



Whittier Alliance 2007 Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2008 6-8:30pm

Whittier International Elementary School

Letter from the Board Chair, Erica Christ

Welcome to the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting! Thank you for choosing to engage in the events of your neighborhood and your neighborhood organization!

2007 was an exciting year for the neighborhood. Despite the slowdown in the building and development market, some important projects are moving forward in Whittier. This is a testament to the desirability of the neighborhood and the high level of participation of our residents and businesses.

We are nothing if not an engaged neighborhood. The level and quality of participation in our meetings and events is outstanding. Our meetings have meaningful dialogue. Neighbors are willing to work with other neighbors, businesses and developers to make plans and find solutions that are best for the neighborhood. This is the only way we will maintain the things we like best about our neighborhood and change the things we find challenging. Next time you are planning to come to a meeting, bring another neighbor with you—there are many exciting projects in the pipeline for 2008 and beyond!

Not only do neighbors build community by showing up to meetings, but by supporting their neighborhood organization. Thank you for your generous support last year. Our Spring fundraiser was the best ever and the Fall fundraiser brought in many new donors. Please take a moment to read over the list of financial supporters; we would like them to get all the appreciation they deserve!

Lastly, please join me in expressing gratitude to our skilled, creative and uncompromising full time staff: Marian Biehn, Executive Director, and Josie Shardlow, Community Organizer. We are lucky to have such dedicated people working for the neighborhood and making it possible for the rest of us to participate fully in the process of neighborhood activism.

Whittier Alliance Executive Director Report, Marian Biehn

The Whittier Alliance effectively fosters opportunities that benefit Whittier and result in a more livable neighborhood. However, for Whittier and neighborhoods all around the City, 2007 was a pivotal year for future neighborhood sustainability and influence in the decision making process.

Policy, funding and governance changes were introduced by the City and have direct consequences for neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations. The City has turned to the neighborhoods to help develop an effective Community Engagement model. Funding for the Phase 2 Neighborhood Revitalization Program was reduced by 30%. And, finally, the City introduced the "Framework for the Future" - its proposal to replace Neighborhood Revitalization Program which sunsets in 2009. NRP, while needing some adjustments, has given neighborhoods over the past 15-20 years the autonomy and flexibility to make improvements and sponsor programs that have had significant positive impact on quality of life in Whittier. We ask that you stay involved while these policy discussions continue.

Although these policy discussions are important, the Whittier Alliance's most vital work is done on behalf of the residents and businesses. The Whittier Board worked on a **Strategic Plan** to continue growth and prosperity in the neighborhood. Additional components of the Whittier **NRP Phase 2 Action Plan** were implemented. Our **website** was updated to be more professional and exciting and to better reflect the activities of the neighborhood. Hundreds of engaged community members attended our **monthly meetings** and brought thoughtful discussion into the decision making process. More participated in **Task Forces** helping to advance the Whittier position on issues such as **LRT** and the **Pedestrian Overlay**. The **Development Review Group** affected better outcomes for neighborhood developments. And, in collaboration with Lyndale and Stevens Square, we sponsored two **Non-English Speaking Business Seminars**.

As Executive Director I am proud to work for a neighborhood that believes in and practices civic engagement. By being attentive and putting voice to our best interests, we have been and will continue to be effective in making positive changes in Whittier. Thank you for supporting the Whittier Alliance.

Board of Directors – Serving in 2007

Officers

Erica Christ, Chair
Paula Horan, Vice Chair
Tom Bissen, Treasurer
Damon Nelson, Secretary
Elizabeth Grzechowiak, Secretary

Standing Committee Chairs

Destin Nygard, Community Issues
Erica Christ, Business Association

At Large Members

Alex Bauman	Larry Ludeman
Tom Bissen	Bruce Lundeen
Chris Carrow	Linda Martin
Wendy Darst	Damon Nelson
Felino de la Peña	Destin Nygard
Eric Grumdahl	Jesse Oyervides
Paula Horan	Jim Walsh

Business Association Representatives

Andrew Church	Erica Christ
Elizabeth Grzechowiak	Lisa Vecoli

Staff

Marian Biehn, Executive Director
Josie Shardlow, Community Organizer
Eric James, Office Coordinator



Business Association, Erica Christ, Chair

The Business Association meets regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. A different business hosts each meeting and the starting time – morning, lunchtime or late afternoon – is determined by the host business. Each host business has a few minutes in the spotlight at the top of the meeting. It's a great way to get to know our business neighbors, celebrate our successes and join in supporting our common goals for a vibrant neighborhood.

