



WA Community Issues Meeting Minutes

Whittier Park

Wednesday, October 10, 2016

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Greg Schmidt, Mary Gazca, Edsel Ammons, Tim Lovett, Teresa Murphy, Felino de la Pena, Marie E. Listopad, Emanuel Tekle, Dave La Violette

WA Staff: Ricardo McCurley, Paul Shanafelt, Camilla Fartun Jamal, Scott Melamed, Joey Whitesman

Presenters: Lindsey Wallace, Office of Council Member Bender
Max Holdusen, MetroTransit

Welcome/Call to Order - Ricardo McCurley

Welcome at 6:12 by Ricardo McCurley. Agenda was reviewed, Introductions are made. Standard of conduct policy was reviewed. **Motion** to approve the Agenda **Carried**.

Announcements/Community Comments & Discussion

Greg suggests a different time for the BA meeting, Ricardo will look into it.

Paul updates on Crime and Safety task force. This month, there will be a community discussion regarding street harassment. Sexual Violence will be conducting a seminar at MCAD, 150, Oct 24, 7 - 8:30pm. City is hosting 2040 Comprehensive Vision plan, Tuesday, Oct 25, 5-7:30 pm. Uber/bike caravan at end of Nicollet. ESTF update – Rain Garden update – Next meeting on last Monday of the month, Oct 26th, 6-7:30 pm.

Joey gives an update on Whittier Wheels. Like national Bike Benefits. Explains the program. Bikers get an incentive for having arrived to a business via bike. Preparing for a spring launch. Greg suggests, if not going by a businesses, can we list the businesses in the calendar. Scott gives the thumbs up. Ricardo: Mirroring dining guide. Might print a version to hand out to people.

10th Ward Update – Lindsey Wallace

Introduces herself. (1) Comprehensive plan – it's the guiding vision document for Mpls - how do you see the city, what's your experience - what direction do you want things to go. Mpls does this to give structure/direction to growth. Two open hours 10/25, and then 10/27 in NE. Minneapolis2040.com. This is the very beginning. Public engagement plan, organizing with cultural communities, small groups, neighborhoods. Not to be completed until 2018, but starting now for robust community engagement.

(2) Minimum Wage study findings -- Researchers at Roy Wilkins Institute – they judged that there is a benefit to workers from increased minimum wage. Also: Low wage workers are more likely to live and work in Minneapolis. 25% of those who *work in* Mpls, live in Mpls. Of low wage workers, 50% live in Mpls. Great benefit goes to workers of color. Limitations of study: Didn't look at if businesses would leave. However, areas most impacted are retail,

restaurants, grocery stores, so researchers hypothesize unlikely that they leave. Study found that businesses would moderately increase prices, about \$1 per \$25 meal. Potential impact could be even more small.

(3) Budget season - budget presentations from city departments – Committee member Bender generally supports Mayor's budget. Levee increase (for streets and parks funding). In addition, new spending is for police and fire, to reduce overtime pay, and to work toward reforms and improvements. Plus, a new mental health task force. Supports health funding. Plus, investment in small business support. Coordinating a working group of small business people to have a voice in shaping how that evolves.

(4) Three developments coming through: Franklin/Lyndale (Steeple People site) – there is a site plan, staff working on report, nothing to planning commission yet (10/17); Rana Village (10/17); Rex Hardware spot (Don Gerbering), apartment building to take up lot, and take the place of four standing single-family homes. Neighbors have contacted office, displeased by the project. Greg asks about shading of near buildings. Lindsey says shading studies happen but she doesn't know what the general criteria are for "undue shading."

Greg asks about lead statute: It used to be that you needed to contain or check for lead. Lindsey will look into it.

MetroTransit Update - Max Holdusen

Max introduces himself. Lives on 2504 on Harriet.

Better Bus Stops: Metro Transit won grant to focus on equity projects in Twin Cities. There was a Star Trib article about quality discrepancy in different locations of the city. MetroTransit has subcontracted \$200,000 to several groups - Corcoran, Central, Lyndale, Lake Street – for community engagement, to be spent how neighborhoods see fit. Money went to door knocks, focus groups, etc. Max shows photo of what a new shelter looks like.

Marie to Max: Thank you. Tim: How about the bus ramp for mobility issues, any improvements? Max says, all new busses are low floor, and then yes, higher curbs at new spots. But boarding still won't be perfectly level. Ricardo: Are new shelters standard aesthetically, or input from neighborhood? Max: Standard look.

Transit Assistant Program: \$1 rides for people who are qualified low-income. Started Monday 10/10, 6-month pilot. Ages 13-64, non-disabled, because youth and disabled discount programs already in place. Income verification through other programs (eg. Catholic Charities, SNAP, etc.). Purpose: Reduce barriers to ride. Pilot because MetroTransit wants to see about revenue. Open to 4,000 people. Sign ups are in neighborhood -- next Monday at Franklin/Chicago, and then two days at Chicago/Elliott. *Advertise it!*

Route 2 info: Now every 10 minutes instead of 15 mins, and into weekend. Goes Hennepin/Franklin, down Franklin, to U on Riverside. Connects Blue Line and Phillips/Whittier.

35 W Transit Access update: Transit Access authority shut down by MNDOT, for 1.5 years. Re-opened 2016 summer, talked about: what would concrete walls of freeway look like. Met Transit has PAC on plaza at Lake and 35W. Hide wall, to look nicer. Recently held workshop with Arts/Cultural groups -- How do we activate plaza day-to-day? Can plaza support food trucks, for instance? Max discusses lighting –it will be well-lit. Greg: Can we reduce I-Beams?

Project will be 4.5 years of work, beginning in 2018. Marie asks about greenway light rail.

Meeting adjourns at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott Melamed