



## **WA Business Association Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 16th, 2019  
Wedge Table (2412 Nicollet Ave) 4:00pm - 5:00pm

**Attendees:** Nancy Sjoquist- AAUW; Angela Ritchie- The Wedge Table, (others did not sign in).

**Guests:** Scott Aikens, Amelia Huffman, Jesse Lopez, 5th Precinct

**WA Staff:** Kaley Brown, Marcus VanderSanden, Fartun Ismail

### **Introductions/Call to Order**

Call to order at 3:05pm by Kaley Brown, WA Executive Director.

Agenda is reviewed. Approved.

Introductions.

### **Current News and Events**

#### **5th Precinct**

Crime is down in the precinct no significant increase in property or violent crime

Car theft is still prevalent along Nicollet corridor

Mini tent encampments behind Whittier and Stevens Square businesses- have seen decrease in winter months and have been successful in referring those people to social service - St. Stephens Outreach team is great resource  
Doing well in terms of long term trends in the neighborhood.

#### **Whittier Alliance**

2 new full time employees have been hired.

- Emanuel Tekle, Organizational Sustainability Manager
- Fartun Ismail, Community Outreach Coordinator

Annual Meeting March 26th at MCAD

- Voting to approve 2019-2024 Strategic Plan
- Resource fair with community organizations and food from local restaurants
- Electing 5 new at-large board member
- Board applications are now available online and in office

Nominations for Good Business and Good Neighbor

- Nominations are online and are open to anybody who lives or work in the neighborhood

#### **AAUW**

Centennial anniversary of women's right to vote is in 2020

Have hired an actor to give a performance of suffragist Marie Jenney Howe's "Somebody must wash the dishes" written in 1912. The performance is April 19th and tickets will go on sale in March

Attendance prices- \$20 dinner \$25 wine bar

Old School, the new Steeple People, is now open at 1901 Nicollet  
Give out checks to 9 different charities

### **Wedge Table**

Going to start doing community based dinners in May to provide affordable meals for a large amount of people.  
135 people attended their recent self-care event, which was great.  
New menu for Spring launching soon.

### **Host Highlights- Wedge Table**

Cut hours for Winter and will expand again with summer.  
Round up at the register campaign has generated over \$10,000 per month for participants.  
In addition to round up program they have been doing specific product partnerships. This month for every pound of Peace Coffee sold \$0.25 is donated to same non-profit.

### **Interim Board Chair- Kaley Brown**

Araceli Perez had to resign due to new job and was no longer eligible as a business representative. Angela Ritchie is **nominated. Seconded.**

### **Angela is voted new BA chair by acclamation**

### **Whittier Job Fair- Angela Ritchie**

Angela is meeting with Marketing Director - 10 business goal  
Will be sending out communications targeted/promoted Facebook posts with WA assistance to market it  
Currently shooting for a Saturday morning late in March

### **Nicollet Avenue Greenway Access**

Greenway at Nicollet could be getting several improvement projects in the near future and WA will be seeking business input on those projects.  
There is still some hesitancy to broadcast it very widely because that has been a contentious track of land with many players at the table and land ownership to navigate.  
Pursuing wayfinding and placemaking public art project both on Greenway and on street level.  
Goal is to promote corridor and make the natural bookend of Nicollet a more inviting and well kept place.

### **Structure of Business Association**

Moving forward there will be conversations on how often the BA will meet and the purpose of the meetings. The monthly structure is not the most effective use of time and capacity.

### **Youth Gardening**

Nancy brings up Roots for the Home Team non-profit and wants to recognize the great work they do in community gardening they have a garden at the Greenway and 5th avenue- working with Native American chef, kids work in the gardens and sell salads at Twins stadium.  
Roots for the Home Team also has programs to help them be an entrepreneur. Capture some of that fun and celebrate it. Thinks it could be a good thing to promote in Whittier.

**Meeting adjourns at 4:03pm.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Marcus VanderSanden.**