Meeting topics range from City-wide issues to individual business changes and plans. Our biggest item this past year (and it will continue to be) is the proposed Midtown-Nicollet alignment for the Southwest Transitway Light Rail line. More locally, we approved the proposed Pedestrian Overlay for Nicollet Avenue, which was in turn approved by the City Council in August. The BA received a BA-CPED grant which funded graffiti removal, expansion and maintenance of the Whittier Business website and façade improvements. Additionally, we heard from our Councilman about ongoing City issues and projects and from our 5th Precinct Police representatives about safety issue, business crime updates and prevention.

Several big development proposals are in the works and we have welcomed developers and property owners to our meetings to present their plans. The Ace/Ice House development at 26th and Nicollet was one of the most important new development proposals of the year. The Murals of LynLake is under construction now. And there are plans to redevelop the building that housed Joe's Chicken Shack.

Many of our Whittier Businesses had plans to change or expand, including BP, Bob's Java Hut, MCAD, Vera's Café, Jasmine 26 and Wendy's. We welcomed many new businesses to Whittier and sadly said goodbye to some old friends.

We welcomed the following new businesses:

- Head to Toe Salon & Boutique
- Vinh Loi BBQ
- Relax Exotic Chinese
- Anew Fitness and Spa
- Jasmine 26
- Nook and Cranny
- Nicollet Vision Center

We said goodbye to some Whittier businesses

- Lee's Cleaners (hopefully only temporarily)
- Yummy
- Bubble Delite
- Sinbad's Café & Market
- Argente Photographie
- Yukon Club

We thank our host businesses in 2007: Tasks Unlimited, Sindbad's Deli, Three Sons Catering/Blaisdell Manor, Old Arizona, Azia, Los Amigos, Creation Audio, MCAD, Rainbow Chinese, Gale Mansion and Nico Plating.

Please join us this year! We have many exciting developments and projects in the works. Our group encompasses non-profit and for profit, industrial and service oriented, big institutions and small family-run stores. Residents and property owners are welcome to attend our meetings as well. Whittier is a great place to live, work and run a business!

Community Issues, Destin Nygard, Chair

The purpose of the Community Issues (CI) Committee meetings is to address issues vital to the neighborhood regarding safety, housing and land use and community building. The goal is to use a "town hall meeting" format providing community members an opportunity to be updated on the full range of community events and news as well as an opportunity to raise concerns or provide feedback and comments to the Whittier Alliance.

The committee format begins with an open forum for community announcements and news. The remaining time is spent discussing property development requests and changes, and hearing from other presenters. The Community Issues meetings continued to be very well attended over the past year, with several meetings packed to overflowing.

In 2007 the CI Committee heard presentations covering a wide range of issues. The committee frequently forwards motions to the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors, which in turn advises the City of Minneapolis on critical issues affecting our neighborhood. Some of the major issues and projects discussed in the past year include:

- MCAD Expansion / Master Planning
- Icehouse / Ace Hotel and Retail Development
- Rex Hardware Site Condominium Development
- Midwest Machinery / Karmel Village Residential Development
- Joe's Chicken Shack / Kim Bartmann Restaurant
- Bob's Java Hut Building Expansion
- City of Minneapolis Community Engagement Process
- Future of NRP-Frame Work for the Future

Transportation was a critical topic with potentially long lasting impacts on the neighborhood. On going discussions included possible streetcar lines along Nicollet Ave. and through the Midtown Greenway, Bus Rapid Transit along I-35W with the recognized need for a Lake St. station, and a trimmed down version of the 35W / Lake Street Access Project.

