

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes
March 26th, 2020 6-8:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Michael Perez, Justin Kader, Brigid Higgins, Aldona Martinka, Jen Kader, Abbie Speller, Christine Popowski, Stephanie Brown, Nate Broadbridge

Absent: Katie Heimer

Late: Erin Sjoquist

Staff: Kaley Brown

Guests:

Call to Order at 6:03 pm by Jen Kader, 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

Abbie Speller

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

Brigid Higgins and Christine Popowski were reinstated unanimously.

Motion to approve the minutes. Motion **seconded.** Motion **carries.** 9 in favor and one abstained.

Next Board Meeting: April 23rd, 2020 6:00-8:30 pm on Zoom

Finance Report: Michael Perez

Nothing unusual this month. WA set up a new IRA account for Fartun, but there were some discrepancies with the paperwork so they sent a check back for the same amount. Kaley will send it again in April, which will be for February and March.

We received our quarter for CPP and NRP reimbursements.

Starting May 1st our rent will go up to \$950 instead of \$690. They justified this because they haven't raised the rent in 7 years. We still don't have a current lease. Discussed pros/cons of asking for a new lease. This could tie us down if a better option presented itself. Commercial leases are often 5 years, but we could still look into options.

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

COVID19

Make sure as board members and representatives of the neighborhood that the information we are sharing are current and correct.

Provision Community Restaurant is providing free meals from 5:30--6:30pm Monday--Friday. Fallout Arts Shelter is doing a food shelf on Saturday mornings at 10am and offering free meals from 5-6pm in the evenings.

Kaley is trying to keep the website up to date with the latest resources. The mutual aid form has also been circulating for people to add to.

The WA office will remain open for staff. They are alternating days and being thorough with the cleaning. Marcus is focusing on helping businesses by connecting them to BTap providers. Fartun and Kaley met with a public health expert responsible for Somali outreach for the state. Hodan Hassan has worked with Cedar Riverside to develop resources and culturally specific materials for that community. She is requesting funding to hire part-time public health experts to do outreach in the Somali community (specifically in Whittier) with partner organizations like WA.

Annual Meeting Postponement & Implications

There are a few possible dates that we could potentially reschedule to: 5/28, 6/4, 6/25. The hope is that we can postpone on a board meeting date so every board member can attend.

Board applicants have been informed. Jen's board term will be extended until further notice because we won't have an annual meeting; she is the only person serving who would have been up for re-election this spring.

Motion: Temporarily extend all current board terms including Committee Chairs until further notice while alternative annual meeting and election plans can be determined. **Motion seconded. Motion carries 10-0-1.**

Discussed changing the deadline of board applications. This could increase engagement, and they still will have to have been involved 6 months before the annual meeting. However, it could be a confusing message to current candidates who were told it wouldn't be competitive (5 running, 5 seats available). On the other hand, some believe it should be a competitive process and candidates shouldn't assume it's a given that they will be elected.

Does staff have capacity for more applicants or advertising this during a time of crisis? We also aren't going to be able to give a lot of notice for the meeting anyway.

We will continue this conversation over email.

Neighborhoods 2020

The city is going to hire a consultant to look at community engagement across the whole city. This could possibly revamp the scope of work for NCR, which is why their role in this document is not outlined.

There are three ongoing pots of money that you can get every year and 1 temporary fund for the 3 year transition period. It's currently set to be in 3 year funding cycles. The Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund would cover basic operating neighborhood expenses. The Equitable Engagement Fund and Partnership Engagement Fund are operated similarly to grants that we would have to apply for. The goal with both of these is to make sure neighborhood organizations are operating through an equity lens. The amount we will be eligible for is more than we get for CPP, which is true for every other neighborhood, as well.

The public comment period closes on April 17th.

Grants Update

We applied for the State Arts Board Grant and the Census Outreach Grant. Great Streets grant is on hold for this year.

Standard of Conduct Changes

Recording of a meeting can happen as long as it's approved beforehand. Social meeting posting during meetings must be related to the content of the meetings and not other people's opinions.

Removed a lot of the 'Don't' language. We want to encourage people on how to show up, not how NOT to show up.

Motion to approve the new Standard of Conduct Policy. **Motion** seconded. **Motion** carries.

Community Issues Proposed Changes

The name will change from Community Issues to Community Engagement.

Justin proposed a new model with some formal meetings, but using subcommittees to house multiple interests within the committee umbrella.

It can also be used for a connecting hub to showcase work that others are already doing in the neighborhood.

The proposed acting committees for the year will be voted on at the annual meeting upon recommendation by the Board, but the newly elected Chair has the authority to shift the structure, though it will be shared with the community beforehand.

Motion to Approve the proposal. **Motion** seconded. **Motion** carries.

Reports from Acting Committees

Housing: All planning committee decisions have been postponed. They are also not processing any land use applications. Stephanie is working on getting work sessions set up during this time.

Business: No updates.

Census 2020

We did get funding from the city to be a Complete Count Committee, but it will be difficult since we can't do face to face organizing.

We will have to get creative about how we communicate about the census. We could do ads on Spanish and Somali speaking radio stations.

Kmart Opening

This has been a goal of the Whittier Alliance since the formation in the 1970's. This could potentially have very negative ramifications for the neighborhood. Kaley met with Lisa Bender two weeks ago. Currently the site is not in CPED's docket of projects, nor do they have funding for it. Between finding the money and doing all of the engineering estimates before building will be a 2-3 year process. The earliest that the street will be opened is 5 years. Lisa has spoken with the Public Housing Authority and the Community Land Bank to make sure that they have seats at the table. They are also taking requests for the lot space over the next few years.

Closed Session

Announcements /Next Steps

- The April meeting will still be the fourth Thursday of April.
- Members are welcome to use the WA Zoom account if needed. Reach out to Kaley to coordinate.

Staff Reports:Kaley Brown

See board packet

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.

Adjourn 8:42PM | Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.