

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes  
February 27th, 2020 6-8:30 PM  
Wedge Table Classroom (2412 Nicollet Ave)**

**Present:** Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Michael Perez, Justin Kader, Katie Heimer, Aldona Martinka, Jen Kader, Erin Sjoquist, Stephane Brown

**Absent:** Christine Popowski, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Abbie Speller

**Late:**

**Staff:** Kaley Brown

**Guests:**

**Call to Order** at 6:04 pm by Cyndi Hovey, Vice Chair

Introductions.

Standard of conduct and conflict of interest policies were reviewed.

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

Board Community Agreements are reviewed.

**Secretary's Report**

**Jen Kader**

Attendance: 3-0, 3-1, 6-2, 2-3, 1-4, 0-5,, Reinstated-2, Resigned- 5, Terminated-1, Vacancies-4 Board Seats: 23

**Motion** to reinstate Aldona Martinka to the board. Motion **seconded.** Motion **carries.**

**Motion** to approve the minutes. Motion **seconded.** Motion **carries.**

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**Next Board Meeting:** February 27th, 2020 6:00-8:30 at the Wedge Table Community Room

**Call to Order** at 6:15 by Jen Kader, Chair.

Introductions.

Standard of conduct, conflict of interest policies and agenda were reviewed.

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

Board Community Agreements are reviewed.

**Secretary's Report:** Abbie Speller

Attendance: 3-0, 3-1, 6-2, 2-3, 1-4, 0-5,, Reinstated-2, Resigned- 5, Terminated-1, Vacancies-4 Board Seats: 23

**Motion** to approve the minutes. **Motion seconded.** **Motion carries.**

Next Board Meeting: March 26, 2020 6:00-8:30pm.

**Financial Report:** Michael Perez & Kaley Brown

Reviewed January financials and 2020 CCP report.

**Motion** to accept January financials. **Seconded.** **Motion passes.**

**Motion** to accept CCP report. **Seconded.** **Motion passes.**

**Bylaw Revisions:**

There were four main items that had been identified at the January meeting as still requiring further input, as well as a few changes that were recommended by the lawyer that looked through the proposal. The four items identified at the previous meeting were presented at the February Community Issues meeting for feedback.

**The items discussed at the February meeting were as follows:**

The lawyer recommended not allowing anyone below the age of 18 to be members of the board due to the fiduciary responsibility aspect of the role, and that anyone 16 or older be allowed to be members of the organization. The board agreed regarding the minimum age of board members, but requested that Kaley inquire about lowering the age for participation in the organization back to 15.

All were in agreement about approving the use of a rolling membership list.

There was significant discussion about the addition of a “break” requirement of one year after two consecutive terms. Board members agreed that the benefits of ensuring healthy turnover and bringing in new ideas need to be balanced against the importance of institutional knowledge. The board discussed changing the proposed consecutive terms limits to 9 years instead of 6, as well as options for the nominations committee to nominate people on their one-year breaks to fill vacancies in case of emergency. There was also discussion about preventing future board turnover-related emergencies by making sure that the Executive Committee members did not all come from the same cohort, but it was decided that this should not be codified. The board decided to approve the 6-year language with room to revisit a nominations committee emergency process next year.

The other major topic of bylaw discussion was the election process for acting committee chairs. The proposed change would move the election of these chairs from their own committee meetings to the annual meeting itself alongside the at-large board member elections. Both in the CI meeting and at the February board meeting, the discussion revolved around the benefits of having the largest possible body elect committee chairs, compared to the benefits of having the membership most active in those committees elect the chair. The majority of the board agreed that the purpose of acting committee chairs on the board is different enough from that of the at-large board members to keep the election of acting committee chairs at the respective acting committee meetings. One of the reasons this change was considered was to address business association participation challenges, so the board decided to make it an accessory committee with 3 general board seats, at least one from each sector, all elected at the annual meeting to a one-year term.

**Motion** to approve proposed bylaw changes with amendments discussed at the February board meeting. **Seconded. Motion carries.**

**Reports from Acting Committees**

**Community Issues:**

There was a great deal of excitement about the bylaw changes, and a general sentiment that the changes the board has made over the last few days are positive. Next month there will be discussion about shifting the vision and structure of the committee and renaming it to the Community Engagement Committee. The next CI meeting will have someone from the City of Minneapolis to discuss emergency preparedness.

**Business Association:**

No report

**Housing Issues:**

A development project at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S was presented to committee, the community survey is out, and will be voted on next month. It is primarily market rate studio apartments, and they are requesting a parking variance.

The Simpson Housing project discussed at previous WA board meetings, which would replace the church at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S and 28<sup>th</sup> Street W with a five story facility to provide more effective homelessness and supportive housing services. While approval for the

development was unanimous at the HI meeting, the parcel of land was down-zoned in the 2040 plan without the ability to request variances; they will require an amendment be made to the comprehensive plan. Stephanie has requested that the board approve the letter of support included in the board packet as passed by the HI committee.

**Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion carries.**

**Motion to approve a general statement of support for this development in the spirit of the letter that can be used in the future. Seconded. Motion carries.**

Finally, Stephanie has requested support from the board regarding how to most effectively engage with the community regarding the developments at 2910 Pillsbury Ave S and 200 W Lake Street. Kaley has already met with the land owner about the development and seems positive about future engagement with the Alliance.

**Staff Reports:**

See board packet.

**Other Announcements:**

Saturday September 12th is the 3rd annual Eat Street Festival. A reminder that the Annual Meeting is Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and board members should expect an ask to doorknock. The April board meeting time will be used for the new board member orientation, and the first official board meeting of the term will be in May.

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**Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.**

**Adjourn 8:50 PM**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Aldona Martinka.**