

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2017 6-8:30 PM

Whittier Rec. Center

Present: David Bagley, Andrew Nordick, Laura Jean, Carrie McCabe-Johnston, Martha Nemesi, Christina Le, Araceli Perez, Kaley Brown, Erin Sjoquist, Jesse Oyervides, Mary Garza

Absent: Scott Melamed, Christine Popowski, Daphna Stromberg, Kenya Weathers, Chafoxey Mitchner, Michael Malone, Geri Jerez

Late: Jen Kader

Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Dan Stanton

Call to Order at 6:15 PM by David Bagley, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Ricardo introduced guest from Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) - Aria Fine.

- Started May, 2016. He works with neighborhoods and cultural orgs.
- Lives in North MPLS; worked at neighborhood org for six years before NCR.
- Neighborhood specialist w/ 16 neighborhoods, including Whittier, Phillips, Carag, Lowry Hill East, seeking to encourage collaboration between neighborhoods when similarities are present.
- Main role: to serve residents of mpls through neighborhood organizations. He primarily works w/ staff, but wants to be accessible to everyone - residents, board members, etc.

NCR has provides a number of services

- Administrative, reporting role, survey with boards of mpls, annual report, legal consultation, board trainings, conflict resolution, audits, translators + interpreters.
- Role within city: to connect neighborhood orgs to point of contact at City - project development, Public Works, etc.
- NCR has a one team model - cultural community liaisons + roles like Aria. The two try to collab, but each role is unique. Cultural Community Liaisons work with public works engagement process, for instance. They Inform staff at City how to work with cultural communities - ex: regulatory services have trainings for culturally related things to know that are specific to engaging respective communities.
- Two Programs
 - City Academy: how the city works. For example, they take you through the police department to show how it operates.
 - Learning Lab: One hour and a half trainings with Cultural Community Liaisons regarding specific cultural communities and intersectionality + how to do good community engagement.
 - Online registration, classes are offered 12:30-2pm + 5:30-7pm
- NCR is involved in the Neighborhoods 2020 Plan - a plan that focuses on next steps for when current neighborhood funds run out in 2019. NCR will help advocate for and shape direction of neighborhood organizations as it relates to future funding w/ the City.

Ariah, in closing:

- You can do anything you want as long as you have a strong enough advocacy base to support it → can influence City Planning that way. Don't let city experts necessarily drive outcomes. Take the approach of a strong, informed group that lives in the community. Loud voices in City Council often gets heard; advocate for the change you are seeking.

Quorum was reached

Motion to approve the June agenda with the addition of National Night out to the Agenda **Carries**.

Comments from the Chair

David Bagley

N/A

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Review of May 27th, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. **Motion** to approve minutes **Carries** after requested changes are edited:

Edits:

- Pg. 3: "...motion to **approve** march financials" → **Carries**
- "...our cash money; no one can tell us what to do..." → "Unrestricted General Funds- belongs to the WA and can be used at organization's discretion"
- Complete sentences

Board Meeting Attendance

15 - 0 absences

14 - 1 absences

Marie's spot - empty

Sarah's spot - empty

Next Board Meeting:

-July 27th, 2017

Executive Committee

David Bagley

Financial Committee

Christina Le

Discussion before presentation of financials concerning recent ADA lawsuits against Whittier businesses:

- Individuals are bringing this up to businesses due to noncompliance with ADA standards (for example, no bars in bathrooms)
- Lake Street Council is putting on meeting to address this

- Potential scam
- Andrew will follow up after getting more details from Christina, Araceli, etc.

