:43 From WA - Kaley, she/her : in lagu codeeyo af somali:  
<https://forms.gle/cH8UyJgzD8rsLvBW8>

20:06:43 From WA - Kaley, she/her : In person voting times at the WA office (10 E 25th St):

20:06:46 From WA - Kaley, she/her : Friday 1/15 - Marcus, 9:30am--5:30pm  
Monday 1/18- Fartun, 8:00am--3:00pm  
Tuesday 1/19 - Kaley, 9:30am--3:00 pm  
Wednesday 1/20 - Marcus, 9:30am-5:30pm  
Thursday 1/21 - Kaley, 9:30am--8:00pm

\*Or by appointment by calling 612-871-7756 or emailing [info@whittieralliance.org](mailto:info@whittieralliance.org).

20:07:02 From WA Marcus He/Him to All panelists : Potentially worth noting that these steps and actions are not only best practices but also an expectation and standard to maintain our City funding.

20:07:13 From Alicia Gibson she/her : I really admire the intentionality of these changes and the meeting itself. Thank you for providing an excellent example for the ward of a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.

20:08:31 From Camree Tierney (she/her) : Thanks WA! I am really excited about these new bylaws, especially the one that allows young people in our neighborhood to be more involved!

20:08:44 From Jen Kader (she/her), neighbor at 25th & Clinton to All panelists : You all are fantastic! Sorry we have to leave! We're late to an 8:00

engagement. Thank you all for all of your work. WE MISS YOU!!!

20:08:44 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Find it at <https://guante.info/>

20:08:47 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : !!!

20:09:07 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Say hi to UyenThi! xoxox

20:09:19 From Julie Strand :  
<https://buttonpoetry.com/product/love-song-death-rattle-battle-cry/>

20:09:39 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : Mpd150.com/report

20:09:48 From Willow Rheault Kreibich she/her : I am so, so incredibly happy to see all of this come to fruition. Thank you to all the folks who put unbelievable amounts of time, effort and love into making this happen. My process loving nerdy self is swooning. So much love and gratitude for all y'all.

#lovemyneighborhood

20:09:52 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : mpd150.org/report

20:09:52 From Aisha Chughtai to All panelists : ^^ yes! hi to UyenThi!!

20:09:54 From Nico/le ((she/her)) : My bad

20:10:20 From Steven Frich to All panelists : Thanks WA! Really appreciate all the hard work you took to revising these bylaws.

20:11:12 From Julie Strand : Thank you Guante!!

20:11:25 From Jesus Oyervides to All panelists : can we vote postpone the vote

20:12:02 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : thank you Guante!

20:13:01 From BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) to Jesus Oyervides and all panelists : At this point, the board has approved the bylaws and the vote timing, so while the neighborhood votes yes or no on approval, there is not a way to delay the vote.

20:14:47 From Kate Nettleman, she/her : Thank you all for the meeting, presentations, and performances! Be well, all.

20:15:04 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : snaps!

20:15:12 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : This whole event has been amazing - thank you all!!

20:15:14 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : <3

20:15:18 From Michael P (he/him) : <3

20:15:38 From Nick Hutchinson : 🙌

20:16:05 From Julie Strand : Thank you for bringing this to us tonight!

20:16:25 From WA - Kaley, she/her : We're all still here with you, Guante! Thank you!

20:17:12 From Christine Popowski : Christine Great meeting Gotta go

20:19:16 From Sadie (she/her) : Thanks so much to those who put in all the time and intention to design these changes and make this vote possible.

20:19:48 From Kami Brodie (she/her) : Thank you, Guante!

20:19:58 From Sadie (she/her) : And this meeting – including performances. Really grateful, to organizers and artists

20:20:00 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : Brilliant!

20:20:40 From Julie Strand : !!!

20:20:41 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) : Thank you!

20:20:45 From Harry Greenberg to All panelists : so glad and thankful to hear Kyle for the 1st time- very fitting to have him close the meeting!

20:20:49 From Alicia Gibson she/her : Wow. Mic drop. Amazing, Guante.

20:20:50 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Thank you!