Perhaps most importantly, we've had numerous discussions regarding the possibility of routing Light Rail Transit (LRT) through the heart of Whittier. One proposed routing for the Southwest LRT runs down the Midtown Greenway before turning north up Nicollet Avenue. This routing could have major impacts on the neighborhood and will remain a critical topic.



Pedestrian Overlay Task Force helped to shape a new vision for Nicollet Ave that will improve our neighborhood's signature street. The approved plan helps to ensure that all future development will contribute to a high quality pedestrian experience that reinforces the importance of street front retail. We also discussed the (long hoped for) reopening of Nicollet Avenue to Lake Street.

Residents, business, and property owners are passionate about our neighborhood, and that makes for engaging, exciting, and sometimes surprising meetings. Critically, though, the CI meetings remain a venue where we try to ensure that all points of view have a chance to come forward. In addition, the meetings remain a great way for attendees to catch up on the critical issues affecting our large, diverse neighborhood. It's always exciting to see new faces at our meetings, and we look forward to hearing your voice in the upcoming year.

Resource Development, Marian Biehn, Executive Director

The Whittier Alliance continues to diversify and expand its income sources and reserve funds. On an annual basis, the Whittier Alliance sponsors 2 major and one minor fundraiser. These fundraising events are an important part of our annual budget. They also build community awareness of the resources, advocating and activities provided by the Whittier Alliance. Because Citizen Participation and NRP funding have been cut, successful revenue building through fundraising will continue to be an important function of the Whittier Alliance. We are especially appreciative of the generosity of our friends and neighbors who financially contribute to the Whittier Alliance, attend fundraising events or give in-kind donations to the organization.

Income from fundraising in 2007:

Fall Fundraising 2006 received in 2007	1,755
May Day Soiree Silent & Live Auction Neighborhood Benefit	19,112
Hennepin Lake Liquors Multi-Neighborhood Wine Tasting	925
Fall Fundraising Campaign-2007	6,005
Misc. Donations	120
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Total	\$27,917

Thank you to our 2007 contributors and supporters:

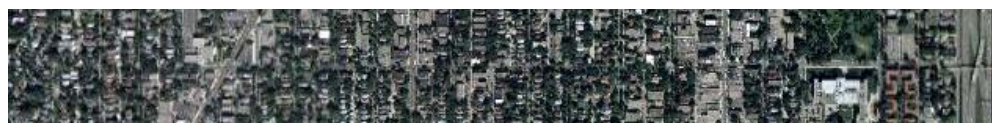
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|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Alex Bauman | Erica Christ | Alan Ingber | Pam Nordaune |
| Abdikadir Adan-Somali Education Center | Andrew Church | Mark Jossart-Kleinman Realty | Nuway House |
| Michaela Ahern | Keith Covart-Electric Fetus | Kate Kellett-Park Nicollet | Destin Nygard |
| Marilyn Anderson | Andrew Cox | Fran Killian | Becky Olson |
| Denise Arambadjis-It's Greek to Me | Wendy Darst | Lee Klement | Scott & Barbara Olson |
| Jim Armstrong | Felino de la Pena | Kelly Koehnen | Mark Otness-Fair Oaks Apartments |
| Javier Azpiri | Cy & Paula DeCosse | Michael Lawyer & Cara Spaccarelli | Moses Renault-Moses |
| Martha Ballou | Wayne Delange | Barb & Kevin Lickness | Patricia B Saunders |
| David & Dominique Bereiter | David Dorava | Robert Lilligren | Jeff Shade |
| Tom Berthiaume & Cheryl Kachenmeister | Jim Dowds | Diane & David Lilly | Mary Simpson |
| Berven Real Estate | Paula Fischer | Kelly Linton & Victoria Jaskierski | Tom & Shelly Sinas |
| Tom Bissen | Flower Realty-Rose Manor Apartments | Larry Ludeman | Pat Smith |
| Derf Bistodeau-Romer & Co | Brian Foster | Bruce Lundeen | Erin Sjoquist & Kurt Nelson |
| Diane Blomberg-Just in Case Staffing | Dana Fox | Linda Martin | Scott Smith |
| Lee Blons-Plymouth Church Foundation | Michael Garr & Natalie Ste | Andrew McDermott | Jeff Spencer |
| Pete Bonahoom-Galactic Pizza | Christopher Gottshall | Mary McDill | Nancy St. John |
| Roger Brake | Mel Gray | Steve Meyer | Marcy Tollefson-Washburn Center for Children |
| Uri & Melissa Camarena | Verne Greenlee | Larry Miller | Rosarah Townsend |
| Luana Campbell | Eric Grumdahl | Kevin Miller & Robert Jardin | Lisa Vecoli |
| Ivan Cardenas-Pancho Villa | Elizabeth Grzechowiak | Andrew Mogendorff | Jim Walsh |
| Giancarlo Casale | Stanley Hale & Janet Lofquist | Jeff Nelson | Steve Wiese-Creation Audio |
| | Michael & Betsy Halvorson | Tamra Nelson-AAUW | Ralph Yehle |
| | Mary Jane Hand | Marilyn Neuberger-J. Michaels Co. | |
| | Emberly Hermann | Si Nguyen-Saigon Nho Newspaper | |
| | Paula Horan | Jim Niland & Elizabeth Nerud | |