Christina presents finances:

- Point regarding last month of unrestricted funds - Profit Loss by Class - \$1260 - separated out into another category. Christina needs to ask about profit and loss by class - why it's at net zero?
- Unrestricted funds are not reimbursed but have no restrictions (i.e. can be spent on whatever). They are separated so we know how much money we are spending in a given year. Profit loss by class does not reflect liability. We have spent money from the CPP account, but have not been reimbursed for that yet. This will be brought up with Stacey.
- Christina goes over check from Sunrise, Trustone; there are no major things to note. Profit Loss Budget performance - under reimbursements by \$5904.
- Ricardo provides a note about how we do the budget: it's done in six month chunks. If there is an event that gets budgeted for over the course of a few months, it may appear that we are over budget. However, it evens out once the six month budget has occurred.
- Profit and loss by class - breaks each down from each class category (where the money came from - ex: facade grant department)
- Ricardo - we are fiscal agent for the big 2020 meeting we had. We had a big meeting with the City, and we are going to collect administrative fee of 10%, closing contract.
- **Note:** \$5000 decrease in assets over past few months; what is this from?
 - This will be brought up with Stacey

Motion to Approve financials. Seconded. Motion Carries.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Scott Melamed

Overview based on Scott's email:

- DJR presented on a project at the school building on 21st and Blaisdell
 - Market-rate apartments; 5 stories; 74 units.
 - Neighbors concerned with shadowing. Motion for shadow study and do whatever to make neighbors happy. Questions about how the parking works - interior but it wraps around building in the back - enclosed, inside building but not underground - ground floor and second floor will be garage. Building is wrapped around parking.
 - Shade study has come back -- tenants across the street will lose an hour of morning sun. However, this has not been reported to residents across the street yet.
 - Metals - materials are claimed to be compliant with state and city code, but they don't know.
 - 30-year life span.
 - These will be listed at 50% of median income of neighborhood, but this is only true of micro-studio apartments. Everything else exceeds the median household income → not affordable.

Motion to change CI minutes' wording:

- "...supports conditional use permit at...on a conditional of the completion of a shadow study on the impact of this study on adjacent buildings and ameliorating shadow concerns by neighbors", in order to contact City and press them.

Motion Seconded.

- 9 - For
- 2 - Against
- 1 - Abstention

Motion Carries.

Motion: Whittier Alliance supports a variance on North side of building.

Motion Seconded.

- 7 - For
- 1 - Against
- 3 - Abstentions

Motion Carries.

Motion: setback variance in alley.

Motion Seconded.

- 9 - For
- 2 - Against
- 1 - Abstention

Business Association

Andrew Nordick

-Meeting took place at Emperor of India, on Lake Street, between Lyndale & Garfield.

- Owners are concerned about signage -- a tree grew right in front of their sign, obscuring it. They are considering catering after getting license.
- Conversations were largely about value.
- A motion regarding a survey to determine if customers are destination customers or not carried.
- Andrew: Meeting lacked direction + application, with no end result.
- There is confusion about whether the survey would be useful. Is it possible to use Ricardo for more help with business association? There are resources that WA staff have that could be useful (for ex: who to reach out to, connections, etc.)
- Discussion about specifics of survey/pros + cons analysis
 - The survey would be a week long
 - It could potentially be done with no overhead using interns
 - Ideally, it would be conducted via an ad firm, but cost is undetermined at the moment.

- The clarification of purpose and greater need that something like this would serve the community is a good foundation. What clarity is the BA trying to get to? Then, after answering this question, resources can be used more efficiently.
- Options
 - Conduct focus group from BA to determine five-year plan
 - Contact UST marketing students for help with this task
 - Ask businesses to contribute monetarily to costs of survey
 - Contact Zeus Jones
- Conclusion:
 - Creating the survey itself is the first step.
 - This issue needs to be discussed further at the next Board Meeting.
- Final BA point
 - Marcus, the business intern, has set up business resources on the website; check them out and provide feedback.

Environment

Christine Popowski

Christine is absent; read minutes from last Environment Meeting, and pick up discussion during the July Board Meeting.

Mary will connect w/ Soo Line Gardens about potential volunteer options

Staff Reports:

Reports from Paul/Camilla were not discussed.