20:20:56 From Rachel Schmitt (she/hers) to All panelists : thank you so

much!!!

20:21:02 From BD Brigid Higgins She/Her to All panelists : \*Snaps!!\*

20:21:09 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : So topical for this meeting!  
Thank you!!!

20:21:23 From caroline alkire (she/her) : Beautiful words, thank you  
Guante! And thank you Whittier Alliance for all your hard work on these awesome  
bylaws!

20:21:25 From rachel schmitt (she/hers) : grateful for everyone– thanks for  
spreading a bit of hope in a dark time, and for everyone’s hard work on the Board!!!

20:22:03 From jesus Oyervides to All panelists : the right thing to do  
let members decide that not not only the board you serve and if any member put for  
amotion

20:24:38 From BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) to jesus Oyervides and all  
panelists : Unfortunately, motions cannot be made because we do not have quorum. If  
you are uncomfortable with any of these changes you can vote no and include your  
feedback.

20:25:09 From jesus Oyervides to All panelists : the right thing to do  
reinstat me to the bord

20:27:04 From Matt Barthelemy : Ayyyyyy! <applause> Beautiful. I wish you  
could feel the energy you inspire and nourish here, Guante. Thank you for putting  
such intentionality in connecting people with the powerful ideas you elevate!

20:27:06 From Julie Strand : Thank you!!

20:27:18 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : So good!

20:27:18 From Nick Hutchinson : 🙌🙌🙌

20:27:21 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him : Thank you!!!

20:27:23 From Jamie Kubat (they/them) : phenomenal! thank you Guante!!

20:27:51 From Laura Jean : My kids up past bedtime appreciate the closing  
presentation. A nice addition to meetings. I know for those deeply involved you may  
feel or have done a lot of outreach but from someone who hasn’t been able to be as  
engaged see part about kids, pandemic etc, it doesn’t feel like the outreach was  
enough that the mailing was the first thing that caught my attention about the  
bylaws. No one I reached out to knew about it either -neighbors and business owners  
etc. which only reinforces that perception about the outreach related to this. I do  
appreciate the work you are all doing, I hope moving forward the Board will have  
more than one opportunity nearly a year earlier to participate in major changes and  
decisions. The way this was done seems to undermine the very transparency you aspire  
to.

20:29:12 From Michael P (he/him) : :)

20:29:26 From Matt Barthelemy : Thank you so much, Whittier alliance board  
and staff for making bylaw conversations engaging and even fun and inspiring.

20:31:59 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : Thank you for the feedback! I  
just want to note that, based on the strategic plan that was voted on at the last  
annual meeting, we increased our engagement efforts specifically towards renters and  
BIPOC folks. I’m sorry that you didn’t feel like you were specifically reached out  
to, please share feedback about specific ways you have been successfully engaged in  
the past when you cast your vote! We are always always learning and working to  
improve!

20:32:05 From Matt Barthelemy : Thank you

20:32:08 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : I love that!

20:32:09 From Matt Barthelemy : Jamie!

20:32:23 From Matt Barthelemy : I'm so grateful for all the work y'all have done, Staff and board. It's clear passion for community building towards a better future is present and thriving. Excited to re-engage in the work of the neighborhood <3

20:32:24 From Michael P (he/him) : Thank you!

20:32:31 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : Thank you so so much, so grateful for this amazing community

20:32:35 From BD Katie Heimer (she/her) : Thanks for interpreting, Paul!

20:32:36 From George Rishmawi : thanks everyone!

20:32:38 From BD Brigid Higgins She/Her to All panelists : Thank you Jamie!!!

20:32:38 From Matt Barthelemy : I teared up a few times no joke

20:32:39 From WA Marcus He/Him : Thank you to everyone!!!

20:32:55 From Matt Barthelemy : Thank you Paul!!!!

20:33:01 From Jamie Kubat (they/them) : Thanks so much Paul!

20:33:06 From BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) : Matt, you're going to make me tear up!

20:33:13 From Bridget A Siljander to All panelists : thank you Paul!

20:33:30 From Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre (he/him/his) : Thank you all!

20:33:32 From BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him : Thank you EVERYONE!

