

Whittier Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17th, 202, 6:30-8:00pm

Hybrid Format: MCAD (25Floor Emeritus 01 Stevens Ave, 2nd Conference Room)+ Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: Jo Ann Musumeci, Aaron Paul Keith, Hans-Christian Karlberg, Ryan Kronzer, Lena Simon, Kalle

Presenters: Ryan Kronzer, Whittier resident

Staff: Kaley Brown, Meggie Garcia

Welcome/Introductions

-The meeting is called to order at 6:30pm.

-The committee went through a round of introductions.

-The meeting chair presented the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda is seconded and passes unanimously.

-The meeting chair recognized Standard of Conduct; Non-discrimination and Anti-racism; and Conflicts of Interest Policies.

-September and November Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved

-Attendees completed a round of introductions.

Whittier Alliance - 2116 Nicollet Avenue Lot

- Quick overview of 2116 Nicollet Avenue Lot - George Rishmawi (board member)
- Received 2 proposals
 - Currently choosing partners
 - Start construction 2025 after getting funding (fundraising)
 - Building going to be a multi-use building

Washburn Fair Oaks Historic District Design Guidelines Update - Kaley

- Grant given to update guidelines
- Coming to engage with community sometime in the spring
- Guidelines haven't been updated in decades leading to current decision to update

Whittier Park - Spark'd studio

- Whittier chosen to get spark'd studio for recreational center
- Currently under construction
- Fun new opportunities for kids in the neighborhood
- Whittier split into 2 districts: district 4 and 6

Discussion: Whittier Street Safety Projects / Ryan Kronzer, Whittier resident

- Small group , once a month, - Urban Design group
 - Mostly talk about transportation design
 - Ways to make streets safer - primarily around schools
 - City of mpls council contacted/ informed
- Neighborhood transportation calling → influential
- Transportation plan action 2030
- W.P - potential bike path going through the park – concern for pedestrian safety, going through area full of kids
- Street parking? Street already narrow, this potential design could make streets narrower

- Bike lane confusing - bikers biking wrong way and lanes listed as a regular walk path
 - Bike paths being repaved soon - this can be an opportunity to redesign the paths
- Want Bikeways on pleasant to be made permanent
- 26th and 28th street confusing - drivers going the wrong way causing lots of traffic.
 - Convert these high traffic corridors into high traffic public transportation areas instead
 - Push for more alternative transportation
 - These roads are one ways and cause grid locks
- Master planner of street/ transportation → Mayor Marion Anderson Keller
- Narrowing streets and adding cones help to slow down speeding – Safer for pedestrians.
- Concerned that the snow plows can't go through

Concern by resident (Aaron) - 28th and 29th on stevens:

- Traffic planning: no amount of ramps can increase the capacity of a road
- Nico products history: wanted to expand and wanted to take 29th
 - Doing this would cut residents off and remove street parking availability
 - Stevens Ave alley is being used as a regular street and has become unsafe
 - People trying to U-turn when they realize the blockade on 29th and stevens
- Residents fighting for parking coming from 3 blocks out
- Want/ need - stop signs or road blocks

Kmart comment - look over past suggested kmart ideas instead of starting from scratch. → already have been taken into consideration. City has gathered all comments regarding the project from the past.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

HLU Meetings Every third Tuesday of the month

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 21th, 6:30-8:00 pm - Hybrid in-person/zoom meeting

Meeting minutes submitted by Meggie Garcia.