Old & New Business:

Ricardo's Report:

- Youth Task Force
 - Proposal by Ivy Girdwood, high school grad + current WA intern.
 - She wants to start a Youth Task Force, and she is asking sanction from Whittier Alliance.
 - This project would focus on making sure youth perspective is included in our work, and she is looking to start volunteer and leadership opportunities in Whittier.
 - Timeline:
 - She is leaving for college in the Fall.
 - She has a core group of people to reach out to in other communities, and she has talked to Ricardo on how to do that. They would convene on a somewhat regular basis over the course of the Summer.
 - Goal
 - To get high school students to focus on things inside and out of our strategic plan, give them the same opportunities that other community members have, and to cultivate leaders.
 - Discussion
 - Who takes the lead once she's gone?

- We potentially need a board member/adult other than Paul or Ricardo to work alongside
 - Task Forces are build for a reason with an end goal/objective; this needs to get fleshed out.
 - Jen offers to help out, using experience with starting task forces, but she can't commit to being the board member assigned long-term. She can help get it off the ground, though.
 - Their objectives don't necessarily require the label of "Task Force"
 - We don't want to stretch ourselves too thin by continuing to take on more projects.
- Southside Radio
 - There is a proposal to help them build an antenna.
 - They are currently an internet radio station, supported through Waite House in Pillsbury. However, they are looking to broadcast short-range locally.
 - Discussion
 - Is this compliant with Neighborhood Plan?
 - Can we ask for advertising for WA?
 - They could apply for the Big Ideas Grant
 - Might be outside the scope of WA priorities
- Draft Support Letter Franklin Ave Improvements
 - MPLS Bicycle Coalition has changed their name, and now they want to include more pedestrian issues
 - Franklin is one of the worst pedestrian crossing areas in the city - Nicollet & Franklin has the most ped-related accidents of any other area in city.
 - They are asking for a study, and we need a motion to sign on as a supporting entity.
 - The study would push for a design that is better oriented for pedestrians.

Motion to support. Motion Carries.

- Strategic Plan Update
 - There are two documents put together by WA intern.
 - They look at direct correlations between city strategic plan and Whittier's
 - Now we have a frame of reference for how our plan reflects that of City's
 - We are updating the strategic plan based on accomplishments -- what have we accomplished and what haven't we accomplished yet.
 - Currently, we have \$5000 allocated for strategic planning, where we write the plan and make use of focus groups to determine neighborhood desires.
 - Ricardo would like to have a second focus group to engage the Somali community, but this would cost at least \$800
 - It is possible to do a catch-all focus group ourselves; however, we do not have the capacity to do it in Somali, and this would have to be hired out.
 - Timeline
 - Focus groups - mid to late August
 - Sometime in September, the plan will be written and then a 45-day review process begins

- Then, the work plan is reviewed for 2-3 months.
 - December - look at work plans, make five year budget, and prepare for reallocation of budget/funds
 - How do we make sure there aren't too many objectives?
 - It is crucial to make use of a consulting group that has past experience working with neighborhoods
 - Financial side - we come up with a document similar to current strategic plan that incorporates old plan and NRP strategies, eliminating older strategies to get a clear sense of what we can and cannot accomplish.
 - Conclusion
 - This will be discussed more at the next Board Meeting
 - Board expectations in regard to the process of the strategic plan
 - This will require everyone versing themselves in pertinent materials and getting involved
 - Additionally, there will be a TBD date around September where board gets together to work on the Plan.
- Final Thought
 - How can the Board Meeting be conducted most efficiently?
 - We can get financial reports beforehand. If there are questions, we can address them. Otherwise, the financials can be approved and we can move on quickly.
 - Exec could approve the financials, then send them to the board members with Christina's comments for direction.
 - Scott + Andrew can include summaries of the CI/BA ahead of time
 - Contents of the board packet will be distributed right away when they are finished to provide the board with time to review it prior to the meeting.
 - Consensus: it is better for the board to review things ahead of time to expedite the process and to go about the meeting more efficiently.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Carries.

Adjourn 8:37 PM

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

David Bagley, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary

