

Whittier Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 202, 6:30-8:00pm

Hybrid Format: MCAD (2501 Stevens Ave, 2nd Floor Emeritus Conference Room) +
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: Ryan Kronzer, Karla Hovde, George Rishmawi, Guy Wagner

Presenters: Sara Richards (MPRB), Aaron Warford & Madeline Peters (Bolton & Menk), Peter Bennet (City of Minneapolis), Nathan Ellingson (Hennepin County)

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.

-January Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

-Attendees completed a round of introductions.

Whittier Alliance - 2116 Nicollet Avenue Lot

- Update: received proposals and working through partnership parameters with the selected team
- Email will be sent to those signed up for updates through the WA project webpage

Proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) at 2524 Clinton Ave - Guy Wagner, Whittier neighbor

- Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is the first step for approvals to any new or amended building structure in the Washburn Fair Oaks Historic District, which includes much of the northeast portion of our neighborhood
- Guy wants to build a garage with a small apartment above behind his house in a space that currently just has a blacktop for parking spaces
- City staff working with Guy did not indicate issues with the design until the day of the hearing, leading to denial of his project by the HPC
- Felt that the review process seemed unfair and in conflict with the goals of the 2040 Comp Plan
- Learning experience for WA and for others as more ADUs are proposed in the district
- It is noted that the historic district's design guidelines are currently in the process of being updated, and it is the right time to voice feedback on this issue to the City staff working on it

Whittier Park Project (Spark'd lab) update - Sara Richards

- Sara has been at Whittier just a couple weeks; she is getting to know the Whittier neighborhood
- Demolition has begun in building for the Spark'd lab - old front desk taken down and other walls surrounding it
- They have hired a specialist to staff the lab programs
- Lay out of building interior is being decided
 - 3D printer, booths and other cool things being offered in upcoming lab for youth
- Building is scheduled to reopen in April but running into some issues with asbestos and wiring

Franklin Ave Reconstruction Project update - Madeline, Peter, Aaron, Nathan- Bolton and Menk, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis

- The stretch of Franklin we are planning for now is Lyndale to I-35W
- Currently is a heavily used thoroughfare and will be undergoing a full reconstruction
- Aim to improve the safety of the road for everyone
- Project goals: Safe pedestrian crossing, space for all travel modes, better community connection, support bus and institutions, enhance visual character of Franklin Ave, minimize traffic delays
- Currently in the beginning of the design stage
- Construction will be done in short bursts
- In first phase of engagement, they established a community advisory group, held the first open house, 4 pop ups along the corridor, received 153 survey responses in English, 72 surveys in Spanish
- Overall observation:
 - Strong support for pedestrians, transit, and bikes
 - Moderate support for green spaces and auto needs
 - Mixed feelings on parking and delivery needs
- Challenges:
 - Many needs to balance (walking, biking, driving, etc)
 - Limited right-of-way space to fit everything (not interest in buying up more space)
 - Too many variables at play
- Hoping to have an idea/selection by summer
- A corridor map and various potential options/features are shared and discussed highlighting the competing needs and limited space
- Attendees discuss the pros and cons of the different layouts as experienced in other parts of the City that have enacted them

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

HLU Meetings Every third Tuesday of the month

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

Meeting minutes submitted by Meggie Garcia.