Thank you also to our contributors who wish to remain anonymous

Contributions are accepted and appreciated throughout the year

Whittier Alliance Community Organizer Report, Josie Shardlow

2007 was a very busy year for the Whittier Alliance. As Community Organizer I collaborate with many residents and organizations in order to build community in the neighborhood and facilitate its safety and livability for all residents. I am grateful for the participation and volunteerism of Whittier residents. I look forward to building on the successes of 2007 to get even more residents involved and working towards positive change in the neighborhood.



Some of the collaborations the Whittier Alliance was involved with in 2007:

Whittier Walkers resident safety patrol and Block Clubs
Police, probation officers, city attorney, CCP/SAFE meetings for focused crime and safety related issues
MCAD, 2008 Whittier calendar project
Campus Group (Whittier youth serving agencies)
World of Whittier planning group
Family & Children's Service for Neighborhood Champions and Whittier Youth Club
PPL organizers for outreach to their buildings
Franklin/Nicollet Alcohol-Related Crime Task Force
Golden Living Center-Chateau, graffiti kits grant
Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.
Whittier Youth Service Learning Group, Whittier Coop
Mpls Park and Rec for improvements to Clinton Field Park

Some of the events the Whittier Alliance sponsored or participated in were:

Dog Days of Whittier in Fair Oaks Park
May Day Soirée Benefit for the Neighborhood
Multi-neighborhood Wine Tasting Fundraiser
National Night Out
Parade of Community Gardens
Neighborhood and Greenway Clean Up events
Community meeting regarding Clinton Field Park and Clinton Field Summer Social
Butterfly Festival – planting event at Los Amigos
Community meeting for input on Fair Oaks Park
Vigil for Kira Simonian
Whittier Green Fair
Workshops for non-English speaking businesses with Lyndale and Stevens Square

Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Implementation—Marian Biehn

Thanks to a dedicated group of Whittier volunteers, the process of getting funds into the neighborhood based on the Whittier NRP Action Plan continues to move forward. Funding discussions and contracting were addressed in each of the five strategies: Housing, Safety, Youth Business & Local Economy and Community Building were. The following implementation of Phase II funds was accomplished in 2007.

