

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2017 6-8:30 PM
Whittier Rec. Center**

Present: Andrew Nordick, Kaley Brown, Chafoxney Mitchner, Scott Melamed, Erin Sjoquist, Martha Nemesi, Christina Le, Laura Jean, Michael Malone, Kenya Weathers, David Bagley, Geri Jerez

Absent: Jen Kader, Carrie McCabe-Johnston, Araceli Perez, Christine Popowski, Daphna Stromberg, Jesse Oyervides, Mary Gazca

Late: N/A

Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Dan Stanton

Call to Order at 6:10 pm by David Bagley, Board Chair. Standard of conduct and conflict of interest were reviewed.

Amendments to Agenda:

- Add Lake Street Council's Lake Street Bash to agenda under BA
- Add formation of 35W Task Force under BA
- Add Ward 10 Forum to Old & New Business

Motion to approve agenda with additions. Seconded. **Motion Carries.**

Comments from the Chair

David Bagley

Secretary's Report

Erin Sjoquist

Review of August 24th Board Meeting Minutes. **Motion** to approve minutes **Carries**

Attendance:

6 - 0

8 - 1

4 - 2

0 - 3

0 - 4

0 - 5

Amendments to August Board Meeting Minutes:

- Board members are only late if they missed $\frac{2}{3}$ of meeting. Otherwise, their arrival time is the only thing that needs to be noted. Those that were marked as "late" from last meeting can be moved to "present".
- The minutes read that there was no secretary's report; however, David gave the report, and this qualifies as the secretary's report.

Motion to approve minutes with proposed adjustments. Motion **seconded**. Motion **Approved**.

Next Board Meeting:
October 26th, 2017

Executive Committee

David Bagley

- Kaley has applied for Community Organizer position with Whittier Alliance
 - Because she is a board member, our bylaws state that you cannot be paid by the alliance for one year
 - Can we allow her to take the position if she will be paid?
 - This is permissible given a 2/3 majority vote by the board
 - She has been offered the position
 - Two previous candidates had turned down the job before her
 - Are we okay going forward with this from a board's perspective?
 - Concern: shift in opinionated → having to remain bipartisan

Motion that the Whittier Alliance approves the hiring of Kaley Brown, pending her resignation from the board

Seconded.

9 - in favor

1 - abstention

The **Motion** is **Approved**.

Financial Committee

Christina Le

No financials this month; these will be overviewed next month when Stacey is here. Our bookkeeper is on vacation.

Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions

Community Issues

Scott Melamed

Overviewed by Ricardo; Scott was gone for the Community Issues Meeting

- We tried a new format for development
 - Encouraging those at the meetings to provide their voice at the City level
 - We provided attendees with contact information for representatives, planners, etc at the City level
- Very contentious conversation re: the development at Harriet & Lake (Lupe Development)

- Has not been well received by the City, orgs., or neighbors/citizens
- Subsidized housing project (Section 42 - income restrictions - single person has to have income of 42,000 no more no less)
- 2449 Lyndale Ave
 - Has already gone before the city planning commission
 - Has been approved for size, building footprint
 - Did not get approved for the height (4 stories)
 - Neighbors on either side have convinced planning that the building was too tall and it would have an adverse effect on their houses
 - Concern with the proximity to the street
 - In the plan, they were pushing the building towards the street, closer than the surrounding buildings
 - Because it already went to zoning & planning, and it fits within the ped. Overlay, it's being sent straight to city council
 - Teardown has already started; they are moving ahead
 - We should be thinking about that corridor, meet with the residents of those houses to inform them (about pedestrian overlays, zoning, etc)
 - More we could be doing ahead of time, rather than after the fact
 - Zoning + ped. overlay encourage moving closer to the street
 - This means it will continue on the block
 - Revisit the pedestrian overlay and zoning → we can help inform residents so that we can work to mitigate
 - Ped overlay was implemented on Lyndale last November

Business Association

Andrew Nordick

Met at MCAD

- Brought up issues with safety and street harassment, students and faculty feeling unsafe
- They have seen a recent increase in street harassment, so that they want to address this
- At the moment, they have a lot of ideas, but there is not a concrete focus yet
 - What kind of action can help and be most effective?
- We will have a meeting with them to discuss how we can partner with MCAD to help mitigate this issue
- Addressing the neighborhoods tolerance to these issues
 - Neighborhood watch
 - See something; say something
- Utilizing the artistic + creative abilities of MCAD students would be useful
- Partnering with the park for community ed. Self-defense - idea
- Broaden to Community Issues Meeting
- Does MCAD have a safety escort service?
- MCAD is going to be doing some remodeling of property on 26th
- Oral History Eat Street Project is on display at Henn. History Museum
 - They have a contract with City Hall to provide exhibits
- Waldorf School has been presented with an opportunity to buy 7th Adventist Church's space

- 7th Adventist Church has approached Waldorf and asked them if they want to buy it
- Spirit of St. Stephens has been without a permanent home; they currently rent from MCAD, and they gave them a time limit on their last lease
 - This could be a positive connection between the two of them
- All of this was spawned out of a new BA method: going around the table to let each business provide updates and news, as opposed to Andrew talking at everyone
- 35W Task Force has been formed
 - Zeus Jones on marketing/creative side
 - Offering their skills/labor for free
 - Sunrise Banks - financial support
 - They are ready and willing to contribute, but they need direction
 - We need added voices to help provide direction
 - Reach out to State Reps for helping the community
 - Need government interest
 - Reach out to owners of Electric Fetus
 - Great opportunity for local businesses to have an interest and influence on what happens here
 - Goal is to keep it light-weight so that conversations can be made efficiently
- Lake Street Council is having a fundraiser at the end of October
 - Tapping Lake Street Council would be useful
 - Nice to build relationship with them

