

Whittier Housing Issues Committee Meeting Minutes
February 19th, 2019, 6:30-8:00pm
Black Forest Inn, 1 E 26th St.

Attendees: Stephanie Brown (Committee Chair), Scott Melamed, Shannon Dotson, Dave Laviolette, Nate Broadbridge, Nancy Julia Hicks, Morgan Appleberry, Nate Rastetter, Teqen Aizza, Caleb Steven, Andy Goke, Matt Barthelemy, Ukasha Dakane.

Staff: Fartun Ismail

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by Stephanie Brown, Housing Issues Committee Chair.
Agenda & Code of Conduct are reviewed.

October 2018 meeting minutes reviewed. **Minutes approved.**

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

Updates of on-going work

- **Housing resources guide** for website is available on the WA website and staff will continue adding to it. Everyone is encouraged to contact Fartun with any additions or changes to the materials.
- **Development projects** in Whittier:
 - 2644 Nicollet Ave (under construction)
 - 2645 1st Ave (approved by planning committee, small changes made to exterior, including addition of guest bike parking, which was one of the Whittier Alliance requests)
 - 2210 4th Ave S (approved by HPC and directed to have a larger portion of brick in the facade; we will be looking for this to go before the housing committee and the planning commission soon)
 - W 28th and Garfield (project under development, more to come)
 - Planning commission also approved conversion of property on Stevens (between 22nd and 23rd) from an office building to a transitional housing development
- **Partnership with LHENA:** One of our goals, is how we can advocate for our neighbors and partner given that we are facing similar issues. An opportunity to provide educational opportunities regarding housing issues, not only to develop projects. Our other goal was how to influence development to ensure that affordable options remain in the neighborhood.
- **Partnership with Inquilinx Unidxs Por Justicia** (Renters united for justice) which their goal is to increase home stability while they fight for the rights of the Latino renters/tenants.

The group recapped strategic goals for housing committee and 2019 priorities.

Discussed 2019 action plans and building volunteer teams, namely:

- **Build better resources for the neighborhood**
 - Fartun has already developed draft (which was circulated)
 - Group to send updates as we encounter them.
 - Brief discussion of making sure all materials are adequately translated. *Ukasha* offered to be a connection in sharing resources with East African community in the neighborhood.
- **Map the neighborhood** to understand the current physical landscape, accurate rent levels, properties likely to be developed
 - Targeting effort in warmer months, when we can effectively mobilize volunteers.
 - *Matt B* expressed interest in working on/co-leading this areas of work. *Morgan A* volunteered to help.
- **Build design guidelines** for new development alongside new city policies
 - Brief discussion of what this would look like -- small area plan versus smaller design guideline doc. Next step will be to talk with consultants about what is possible given the identified budget (to be approved at annual meeting)
 - Goal would be to have a document to approve at 2020 annual meeting, will take considerable effort to develop.
 - *Nate B, Nate R, Andy,* and *Shannon* expressed interest in working on this issue. *Caleb* volunteered to be a resource and connection to property management community.
- **Host a community education forum**
 - Original plan put on hold, but looking for volunteers to restart discussions and consider what other neighborhoods should be part of discussion. Andy discussed potential inclusion of Loring Park. Stevens Square also discussed as a possibility.
 - Timeline tbd, but would like to hold 1-2 events in 2019.
 - *Nancy* expressed an interest in this area, and *Shannon* also offered support
- **Convene expert team** to help provide support and 'first line of engagement' with new developments
 - Effort already partly underway, but will be more effective when group has clear, neighborhood-approved guide developed. Will look for members as well develop.
 - *Scott* expressed interest in helping develop this team.

March meeting: Tuesday, March 19th, 2019; 6:30--8:00 pm; location Black Forest Inn (1 E 26th St.)

Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm. Seconded. Carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Fartun Ismail.