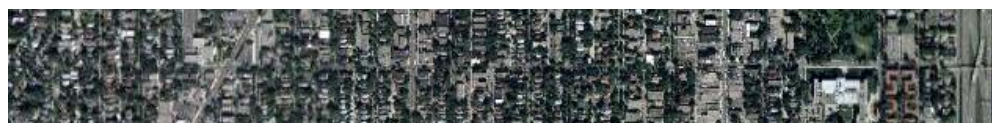
- **Housing:** The **Rental Rehab and Renewal Loan (3-R)** fund is still active with Rental Property Owners borrowing to make improvements to their properties. Exploration into making the 3R loan more streamlined is on-going. The Center for Energy and Environment's contract was renewed as the administrator for the **single family home** improvement fund. The NRP Steering Committee recommended loan guidelines and term changes to make the fund more appealing. The Single Family Improvement loan fund was increased to \$236,000. Discussion was also initiated regarding the Washburn Fair Oaks **Historic Preservation** guidelines and loan fund. Work on that strategy is still in progress. Over 8100 **2008 Whittier Housing Calendars** were distributed costing **\$7536** of housing funds. The calendar features photos and quotes from residents expressing their appreciation of Whittier as their home. It also offered housing-related and other resource information. The calendar was a collaborative project with Mpls College of Art and Design students who photographed and interviewed the participants.
- **Safety:** Improved safety and livability are important to Whittier residents. Funds from the Safety strategy were contracted in a variety of ways during 2007. The **Whittier Walkers** safety patrol is a function of this strategy as well as the tracking of chronic offenders for community impact statements for stricter sentencing. The safety strategy funded **\$8888** in **Police Buy-Backs** putting additional police on the streets during the summer of 2007 focusing on the South Whittier areas and the commercial corridors. Funds remain in the strategy for future use.
- **Safety and Community Building:** The number of block & apartment clubs and contacts grew in 2007 and outreach activities were funded. Particular effort was placed on outreach to the Hispanic residents to build trust and community participation. In 2007 Whittier hosted about a dozen National Night Out events.
- **Graffiti Removal/Prevention** Grants are regularly being distributed to residents and businesses to subsidize graffiti removal and abatement projects. One third of the cost of graffiti prevention methods such as lighting, landscaping, murals or mosaics, removal or preventative coating are reimbursed to the applicant.
- **Youth:** The contract with **Family & Children's Services** was renewed for **\$38,000**. In 2007 they held many successful outreach events. The Whittier Youth Club is open to youth 8-17. They meet weekly, plan special events and activities that build leadership and civic engagement.
- **Implementation: \$84,500** NRP Phase II provides funds to assist in the day to day operations of the neighborhood organization. These funds help defer the cost of public meetings, resource and information dispersal, community building, rent and utilities. All funds are reimbursed after submitting a comprehensive report on the expenses.
- **Plan Mods:** In 2007 the Board acted to ensure the sustainability of the organization by redirecting (Plan Mod) funds from NRP Phase I strategies that have a "program income" component. The program income is available for use at the neighborhood's discretion. \$25k was redirected from the Phase I Single Family Improvement fund program income into Implementation. And, to assure future operational funds, \$200k was redirected from the Phase I 3-R loan fund program income. Neither redirection affected availability of the loan programs to operate.

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Email: marian@whittieralliance.org

Keep Informed!

For timely updates on neighborhood meetings and events, sign up for the Whittier e-group by going to:
www.whittieralliance.org



Finance Committee, Tom Bissen: On a monthly basis the Finance Committee meets to review the income and expenses of the Whittier Alliance. All incoming funds and invoices are identified with an account number to track against the annual budget. Professional oversight of the Whittier financials is provided by Derf Bistodeau, CPA and owner of Romer & Company and his bookkeeper, Nina Sterbuck. The 2007 audit by the Minnesota State Auditors of the accounting practices and procedures of the Whittier Alliance showed the Whittier Alliance was in compliance. A copy of the 2007 State Auditors Report is available in the Whittier Alliance office.

