

**Whittier Housing Issues Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 15, 2019, 6:30-8:00pm**  
**Black Forest Inn, 1 E 26th St.**

**Attendees:** Nate Rastetter, Emma Sherman, Brigid Higgins, Ben Cowper, Matt Barthelemy, Cat Hammond, Nicole Weiler, Shannon Dotson, Joanna Krause-Johnson, Ron Johnson, Peder Hageh, Caroline Akire, Erin West, Suzanne R., Stephanie Brown

**Staff:** Kaley Brown

**Speakers:** (none)

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Stephanie Brown, Housing Issues Committee Chair  
Agenda & Code of Conduct are reviewed. September meeting minutes reviewed.

**Motion** to approve September meeting minutes. **Second. Motion carries.**

**Motion** to approve agenda. **Seconded. Approved.**

**Engagement Efforts for Neighborhood Developments**

- Lucia Yess-Melling's development at the SE corner of 26th St and 1st
  - 2-story structure with two yoga studios, 3 treatment rooms, flexible use space for community to book for private events
  - She presented at the September meeting and will not be coming back for a formal vote, but we have included info on the project on the WA website on the development tracker
- Lupe Projects on Lake Street (Phases II and III)
  - All information to date on this project is included on the development tracker webpage
  - Stephanie and Kaley have met with Lupe staff and architects to convey community feedback via the survey results we have received so far through door-knocking, in-person, and digital channels; they are moving more slowly through the process to get a better understanding of how the upcoming inclusionary zoning ordinance will impact the Phase III building.
  - Stephanie and Kaley have also reviewed these projects with CP Bender's staff to convey community input and understand their view of the City planning staff's position on them
- City-owned Garfield Parking Lot
  - An open house took place at the project site on October 8th, and we expect there to be an additional engagement opportunity at Whittier Rec Center on Wednesday, November 6th in the evening.
  - Information about the project and a link to the online survey are included on the development tracker page for those who were not able to attend the open house and still want their feedback to be included.
  - New information will be added to the WA webpage under this project section as it becomes available, so be sure to check back.

**Continued Mobilization for Neighborhood-wide Housing Survey**

- Updates on supporting partnerships
  - Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)
    - We have been working with the research graduate assistant to continue tweaking the interactive mapping tool in order to convey the most accurate and

useful data possible; the U of M students working on the qualitative data via the survey will soon take over and manage the remainder of those edits.

- U of M Urban Studies course
  - Group 1: Currently making a plan to process survey results and analyze the data provided to us in the mapping tool to connect the quantitative with the qualitative results
  - Group 2: Help us formalize our new development engagement process and create a toolkit to assist other neighborhoods in utilizing our process in their organizing work
- Updates on volunteer work
  - Many people present have been involved in various door-knocking days, data entry work - thank you, everyone!
    - So far, door-knockers have received many positive responses
  - We are currently developing a scope of work for a project-specific organizer to help us reach Whittier's Spanish-speaking residents over the coming weeks to ensure this project has a representative sample; our Somali-speaking staff person will be back from maternity leave soon and lead engagement with our East African neighbors.

#### **4d Affordable Housing Program Workshop**

- Stephanie and Kaley have also met with Dean Porter-Nelson at the City of Mpls to talk about the 4d program and how we can work together to engage and support Whittier's many "small" scale landlords with regard to program eligibility, questions, and the application process
- It is decided that the City staff will co-present with WA Housing Issues at a December workshop event on the program: requirements, answer questions, and volunteers will assist property owners with running basic numbers to determine how the program would impact their property taxes

#### **Attendees break out into small working groups for the remainder of the meeting time to determine next steps on the following projects:**

- Development project engagement
- Neighborhood livability survey project
- 4d Affordable Housing Workshop

**Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.**

**Minutes submitted by Kaley Brown.**