

Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 14, 2022 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Online via Zoom

Participating Voters: Allison Bross-White, Ashlyn Stenberg, Bridget Siljander, Brandon Schorsch, Byron Millea, Ben Bauch, Cyndi Hovey, Charles Smith, Christine Popowski, Daniel Hansen, Daniel Perez, Deborah Girdwood, Deja Jendro, Ella Kampelman, Gabriel Douglas, George Rishmawi, Gwendolyn Jenkins, Halley Norman, Hannah Wiesner, Josh Kreibich, Jim Galvan, Kaley Brown, Kameron Brodie, Kari Heimer, Kate Davis, Katie Heimer, Kendra Perez, Kevin Chavis, Luna Allen-Bakerian, Larry Ludeman, Dave Hewitt, Logan Keith, Madeline Schwartz, Marcus VanderSanden, Margo Fritz, Megan Mathew, Nick Hutchinson, Matt Barthelemy, Nemesi Martha, Natalie Strait, Nate Broadbridge, Nitin Savant, Janet Polli, Rae MacDonough, Nate Rastetter, Ryan Kronzer, Rita Stodolka, Robb Larson, Joanna Krause-Johnson, Stephanie Brown, Shinjan Sengupta, Solene Coppe, Sydney Burroughs, Tom Bissen, Alicia Jackson, Willow Kreibich, Kirsten Oliver, Harry Davis, Hans-Christian Karlberg, Brian McMahon, Alexander Glass

Staff: Kaley Brown, Fartun Ismail, Krystin Eldridge

Call to Order at 1:00pm by Whittier Alliance Board Chair, Cyndi Hovey

Meeting Called to Order

- Zoom Meeting Housekeeping: Kaley Brown, Executive Director
- Welcome/ Present Agenda: Cyndi Hovey, Board Chair
- Recognize Standard of Conduct Policy: Kami Brodie, Vice Chair

Motion to approve 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Meditation/Grounding: Alicia Jackson (Whittier Resident & Yess Yoga Instructor)

Introductions: Board of Directors; Staff; Community

- Cyndi Invited WA staff and board of directors to introduce themselves

Secretary's Report: Nate Broadbridge

- [2021 Annual Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion to approve 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Voting Process & Establishing Ballot : Kaley Brown, Executive Director

- Voting Process Overview: Kaley Brown, Executive Director
 - People first have to become members of whittier alliance and establish their eligibility which is in the bylaws
 - Ballots need to be cast within a 7 day voting period via in person or online
 - Eligible candidates will be added to the ballot
 - The official ballot will open tomorrow at 9am and close 5pm on Saturday May 21
 - WA offers multilingual support for casting votes
- Final Call for Board of Director Nominations: Nate Broadbridge, Secretary
 - Nate invites members who meet the minimum qualifications to cast their nominations in the meeting
 - There were no nominations from the floor
- Motion to Establish Acting Committees for 2022-2023: Cyndi Hovey, Chair
 - Motion: To establish the Housing and Land Use Committee and Community Engagement Committee as the Acting Committees of the Whittier Alliance for the 2022-2023 term

- Motion is made and seconded; it advances to the ballot.
- Any additional Motions from Whittier Alliance members: Cyndi Hovey, Chair
 - No additional motions for consideration

1:30 - Neighborhood Artist: tony the scribe (Whittier Resident & Writer, Rapper, Producer)

- Tony read two pieces to the meeting participants

1:35 - What's Up at Whittier Alliance?

Treasurer's Report: Sydney Burroughs

- WA largest sources of income are contracts through City of Minneapolis
- Raised \$6,000 and had \$93,000 in other grants including funding from the McKnight Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation
- Received an SBA loan in 2021 that has been forgiven
- The purchase of the 2116 Nicollet Ave lot was reflected on the balance sheet
- Consolidated checking accounts and have earned interest because of this change
- COVID is still largely affecting our financials
- In the future, WA would like to further increase streams of revenue to be more self-sustaining financially

Community Engagement Committee: Nick Hutchinson

- In the first meeting of the year, the group looked at public safety, environmental sustainability, and community building, developing a vision for the coming year
- The committee created the 2021 Whittier Election Guide
- Hosted a public information session with Yes for Minneapolis regarding ballot question 2
- Provided support for the Stevens Square Community Organization mayoral candidate forum
- Held a discussion with Ward 10 Council member Aisha Chughtai where she addressed community concerns
- Members of the committee also created connections with members of the community
- Also played a key role in publicizing last year's Eat Street Fall Arts Fest and served as a major role in lake street corridor and kmart site projects
- Nick has coordinated the Really Really Free Market in Whittier Park
- The next community meeting is happening on June 8th, chatting about the 2116 Nicollet Lot and Kmart site redevelopment

Housing & Land Use Committee: George Rishmawi

- The committee covers a more holistic discussion of community planning, including parks planning, transportation, anti-displacement, and housing policy
- The committee discussed many projects that will provide more sustainable environments for our community
 - 10 new developments in the neighborhood that were proposed to the committee
 - Created a sub-group to provide more helpful communication to developers and better influence projects
- There will be many great opportunities to plug in to community housing and land use work
- The next committee meeting is happening this Tuesday and will be reviewing a new development project for the second time and voting as well as the first ave construction project