WHITTIER ALLIANCE
January – December 2007 Financials

BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2007

**ORDINARY
INCOME/EXPENSES**

INCOME

Corporate Grants	1,000
NRP Phase II Funds	129,514
Hennepin County/CPED-Dispatch	90
Citizen Participation	2,000
WA Fundraising	27,917
Miscellaneous Income	526
Interest Income	1,525

TOTAL INCOME **\$162,572**

EXPENSES

Personnel Expenses	105,515
Mileage	110
ADP	1,461
Advertising	
Professional Services	4,037
Bank Fees	65
Copier	3,753
Computer	1,166
Printing	1,553
Food/Beverages	214
Fees, Licenses and Permits	344
Insurance-Liability/Workers Comp	1,484
Operating Expense	11,658
Office Supplies/Furniture	2,098
Bulk Mail/Postage Meter Expenses	3,487
Recognition – Volunteers/Staff	170
Community Meetings	330
Training	117
Whittier Walkers	370
Fundraising	1,440
CPED-BA	456
Miscellaneous Expense	

TOTAL EXPENSE **\$139,798**

NET ORDINARY INCOME **\$22,774**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$91,557
Accounts Receivable	30,431
Total Current Assets	\$121,988

Fixed Assets

Property & Equipment	\$8,496
Accumulated Depreciation	-8,496
Total Fixed Assets	0

TOTAL ASSETS **\$121,988**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Employee HSA	96
Deferred Revenue NRP	\$17,603
Deferred Revenue CPED/BA	5,698

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$23,397**

NET ASSETS

Net Assets	\$75,850
Net Income	22,741

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$98,591**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$121,988**

Special thanks to those who have given in-kind donations to Whittier Alliance events throughout the year.

American Family Insurance-Mike Shardlow Agency	Graves 601 Heavenly Soles	Rainbow Chinese Restaurant Robert Lilligren
Azia Restaurant	Hennepin History Museum	Royal Pet
Bibelot Shop	Hirshfields Decorating Center	Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Black Forest	Hudson Map	Ruttgers Bay Lake Lodge
Blaisdell Manor	Hyjek Chiropractic	Saint Paul Saints
Bob's Java Hut	Irina's Stitch in Time	Salon Schlee
BP Petroleum	It's Greek To Me	Seafood Palace
Bruce Lundeen	Jasmine Deli	Sheila Rawski
Bryant Lake Bowl	Jesse Oyervides	Shelly Sinas
Chowgirl Killer Catering	Jp American Bistro	Sinbad's Café & Market
Christos	Jungle Theater	Sprint/Nextel
City of Lakes Waldorf	Juut Hair Salon	Spyhouse Coffee
Coastal Seafoods	K-mart	Stages Theatre Company
Common Roots Cafe	Knox Jewelers	Starbucks
Councilman Robert Lilligren	Los Amigos	Star Tribune
Denny Kemp Salon & Spa	Lowry Hill Liquors	Stephen Chase
Don Biehn	Lyndale Auto Service	Steve Baldwin
Dr. Barry Gerst, DDS	Lyndale House Antiques	Sullivan's Supervalu
Dunn Brothers	Marathon Gas	Target
Electric Fetus	Mayor RT Rybak	Temple
El Mariachi	Minneapolis Institute of Arts	The Alt Bike & Board
Eric James Design	Minnesota Orchestra	The Children's Theatre
Erich Biehn	Minnesota Twins	The Falls Agency
Ethnic Dance Theatre	Mixed Blood Theatre	The Museum of Russian Art
Eye on Design	Nico Products	The Saloon
Falls Agency	North Prairie Tileworks	Theatre de la Jeune Lune
Fire on the Greenway	Old Arizona	Thomas Vetscher, CPA
Flowers by Miss Bertha	Pancho Villa	Treehouse Records
Franklin Bank	Park-Lake Car Wash	Vineland Group
Franklin-Nicollet Liquor	Park Nicollet	Walker Art Center
French Meadow Bakery	Peninsula Malaysia	Wedge Co-op
Galactic Pizza	Penzey's Spices	Yummy
Golden Living Center	Pho 70/Caravelle	
Grand Casino	Quang Restaurant	

Whittier Alliance's 8th Annual Live/Silent Auction Benefit

May Day Soirée
Tuesday, May 1st, 6-10pm

Featuring:

Appetizers from Whittier Restaurants &
Wonderful Silent & Live Auction Items

Blaisdell Manor – 2322 Blaisdell Avenue

Call the Whittier Alliance for Reservations: 612-871-7756.

