

Whittier Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021, 6:30-8:00pm
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: George Rishmawi, Nick Hutchinson, Jo Ann Musumeci, Stephanie Brown, Y Sussman, Claudia Callaghan, Nicole Weiler, Harry Davis, Colleen O'Dell, Dominique Devereaux, Ron and Joanna Johnson, Nate Broadbridge, Dave Schaezner, Bruce Brunner, John Grochala, Kate Davis

Presenters: Caleb Crossley (Futsal Society), Amber Klein (Hennepin County)

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 August minutes. **Motion to approve the August 2021 minutes. Seconded. The Motion passed.**

Housing & Land Use Committee Project Work

- **Whittier Alliance - [2116 Nicollet Avenue Lot Purchase](#)**
 - Board is selecting applicants at the September Board meeting on September 23.
- **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 Brown or Kaley know if you're interested.
- **Lake & Nicollet Area Redevelopment**
 - There is a project team dedicated to the redevelopment of the whole Lake St corridor.
 - We're in the process of identifying different stakeholder groups in the community. The project team will be going to those groups to listen to their needs. The idea is to support BIPOC entrepreneurs, immigrant-owned businesses, and create wealth-building opportunities and jobs for people in the neighborhood.

Parks Planning

- **[Midtown Greenway Access Expansion Project at Harriet/Garfield Ave](#)** - Amber Klein, Hennepin County Design Project Manager; Denetric Powers, Community Engagement Team Lead NEOO Partners
 - Currently a 0.5 mile segment along the Greenway between Bryant and Nicollet without ADA-compliant access points; closest points are Humboldt and 5th Ave
 - Soo Line Garden was selected because it is the midway point between Humboldt and 5th Ave

- Survey results: Respondents favored a design without retaining walls or concrete surfaces, minimal disruption to the garden
 - Other survey results were shared detailing respondents' use of the Greenway
- Relevant stakeholder groups were identified and a high-level project schedule was shared
- A Q+A session followed in which safety, environmental and location concerns were discussed
 - The trail will be multi-use and bi-directional and 10 feet is the standard trail width; trail material hasn't been determined yet.
- **Whittier Park Dedication Fees** - Caleb Crossley, [Futsal Society](#)
 - Futsal Society plays futsal and soccer out of Whittier Rec Center.
 - Futsal is "accessible soccer" - it uses less space and requires fewer participants and doesn't require as much maintenance.
 - Futsal Society serves over 150 kids from diverse backgrounds and it is a free program. 92% of participants were born outside of the US.
 - Futsal Society would like two futsal courts to be built in Whittier at Clinton Field Park. There is currently no soccer/futsal infrastructure anywhere in Whittier. This would support equitable and accessible soccer and futsal for kids in the neighborhood.
 - Asking the Park Board and Whittier Alliance to dedicate \$285,000 from Whittier's Park Dedication Fees as a capital improvement project

Anti-displacement RentHelpMN Outreach - Oscar Nieves Rubio, Whittier Alliance VISTA Tenant Organizer

- Oscar is door-knocking and helping residents and landlords one-on-one to complete the RentHelpMN application process and is looking for more volunteers to assist neighbors in this process. His email is provided for those interested in helping out.

Other updates, announcements, opportunities

- Whittier Alliance is hosting the [Eat Street Fall Arts Fest](#) on Saturday October 16th from 12pm to 5pm
- Next Housing and Land Use meeting is October 19 from 6:30 to 8 pm
- Mayoral Forum hosted by Stevens Square Community Organization 6pm Monday, October 4
- Join the [Whittier Solidarity Network](#) Discord server.

Whittier Alliance acknowledges that there was a discussion in the chat during this meeting regarding the practice of sharing pronouns when introducing yourself. We ask, but do not require, that meeting attendees share pronouns in order to accommodate transgender-identifying WA members.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Seconded. Motion passes.

HLU Meetings Every third Tuesday of the month

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 19th, 6:30-8:00 pm @ Zoom

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Robb Larson.