20:33:50 From Matt Barthelemy : Goodnight!

20:33:57 From Michael P (he/him) : Goodnight!

# THE WHITTIER ALLIANCE

## Question & Answer Submissions from Whittier Alliance Special Meeting 1/14/21

Watch the live, interactive [Q&A portion here](#) by advancing to timestamp: **1:07:40**. The following are questions and answers submitted via text through the Zoom Webinar Q&A feature.

**1. Question:**

Laura Jean 07:33 PM

For Membership Age Eligibility Are you saying a member could use a bill OR a ID card? Or do they need both in some form for same day registration? I'm concerned about the language "any form of ID is acceptable" This seems very open to abuse.

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 07:34 PM

They could use either or both. The bylaws also list out the specific list of ID cards that are accepted (passport, id, tribal id, student id, work id, etc).

**2. Question:**

Anonymous Attendee 01:28 PM

How do you keep people from another neighborhood from coming to our meeting and voting

Christine Popowski 07:36 PM

How do you keep people from another neighborhood who are attending the meeting from voting

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 07:37 PM

The new bylaws regarding member registration should not cause concern, as they are modeled after existing Minnesota laws for voter registration. There has never been any substantiated evidence of widespread voter fraud in elections for government office under these rules for election. They are very similar to what is listed on the Minnesota Secretary of State website.

BD Cyndi Hovey (she/her) 07:45 PM

Great question. All members will be required to register providing proof of residence to be added to the membership list . They will not be required to provide a photo ID, which disenfranchises renters, students and undocumented folks.

**Comments:**

Laura Jean 07:45 PM

The proposed WA bylaws do not match the SOS. You only don't need the photo ID when someone vouches for you or you have preregistered (or have a valid receipt for a state drivers license or learners permit ). It does not allow for "Any ID".

Laura Jean 07:46 PM

I agree there is not widespread voter fraud in elections. I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about experience here in Whittier and Mpls with neighborhood organizations.

Nico/le ((she/her)) 07:51 PM

It's important to not get too bogged down in what MIGHT happen when we're focused on what CAN happen by making more inclusive policies

**3. Question:**

Laura Jean 07:39 PM

The Absence policy seems like it could make it harder from some to serve on the board. If they have an "unexcused absence" (which I've not been subjected to since at least high school), They would have to find double time to work it off subject to a lot of oversight as to what qualifies to excuse the absence. Seems micromanagy. Seems better to allow a reasonable amount of absences that do not need to be excused.

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 07:40 PM

Thank you for the feedback!

BD Aldona Martinka (she/her) 07:42 PM

That is helpful feedback, but I think it's important to note that the existing bylaws are much more restrictive, with unexcused absences and no recognition of the work that board members put in outside of board meetings.

BD Stephanie Brown (she/her) 07:47 PM

An unexcused absence is still allowed under the new bylaws.

**4. Question:**

Laura Jean 07:41 PM

But if the language say "Any ID" that implies it could be something other than what you list. It's not too hard to make an ID. Most of course wouldn't do this. But bad actors will and have. Corrupt developers in the past tried to stack the deck and have been successful damaging other neighborhood organizations. It should be an open as is possible but going to far the other way might create a risk for the WA.

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 07:44 PM

We are aware of situations that have occurred in the past, and discussed many hypothetical situations when writing these. However, we firmly believe it should not be more difficult to participate in a neighborhood organization than a state or federal election.

BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him 07:45 PM

A developer engaging in that type of activity will likely be violating other policies simultaneously

**5. Question:**

jesus Oyervides 07:51 PM

in order to have a fair vote we have to talk in person to all the residents in whittier and asking to postpone the vote lets not get divided

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 07:52 PM

Please keep comments in the chat and questions in the QA

BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him 07:52 PM

We're open to chat at any time and the voting lasts for 7 days! Send us a message and let's connect.

**6. Question:**

Laura Jean 07:52 PM

To the Absence policy. If a board member misses a board meeting because they have a sick child, do they have to find 4 hours to make it up. Which might be impossible in which case having 3 absences over 2 would be more fair.

