

**Community Issues Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 10th, 2020— 6:30--8:00pm — Whittier Park**

**Attendees:** Christine Popowski, Hannah Jerrie, Andrea Lechuga, Cyndi Hovey, Genevieve Johnson, Kami Brodie, George Rishmawi, Hannah, Kate Nettleman, Lara Crombie, Nate Broadbridge, Nate Rastetter, Nicole Schladt, Wendy Darst, Mark Yamaguchi

**Staff:** Marcus VanderSanden, Oscar Nieves-Rubio

**Presenter:** Tom Kachelmacher, Hannah Jerrie, Nick Hutchinson, Domonique Jones

Welcome at 6:35pm by Marcus VanderSanden, .

Agenda & Standard of Conduct is reviewed.

**Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.**

Introductions.

### **Community Updates**

Whittier Alliance - Marcus VanderSanden

- Summarized recent work of Whittier Alliance including
  - Grant opportunities administered throughout 2020
  - Onboarding of new VISTA Tenant Organizer
  - Ongoing K-Mart Site outreach and planning work

### **CANMN**

Tom Kachelmacher

Tom introduced the Community Aid Network MN which is a mutual aid collective operating out of Children's Theatre Company. CANMN is a continuation of three mutual aid efforts that arose in the Whittier neighborhood in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the economic effects of COVID-19.

### **Highlights**

#### **Open for Pick-up Monday and Wednesday 12-4pm at 2400 3rd Ave S**

Want to emphasize that they are not 501(c)3 but rather a collective because it offers them more flexibility to address community need.

Online order form is active and very helpful for them to plan for needs in advance

### **Whittier Solidarity Network**

Nick Hutchinson

The Whittier Solidarity Network is a Discord Channel that was born out of an increased need for neighborhood communication in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and subsequent safety concerns within the neighborhood. The group has grown to become a hub for neighborhood organizing, promotion and communication. They have divided the neighborhood into smaller sections to streamline communication with more direct neighbors in addition to more broad channels for promotion of events and other issues applicable to the community at large.

Nick is seeking input on how this platform can best be utilized for the community from here on out, hopes to grow platform to fill multiple needs for the neighborhood.

### **Question**

**Q:** How many people currently use the WSN?

**A:** Over 600 people are signed up for the WSN with active users varied for topic specific posts

To get an invite link to the WSN email [info@whittieralliance.org](mailto:info@whittieralliance.org) or more information or further questions email [mintclassic@gmail.com](mailto:mintclassic@gmail.com)

**19 E 26th St**

Domonique Jones, Community Land Trust

Domonique Jones presented on the The Community Land Trusts partnership with the City of Minneapolis to facilitate the process of finding a commercial tenant to occupy the City owned parcel at 19 E 26th St. The vacant property was purchased by the City from Hennepin County and will now serve as the pilot commercial property to use the Land Trusts' model of alternative ownership transfer to a tenant business. They are currently accepting applications from businesses and are committed to getting as much community input as possible to ensure that a tenant business has support and addresses community needs.

**Questions:**

Is there a timeline for applicants?

**A:** There is no specified timeline and they have yet to come up with or execute a marketing strategy but are accepting applications on a rolling basis and evaluating them as they come in. The total agreement with the City is to have a tenant in place in 18 months but is hopeful to have somebody in place before then.

**Community Issue Community Conversation**

Marcus VanderSanden- WA

Whittier Staff member Marcus VanderSanden opened up a conversation on the future of the Community Issues Committee. The Committee was dormant for much of 2020 due to organizational capacity, shifting priorities and leadership vacancy. Prior to hiatus of Committee, a previous chair person had introduced changing the name of the committee from "Community Issues" to "Community Engagement" which had strong board support. The goal is to encourage this committee to be a forum for more active engagement in addition to addressing issues in the community. There has also been a recent history of success within the WA Housing Issues Committee employing subgroups and committees to guide work for like minded community members.

**Comments and Questions:**

**Wendy Darst:** Has not enjoyed the strong law enforcement presence at the Community Issues meetings in the past

There was general support for a more collaborative community approach to the Committee and potential topic specific sub-groups or sub-committees

Ideas around employing this model for increased "greening efforts" in Whittier including community gardening or seed sharing program.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.**

**Minutes submitted by Marcus VanderSanden.**