

**Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 27th, 2019 6-8:30 PM**  
**Whittier Park**

**Present:** Erin Sjoquist, Abbie Speller, Cyndi Hovey, Nate Rastetter, Stephanie Brown, Mariana Arriaza, Jesse Oyervides, Aldona Martinka, Jen Kader, Christine Popowski, Brigid Higgins, Nate Broadbridge, Michael Perez

**Absent:** Kim Fishman, Ukasha Dakane, David Bagley, Justin Kader

**Late:**

**Staff:** Kaley Brown

**Guests:**

**Call to Order** at 6:05pm 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.

**Secretary's Report**

**Erin Sjoquist**

Attendance: 8-0, 8-1, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4, 0-5, Reinstated-0, Resigned- 1, Terminated-0, Vacancies-7 Board Seats: 23

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

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**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 27, 2019**

**Finance Committee**

**Jen Kader / Kaley Brown**

Reviewed May Financials. Nothing was out of the ordinary. CPP funds have been reimbursed. We received about \$300 in donations.

NRP contracts will be consolidated by next month. WA will return NRP contracts totaling \$17,900. We will be returned \$10,000 of that money in a new contract, because the maximum per contract is \$10,000. These changes will streamline the reimbursement process in the future.

**Motions** to approve May financials, 990 Form, and MNCOAR annual filing. **Seconded**. Motions pass.

**Acting Committee & Task Force Reports & Motions**

**Community Issues**

Review of Community Iftar. Overall there was great feedback from those who attended and board members. Idea to try and choose a date with fewer competing iftars next year.

**Business Association**

**Kaley Brown**

Katie Heimer is working with Marcus and Pimento to host the July Business Association happy hour.

The Business Association strategic plan focus group wanted more networking events to meet people without a rigid agenda.

**Housing Issues Committee**

**Stephanie Brown**

Discussion about the idea of exploring a solar easement policy for property owners with solar panels.

Formalizing an approach of how to developers engage with the committee. They should present at least 2 times. There might be a questionnaire in the future for them to fill out prior to coming before the committee.

The City wants to develop the parking lot behind the Jungle Theater into apartment buildings. The LynLake parking committee rep will also come to the July HI meeting. Both will present on their ideas/process.

The committee would like volunteers who can door knock before a developer comes to the HI committee for the first time to increase turnout and engagement.

There is an “affordable” 6 unit building proposed for 25th and Grand Avenue. The developer will be at the next meeting.

#### **Environmental Sustainability Task force \***

**Kaley Brown**

The task force had stopped meeting regularly last year. It was too much work for staff and people weren’t willing to help beyond attending the meetings.

There are current projects that could use help from interested volunteers:

- Community organics drop
- Potential to partner with LHENA on sustainability efforts that they’re currently leading.

Christine would like to partner with the Business Association to try to persuade businesses to switch from plastic to biodegradable materials.

#### **Staff Reports:**

**Kaley Brown**

Kaley and Marcus are currently working on sponsorship and vendor recruitment for Eat Street Festival.

There will be a small business/artist showcase for more unknown businesses in Whittier. All vendors must apply by July 31st.

Currently brainstorming ideas for the Whittier Alliance booth. Some ideas include a dunk tank, photo booth with instagram/snapchat filters.

The staff support needs remain the same except for the Somali Independence Festival this Saturday.

#### **Update on Whittier Alliance Policy Decisions**

**Kaley Brown**

**Short Term Disability:** The short term disability policy goes into effect next week.

**Background checks:** The board will hold off on background checks until the fiscal policy review. There might be ways we can alter this policy to avoid having to do background checks.

**Meeting Recordings:** We continued to discuss the possibility of recording meetings. Live stream would be a better alternative. Recording could be very complicated depending on the types of meetings. We don’t want to discourage people from speaking.

If we were to allow any recording or live streaming there needs to be a clear criteria of what can and cannot be recorded. Would live tweeting also be allowed?

**Neighborhoods 2020:** There is currently an RFP out for a consultant. RFP was very vague and it could likely still end up being done by CURA.

#### **Board Member Training and Support**

**Jen Kader**

Reflected on the board member training. Jen would like all board members to fill out a survey. The survey would give insight to how the experience is for every board member.

Discussed the possibility of drafting ‘Lyndale Questions’ for Whittier.

#### **Project Updates and other updates**

**Kaley Brown**

**The Treehouse mural** is fixed. We don’t know if there’s coating. Melodee ended up only quoting \$500 instead of \$2500.

**Map the neighborhood update:** Stephanie and Matt Barthelemy had their first meeting. Other than that there are no new updates.

**Neighborhood Design Guidelines:** Nate B. was working with an architectural firm on this. The price was very expensive.

**Farmers Market Tabling:** Sign up sheet was passed around. We will discuss the sustainability of this event at the end of the summer.

**Review of the Big Ideas Grant:** Cyndi and Willow will discuss how much money there is and how the grant will be administered going forward.

**Southwest Parks:** July 11th at Lynnhurst Recreation Center from 6-8 pm. People will be able to ask questions about all of the SW Parks renovations.

- Washburn Fair Oaks parking garage is the board's main concern.
  - They are currently in Phase II and they need feedback before finalizing their plans.
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**Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carries.**

**Adjourn 8:32 PM**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie Speller.**