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 07:52 PM

That would be considered an excused absence.

Laura Jean 07:56 PM

But then you get fewer absences and you can't really make the time to do that level of volunteer work you have less flexibility.

BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him 07:56 PM

Ultimately it will always be some time commitment and we don't want to completely eliminate that

**7. Question:**

Laura Jean 07:58 PM

I wish this was the first informational meeting where our feedback had the chance to be considered rather than the voting meeting. How are the votes being handled to ensure confidentiality and transparency. In the past the WA had the League or Women Voters help run that for that purpose. How will it work now?

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 08:00 PM

That was during the community issues meeting. To your second point, we are bringing in a third party to verify votes and insure confidentiality. I cannot remember who it is. That would be a great question for Kaley and Cyndi!

Justin Kader (he/him) 08:00 PM

Laura Jean, there have been a number of opportunities where information was provided and your feedback had the chance to be considered

**Question:**

Laura Jean 08:04 PM

Shouldn't the ballots go directly to the thrid party?

**Answer(s):**

BD Nate Broadbridge - he/him 08:05 PM

It's my understanding that Google form responses are securely saved in the back-end and can be referenced outside of the google sheet they produce.

WA - Kaley, she/her 08:19 PM

Hi all, yes, we will have a neutral third party processing the responses provided once the voting period closes next week.

**8. Question:**

Laura Jean 08:05 PM

There was one CI last February. Was this draft tof the bylaws available? That wasn't clear in the minutes.

**Answer(s):**

BD Abbie Speller (She/Her) 08:06 PM

It was a rough draft at that time. We made more changes based on the feedback we got. There were also changes we wanted to propose that we did not include, due to community feedback.

# THE WHITTIER ALLIANCE

## Reasoning behind member votes

Below are comments received through the optional section at the end of 2021 Whittier Alliance Bylaws Proposal ballot. Comments that included any identifying information have been removed. All stakeholder comments received are appreciated and valued, as they will continue to inform ongoing review of our organization's policies, procedures, and guiding documents.

<b>Would you like to share any reasoning behind your vote? (optional)</b>
Supportive of/confident in current WA leadership.
I do not support, on principle, any proposal that is "all or nothing". That is not a way to make decisions; it is authoritarian as it prevents discussion, careful consideration and potential compromise
Love that youth will be able to participate in the voting process in the future!
I really love the updates that focus on inclusivity. These are awesome amendments that will greatly benefit the community!
I think it is important to make it easier for people to vote and join the neighborhood association.
Although I question the voting age I agree with basic updates.
These are great strides towards making local involvement more accessible and attainable to ensure the voting voices of the community represent the members and business owners. Aligning neighborhood voting standards with state/federal requirements is a no-brainer.
It looks like a lot of thought went into these changes, with the goal of making the organization more effective and more accessible. Good work!!!
We should strive to be a more equitable community, and this change is a step in that direction.
Neighborhood organizations historically have a high barrier to engagement, and I am excited to vote for ways to reduce that so more people will feel able to be involved!
I value the ways that the proposal makes participation more equitable and focuses on including more of the residents impacted by issues.
Well thought out by many committed people
I recently moved to the neighborhood and I'm hoping to be an active member of this organization, and the eligibility verification process to participate in this vote was unnecessarily arduous. I'm hopeful that these bylaw changes will eliminate such barriers.
Lots of changes in one vote - I have some issues with a few but overall the change sounds good. Consider separating the vote in the future so that "poison pills" don't drive people away that are less considerate.
I want more people to be eligible to vote and run for council positions.
I believe community participation should be as accessible as possible!
I've poured blood sweat and tears into these at this point.
I agree with all the changes and in particular I think it's ridiculous that WA proof of eligibility requirements are more restrictive than those for voting in municipal, state and federal elections
great update of by laws

# THE WHITTIER ALLIANCE

For over a decade, I have heard from my neighbors that they have experienced challenges engaging with the Whittier Alliance, in part for many because of the bylaws. I am thrilled with the changes and grateful to everyone who helped make them happen. Consider this a hearty, enthusiastic YES vote!

