

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2015 6-7 PM
Bagley Residence**

Present: Erica Christ, Andy Cohen, David Bagley, Ted Irgens, Laura Jean, Natascha Shawver, Erin Sjoquist, Brett Vandebussche **Absent:** Jesse Oyervides, Kenya Weathers, Daphna Stromberg, Araceli Perez, Christina Le **Staff:** Marian Biehn, Lucy Lawson

Call to Order at 6:30 by Erica Christ, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the December 19 agenda, with the addition of Marian's farewell event, an FYI on the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and a shelter ordinance update, **Carried**.

Comments from the Chair

Erica Christ

It's Marian's last meeting as ED, so it's a bittersweet event – the board thanks her for all her work for the good of the n'hood, and pride and passion. She first got to know the n'hood 37 years ago, and it's much safer now.

Secretary's Report

Natascha Shawver

Minutes from November 19, 2015 were reviewed and a **Motion** to approve as written **Carried**. Attendance was reviewed. Board meeting dates for 2016 will be sent out. Five board seats are up for election at Annual Meeting in April. The top 5 vote getters are elected to the board. The board has the discretion to have the next vote getters down the list appointed to the shorter-term vacant seats. Some vacant seats are BA and those are filled via the BA.

Executive Committee

Erica Christ

ED Transition

Ricardo McCurley, the new ED will start in January. Marian & he are working together on the transition. Erica & Laura are working on a contract arrangement so Marian can keep working on Reopen Nicollet, the Sabri lawsuit and the affordable housing lawsuit. Erica is working on a press release to send out. Ricardo has already met with Brad, the new ED at Lyndale Neighborhood Group, and some other key people. Laura will send out a list of 'Top 12 Things to Help Out a new ED'.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Brett Vandebussche

The CI meeting this month was interesting. Ted Redmond, a former CI chair, gave some great pointers about what to look out for with developers, what questions to ask, how to get better information, etc. Board member questioned whether we could research some price points references for the n'hood – median rents, costs of construction per sqft.etc. – and other n'hoods. The presentation was very timely since a developer is coming to the January CI, Don Gerberding from Master. He is a good presenter/salesperson, and his office used to be in the n'hood. The project is 79 units, grocery store and underground parking. Will aim to get hard copy list of questions ready for the next CI meeting. Ted particularly stressed using CUPs & variances for leverage.

Task Force update

Paul Shanafelt

Livable Streets Task Force (LSTF)

WA now has three task forces going simultaneously. The LSTF is small but has lots of momentum. They meet pretty much weekly, and have the ear of Public Works. Public Works has already agreed to make changes at a couple of intersections on the 27th St corridor. LSTF is also working on a number of traffic issues with the school. A task force member addressed the PTA on Monday.

Crime & Safety Task Force

The first meeting was Dec 10. Representatives from the 5th precinct presented, and talked about safety and how to get involved. There was a good crowd and interest in doing n'hood patrols, etc.

Environmental Sustainability Task Force

First meeting was Dec 15, with a small turn-out but lots of interest. The TF will focus on energy efficiencies and generation, and will promote through the n'hood. Two board members signed up for Community Solar but didn't hear much afterwards – Paul will follow up.

Business Association

Andy Cohen

Ted Redmond also spoke at the BA meeting. MCAD has a graduate program moving into 2211 1st Ave—the Fellowship hall and offices of the First Christian Church. They will not use the empty nursing home portion of the building. The building is owned by the MIA.

Strategic Plan

Marian Biehn

Reopen Nicollet – Cuningham Group – Final Two Meetings scheduled January 6 & 26

The January 6 meeting will be at Waldorf School, and January 26 meeting probably at HCMC. Funds are available to be used for the Cuningham Group to render some images for the project – images, a binder, or even a website potentially. It's important to have something visually persuasive to present at the end of the community consultation process

Motion: The WA Board authorizes the use of up to \$5000 of NRP Reopen Nicollet funds for the production of visual renderings illustrating the community vision at the Kmart-Supervalu site.