Environment

Kaley Brown

- Last meeting when very well
- Brainstormed about events, projects, classes with Green Corps; what can we do to engage people
- Willow and Kaley are scheduling things ahead once a month
- Fall Cleanup - October 14th at Whittier Park - 10am-1pm

Staff Reports:

Strategic Plan - Follow up after retreat:

- Idea of two sections:
 - Visions and values
 - Priorities
 - a) Vision and values should be owned by the board
 - b) This is our role as board members - what the org values
 - c) Priorities are linked to actions that we will take over the next five years
- Activity:
 - Take a final tally of our current priorities, place sticky notes on “go”, “keep”, “change” and “add”
 - Time to review current strategic plan priorities
- Values and Priorities:
 - Example of what our plan may look like

- Focus on the structure: what our vision for the neighborhood is, value that will guide us, lens for how we will tackle priorities
- What's in here can be changed, but this is a first stab at what we might want it to look like
- Time taken for Sticky Note Activity
- Next Stage:
 - Making a lot of effort to engage different groups
 - Hiring consulting
 - Nominate project manager?
 - There should be someone on exec to work alongside project manager
 - Proposing Scott as Project Manager
 - Scott will meet with exec + Ricardo to go over next steps and division of labor

Inspector Kathy Waite - Police Inspector at fifth precinct

- Jennifer Neal has worked with Fifth Precinct before; she is going to come on mid-October as crime prevention specialist
- Board Introductions around the table
- Board is going through a series of meetings to hear Waite's thoughts on how we can be more effective, how we can work more effectively

Kathy Waite

- Communication is really important
- Gov. Delivery
 - Way of communication from police to block leaders to neighbors
 - Open rate is very small percentage, however
- Now, pushing alerts forward through Next Door
 - Not the most effective on their end
 - They aren't able to view anything, can't receive information back because they have 20 neighborhoods and can't sign up for each neighborhood
 - Could receive information from Crime Specialist and then distribute through WA social media
- Handout: crime reports from Sept. 1-28th
- Updates:
 - Lots of robberies, 7 robberies
 - Most common: property crimes
 - Theft from motor vehicles is high
- At the moment, crime is up
 - Also, in relation to significantly low crime in recent years
 - Difficult to locate the cause
- A lot of robbers are looking for people that are under the influence of alcohol
- Summer months: targeting people leaving the bars
- Recently: some occur during the day, more earlier in the evening as it starts to get darker
- Washburn Fair Oaks
 - Park Police's jurisdiction
- What can we do?
 - Bike Patrol - unsure of the success of this

- Neighborhoods are buying cameras; it can be effective depending on where you put them
 - However, these don't deter crime because they are nondescript and small
 - Inspector Waite - cameras are positive
 - They can help solve crimes after they happen
 - They aren't constantly monitored, but they are very useful
 - What's most useful for prevention?
- Street Harassment w/ MCAD
 - What can we do?
 - Call 911
 - What are neighborhood expectations?
 - Communication is what makes change, community involvement, being engaged with your neighbors
 - More participation at meetings
 - How do we reach out to different communities?
 - Provide information about becoming a block leader
 - Get people involved and then invite police to participate
- Police Resources update
 - Typically lose 20-30 officers a year to retirement
 - Budget is more or less the same
- What alternative solutions are there?
 - Prevention: officers driving around, education, affecting "crimes of opportunity" through disseminating information
 - Cameras: securonet - company that contracts with city to collect info from anyone willing that has an exterior camera
 - They say it is not a prevention method; it is an investigative tool
- Bring this up again at BA, since many of these crimes occur in commercial corridors
- How effective is street lighting?
 - Lighting a street always helps; however, often trees obscure the lights
 - Lighting comes at a price - approvals and extra funding, etc
 - If you can light up an area, it is to a community's advantage
- Useful to build community at both micro and macro level
 - Neighbors are at the ground level
 - An active, committed community is very helpful

Pilot project - co-dispatching program where police work with mental health professionals

Old & New Business:

Big Ideas Update:

Report on big ideas grant

- Awarded a winner, based on 700+ votes: Trailhead Games
- Process started with creating more grants with WA
- Paul and Willow worked on Big Ideas Grant - \$4,000
- Money given up front, work with individuals AND organizations, upfront would enable more individuals to apply

- 5 applicants
- Task force determined two finalists: tigerlion arts + trailhead games
- Voting: in-person at events + online vote
- Online vote and social media: not just whittier was voting
- However, we had addresses to figure out who was in whittier and who wasn't
- Determined metrics to scale votes
- Trailhead Games won on every metric
- Total vote count: 700+
- Majority were online
- NE Open Streets - trailhead reached out to individuals there - about half were from Whittier and new to our organization, they provided us with their info

Ward 10 - On the 17th of October in Carag - all the candidates will be there

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Carries.

Adjourn 8:29 PM

Minutes submitted by Dan Stanton.

Meeting Minutes Approved on _____

David Bagley, Board Chair

Erin Sjoquist, Board Secretary