Anti-Racism Commitments & YWCA Work: Daniel Perez

- WA has partnered with YWCA to hold workshops and facilitator training to educate the board and staff on anti-racism practices
- Strategic planning took a closer look at recruitment and development for the community project steering committee

- Racial justice facilitator training will be offered to 20 folks to implement those practice into WA framework

2116 Nicollet Lot: Stephanie Brown

- In 2021 WA purchased the last vacant lot on Nicollet Ave
- WA would like to use this purchase to continue to pursue and focus on the strategic plan we have in place and create positive community development
- Wa seeks a developer who aligns with WA goals and will be an effective team member
- A steering committee was created to assist in this endeavor
 - Community members were able to apply to be on this committee
 - The steering committee will create a request for proposal to send out to developers, so they may create a plan for the future of the Nicollet lot
 - There will be a survey that community members can participate to share their ideas on the lot

Annual Report: Kaley Brown

- Last year marked the third year of the five year strategic plan
- WA has made great strides to meet the goals set up in the strategic plan
- The report outlines all progress being made in 2021
- In 2023, WA will do more in depth analysis on the strategic plan to understand the progress that was made and what to expect for the future

2:00 - “Sign O’ the Times” DocudramaTrailer: Tylie Shider, Playwright, Poet, and Whittier Neighbor

- Meeting participants viewed the trailer over zoom.
- The video was largely filmed in the Whittier neighborhood

2:05 - Candidate Forum: Kaley Brown, Executive Director

- Each candidate has the opportunity to share about themselves and the board seat they are nominated for
- Sydney Burrows is completing her term as treasurer and was originally elected as an MCAD representative, but switched to a resident board seat. She would like to be re-elected for this board seat.
 - Sydney really prioritizes community and is passionate about planning events and rebranding Whittier Alliance to get the name out there and reach more people. She values organizational sustainability as treasurer by increasing financial stability for the organization
 - Sydney loves Pimento Jamaican Kitchen restaurant as well as the park in front of MIA.
- Megan Mathew was unable to attend the meeting. The voter guide will be linked in the chat where you can check out her candidate bio.
- Jesse Oyervides appreciated Whittier because of the diverse community and wants to bring information to the community and say it’s ok to open up about what you are going through. He would like to support people of all economic and social statuses.
 - Community engagement is important to Jesse because of the huge diversity in the neighborhood. He engages with residents from all backgrounds to support them.
 - Jesse goes to the Soo Line gardens everyday and enjoys the space.
- Daniel Hansen has been living in uptown for about 5 years and has always enjoyed the community and decided to buy a triplex on Garfield Ave. He would like to work more closely with WA because of its initiative in the community and diversity
 - He currently works in a management consultant firm and can use this experience in planning, design, and operational effectiveness. He would like to apply this to Whittier Alliance.
 - Daniel loves the food at Black Sheep Pizza.

- Allison Bross-White joined the board last winter and would like to reapply to be on the board for another year. She has owned a business for the past 9 years where they do a lot of community aid and support. Joining the board furthered her outreach in the area. She would like to continue that work.
 - She would like to get more involved in the lake street realignment project to make sure the housing is accessible and affordable and so small businesses can thrive. She has a strong relationship with young adults in the city and would like to get them more involved in projects around the neighborhood.
 - Allison enjoys her own shop and Icehouse listening to music.
- Stephanie Brown is currently serving on the board and has lived in the neighborhood for 7 years. She is running for one of the non-profit seats through Calvary church, where she has served on the board for 7 years. She is also on the 2116 Niolet Lot steering committee.
 - Housing is important to Stephanie because housing is foundational to be a part of the neighborhood. She has done a lot of work in housing policy and development and would like to apply this knowledge to the Whittier neighborhood to make sure all people have the opportunity to live here regardless of economic or social factors
 - Stephanie enjoys Prodigal Pub for the food as well as community hammocks around MCAD
 - Reminder to make sure to register to vote and to attend the next committee meetings in order to vote

2:25 - Events & Opportunities: Kate Davis

- Voting period opens tomorrow at 8am and goes through 5pm Saturday May 21st.
- The annual meeting neighborhood potluck will be on Friday May 20th, where community members can eat food and enjoy live music.
- City of Minneapolis community connections conference
 - Sat, May 21st
- Whittier Really Really Free Market
 - Sat, June 4th
- Open Streets Lyndale
 - Sun, June 5th
- Spring Fling Artist Market
 - Sat, June 11th
- WA Community Engagement Meeting
 - Wed, June 8th
 - Committee chair elections
- WA Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting
 - Tues, Jan 21st
 - Committee chair elections
- WA Board of Directors Meeting
 - Thurs, June 23

2:30 - Thank You & Closing: Cyndi Hovey, Board Chair