Motion Carried 8-0-0

Finance Committee

Andy Cohen

November 2015 Financial Statements: The financial report was presented. The balance sheet was reviewed. Have been reimbursed for \$65,000 since Nov. 30. Fundraising funds have increased due to the Fall Fundraiser. The professional services line item is high due to Reopen Nicollet, the lawsuit and the ED search. WA received some interest from the money that was moved to a TruStone account.

FC Motion 1: The Whittier Alliance Board accepts the Whittier Alliance Nov. 2015 financial report. **Motion Carried.**

In addition, the CPP contract budget for 2015 shows will run out of money in some areas – but have an excess in others, so need to shift some funds around. This happens each year.

FC Motion 2: The Whittier Alliance Board approves moving the following funds within the 2015 Community Participation Program budget:

From: Line 2: Employee Benefits	\$12,654.45	To: Line 1: Staff Expenses	\$12,654.45
From: Line 4 Occupancy	\$ 2,000.00	To: Line 3: Professional Service	\$2000.00
From: Line 10 Other Services	\$ 1,640.86	To: Line 3: Professional Services	\$1,640.86
From: Line 8 Development	\$ 1,000.00	To: Line 6: Supplies & Materials	\$1,000.00

Motion Carried 8-0-0

Marian's Farewell

Board discussed holding a community event to farewell Marian – it will be at Icehouse, Thursday, January 14.

FC Motion 3: The Whittier Alliance Board approves allocating up to \$1500 for Marian's farewell/retirement party. **Motion Carried 8-0-0**

Board examined print-outs of NRP contract scopes and budgets. Some lines in budgets are not going

down because we are using CPP funds instead. Marian is in the process of going over the contract balances and uses with Ricardo. The WA accountant Stacey Peterson also has the info. If there is any question about contract balances Bob Cooper in the Mpls Finance dept & Robert Thompson at NCR are also helpful. Need to dovetail the NRP plan and the Strategic Plan – for example, Youth is a stand-alone contract. Paul will propose the bike patrol cops initiative at the January board meeting.

Staff Reports:

Marian Biehn

Been workin' hard. To quote Janet, “we did almost everything.”

Old & New Business:

2118 Blaisdell Historic Study

The 2118 Blaisdell Historic Designation application will be ready for initial City review in the next two weeks. It first goes to State Historic Preservation Office, which will make comments that will be taken and incorporated. The main house (not the addition) is currently under protection till Feb 17. The HPC meeting is on the 16th –2118 could be on the agenda but it might be a tight time line to meet. To allow for all the pre HPC reviews, the City will extend the interim protection for another six months. There will be a public notice about the hearing, and it will be imperative that people attend – emphasizing that we’re not against Nuway House, but do want to historically designate the interior and exterior of the original building.

Youth Micro Grants

WA sent out 31 requests for youth grant applications to local youth serving orgs. Received 2 submissions already, expect 8 to 10. Of the 2015 recipients, only Jabbok Family Services didn't ask for reimbursement.

PAM (Preservation Alliance of Minnesota)

Whittier is one of the pilot n'hoods for a grant that PAM received for a more conceptual way of viewing and chronicling historic preservation – for example, wrt Nicollet Ave's Asian grocers, can create a historic district that recognizes immigrant investment and social history.

Shelter Ordinance

The shelter ordinance passed without any stipulations for n'hoods like Whittier. The 1000 foot spacing does not take into account other categories of transitional housing and shelters.

Marian's farewell

Board and staff need to get an invite list together – former board members, volunteers, and the general n'hood of course. Will also have meet-&-greet for Ricardo in January.

Annual meeting

A social for potential board candidates will be on February 4 – it will be an informal information session. 'Being involved' in the WA by-laws can mean they attended meetings or events – we want to encourage people to run.

Adjourn

8:16PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by XXX.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

Erica Christ, Board Chair

Natascha Shawver, Board Secretary