

Whittier Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2021, 6:30-8:00pm
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: George Rishmawi, Claudia Callaghan, Sally Dale, Jesse Oyervides, Nick Hutchinson, Stephanie Bradley, Stephanie Brown, Shannon Dotson, Y Sussman, Nicole Weiler

Presenters: Katie White (City of Minneapolis)

Staff: Kaley Brown, Oscar Nieves Rubio, Robb Larson

Welcome/Introductions

-The committee went through a round of introductions.

-The meeting chair presented the agenda. **Motion to approve the agenda. Seconded. The motion passed.**

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

-The committee reviewed the July minutes. **Motion to approve the July 2021 minutes. Seconded. The Motion passed.**

Housing & Land Use Committee Project Work

- **Whittier Alliance - [2116 Nicollet Avenue Lot Purchase](#)**
 - Steering Committee application deadline is Friday, August 20.
- **Equitable Development Scorecard**
 - Work is resuming. We've developed a scorecard to evaluate potential developments for how well they fit our community goals. The developer scores themselves, and then community members have an opportunity to score the development as well. We're currently finalizing the scorecard and are looking for volunteers to help. Let George, Stephanie or Kaley know if you're interested.
- **[Wells Fargo / Kmart Area Redevelopment](#) (Lake St & Nicollet Ave)**
 - Kmart Visioning Subgroup meets 2nd Monday every month - next meeting is September 13
 - Last engagement session is this Thursday August 26, 6 PM in-person at the Blaisdell YMCA.

Transportation Project Updates in Whittier

- **[Whittier/Lyndale Bikeway Improvement Project](#) & 1st Ave Reconstruction - Katie White (City of Minneapolis)**
 - There will be crews working on Blaisdell, 1st, and 28th St in the next few weeks.
 - In a few years there will be a full reconstruction of 1st Ave S.
 - The big improvement is to make it a northbound one-way and putting in a two-way bike lane.
 - The City is hiring a consultant to help them work with neighborhoods to plan the project.
 - This goes over the Midtown Greenway. The bridge will be repaired and replaced.
 - Bikeway will be raised and behind the curb

- [Lyndale Ave Lane Conversion Pilot](#)
 - Temporary 4-3 lane conversion pilot project from Franklin to 31st.
 - Raised boulevards on 25th/Lyndale and 27th/Lyndale intersections with pedestrian walkways
- [Midtown Greenway Access Expansion Project at Harriet/Garfield Ave](#)
 - County/Parks plan to build an ADA-compliant access ramp to the Midtown Greenway between Harriet and Garfield at Soo Line Community Garden.
 - Currently there are not any designs or plans for how the ramp will look. They are in the process of engaging with a number of stakeholder groups including the Soo Line Garden. WA is here to help facilitate those conversations with community members.
 - Meeting attendees discussed the viability of placing a ramp between Harriet and Garfield in the context of handicap accessibility for those streets. An attendee shared that they have had to use a wheelchair and a walker to get onto the Greenway for years, and that this would be a welcome addition. They pointed to the ramp built by the Walker that leads up to the top of the sculpture garden as a great example to reference.
 - Meeting attendees discussed the challenges of designing an ADA-compliant ramp without disrupting the integrity of the Soo Line Gardens, as well as other accessibility concerns about the Greenway.

Anti-displacement and rent help doorknocking

- Renter protections and eviction moratorium are winding down as the pandemic eases. We want to start doing more targeted direct outreach to residents to see what people's needs are.
 - Oscar has been door-knocking and has created a map of properties with active rental licenses in Minneapolis. Goal is to talk to new people, make impressions and see who needs help.

Other updates, announcements, opportunities

- Next Housing and Land Use meeting is September 21 from 6:30 to 8 pm
- Bridge Fest: Celebrating the reopening of the 24th Street Pedestrian Bridge. Food, Open Eye Theater, Swedish Institute
- Join the [Whittier Solidarity Network](#) Discord server.
- Community Engagement Meetings
- Really Really Free Market 1-4 pm September 4 in Whittier Park.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm. Seconded. Motion passes.

HLU Meetings Every third Tuesday of the month

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 21st, 6:30-8:00 pm @ Zoom

Meeting Minutes submitted by Robb Larson.