I think these changes are important improvements in accessibility and inclusion. It's clear you put a lot of thought into these and that they will make things easier for both the board and constituents.

I'm really grateful for the work that went into these changes. Making WA responsive to the changes our communities need to reflect accountability, justice, and inclusivity should be exactly what this organization is for.

I am so excited about the efforts to make the organization more inclusive and welcoming, particularly to members of communities who have not traditionally had much of a say in the direction of the organization.

Amazing, visionary, state-of-the-art amendments!

Great work on making the organization more inclusive!

Thank you for your thoughtful work updating bylaws. All changes seem reasonable, and invite greater inclusion. I love that Whittier residents ages 15-17 would now be able to vote! Great idea.

Having been part of the board and the bylaws taskforce, I saw firsthand the need for these changes as well as the immense devotion WA has to helping create a better Whittier.

I appreciate the intentionality behind making the WA a more inclusive organization by removing barriers to access. Everything that has gone into the bylaws changes supports the idea of a more progressive and inclusive community!

I am so, so happy to see this work finally be done. I have lots of privilege and still have not always been able to vote. So grateful for the thoughtful intentional process to address these burdensome bylaws and the efforts to educate and inform and engage our community in this process. Well done!!!!

The age requirement to 15 concerns me and I'd like my comment added to the record.

Thank you to the board and staff for your combined efforts on behalf of our neighborhood

Thank you for all your work to make this neighborhood a more inclusive place!

Absolutely love this proposal, extremely appreciative of all the work the community has put into this

Everyone here should have a say in our neighborhood whether they have the resources to own property or not.

I wholeheartedly believe in each one of these changes! The Whittier Alliance is continues to move in the direction of a more equitable and inclusive neighborhood organization that is more reflective of the residents of the neighborhood.

Thank you SO MUCH for your intentional, thoughtful work on this.

Should wait for in person meeting for something as important as this

not enough outreach

Many of the changes are acceptable, but I am very concerned about allowing people to vote based on vouching by a neighbor. In the past this has been a serious problem when important and controversial issues were up for debate and vote. Also, I am not in favor of reducing the voting age to 15.

# THE WHITTIER ALLIANCE

Many of the changes were good but I can't support the change in age to 15. yes it would be good for youth to get democratic experience but they don't have the experience or hold stakes in the neighborhood to have the responsibility to make important votes about our future in the neighborhood. I have many years of experience in leadership with the Alliance including 2 stints as Chair and I have seen how certain groups will stack meetings to get their way. It would be very easy for parents to recruit and vouch for their children in this way if they desired.

Insufficient communication and lack of community input for such substantive changes.

Is my vote not confidential? It certainly should be. I'm uncomfortable with the lack of appropriate procedures around voting and the ballots. I'm also concerned about the lack of transparency. How can I trust my ballot will be counted. There is good reason we had the votes handled by the League of Women Voters. Staff should not be overseeing this process anymore than Board members. The time to ask opinion about the proposed bylaws is prior to the vote. Survey's would have worked well at least and could have been done online at available on paper. The biggest reason I'm voting NO, is there was not enough outreach and engagement and making so many changes during a time where it is so difficult to reach people and for people to have the resources to be involved when we are literally trying not to die from a pandemic and the other crisis happening at the same time makes it unconscionable that the WA would even think to do this NOW.

It gives the appearance of taking advantage of the situation to make the changes the current board wants. The only changes that seem reasonable at this time are the ones that make it clearly allowable to hold virtual meetings, and eliminate the membership activation. Its good to make voter registration easier but this goes a bit too far to be able to provide the verification needed for same day registration.

I wish we were able to individually vote on the proposed changes, because there's a lot of good progress here. However, I respectfully disagree with the proposition of the board shrinking for the sake of scheduling efficiency. Limiting the community's opportunity to be involved at the board level and consolidating voices creates an echo chamber that is difficult to break into.

Not enough time - no notification by Alliance but by word of mouth

Not enough discussion of "what could possibly go wrong"

opposed to the lowering membership to age 15 - perhaps there is a way to internship younger residents. also we need more voices so am opposed to lowering # of board members and unclear on merging business into general