

Whittier Housing Issues Committee Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2020, 6:30-8:00pm
Zoom Digital Meeting

Attendees: *Stephanie Brown, *Cyndi Hovey, *Nate Rastetter, *Zach Levonian, *Margo Fritz, *Nicole Weiler, *Nate Broadbridge, *Jo Ann Musumeci, *Shannon Dotson, Alex

Staff: Kaley Brown, Julie Strand, and Fartun Ismail

Speakers: (none)

**Asterisk indicates they are a registered voter*

Welcome & recognize Standard of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy.

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Motion carries.

Motion to approve June meeting minutes. Seconded. Motion carries.

Introductions.

Questions on the Agenda. Motion to Approve Agenda. Seconded. Motion carries.

2020-2021 Housing Issues Committee Focus Areas

-Stephanie shared a powerpoint with the meeting. The power point covered:

Whittier's Strategic Plan section on housing goals

What has been accomplished so far

What hurdles have come up

Projects still on the table to bring into 2020-2021

The proposed 2020-2021 working teams

-Discussion on the slideshow included that half of the projects worked on by the committee were affordable. A development tracker was added to the website.

-Question on how many units were in the affordable developments that the committee worked on. Including Simpson Housing beds it was estimated as 244 households/individuals.

-A note of praise for the good work of the committee and its infrastructure.

-Comment that it seems like we are getting more developers coming to the WA table now earlier in their process. He added that people are seeing this committee as a key step in their development approval process now.

-Comment that with so many development projects there is limited time for policy advocacy and on the group work. Also, that the demographics of the committee doesn't match the neighborhood limiting its ability to be effective. Effective forums to raise concerns about tenant/landlord concerns could be improved and that it would be good to partner with a developer from the the very beginning.

-Attendee noted that Lake Street Dwelling was changing their 30% AMI agreements with current and future tenants and that it should be addressed by the committee.

-Comment that Homeline might be helpful with Lake Street Dwelling and WA staff/ reps will follow up with her after this meeting to identify next steps to help resolve the issue if possible.

6:45pm 2020-2021 Committee Sub-Groups

-The Chair described the working teams or committee subgroups, their goals, current projects and discussion questions. She asked for revisions to these goals and for everyone to choose a subcommittee.

Anti-displacement strategies
Unhousing neighbor support
Developer engagement
Kmart Re-envisioning

-Idea is raised that we might want to think about adding a fifth team just focused on base building for overall housing work. They could focus on a strategy to bring people into this work to move it forward.
-Comment that engagement doesn't necessarily mean getting more people on a call or to a meeting. It can mean getting creative to what the committees look like or investing in other definitions of an active member.

Full Committee & Sub-group Structure

-Attendees broke up into sub-groups and worked independently on goal sheets to set up next steps and overall goals.

Sub-group Discussion and Planning Recaps

1. Unhoused neighbors: Friday this group has an unfiltered asking session with Simpson Housing a sort of "Homelessness 101." They will be doing a history of homelessness in Minneapolis and Whittier and include. It will be recorded and shared out. That is the first step - getting educated and finding where we fit in this work. We will get a time scheduled with Lisa Bender to see what she sees as needed and hurdles she has experienced in policy and government to addressing this issue.

2. Developer engagement: Group discussion around the Equitable Development Scorecard, its purpose being to quickly get people up to speed and understanding the impact of development in the neighborhood and a way to more objectively assess it in comparison to others and to the Committee's stated priorities in new projects. He talked about bringing new neighbors into the discussion through new message threads like discord or a mailer. He shared that it is important to think through exclusionary and inclusionary practices of landlords in the scorecard criteria as well. He will send out scorecard as is to begin the group discussion there.

3. Anti-displacement: (no group members for this one tonight)

4. Kmart: Three main takeaways from the discussion: researching the city process, understanding neighborhood needs, and strategizing around speaking with one voice across the neighborhood organizations.

-Stephanie followed up that each sub committee should meet before the next overall HI meeting and that the agendas should be set prior to the sub-committee meetings. She added that 3rd Tuesday HI meetings will not always hear from each working group. If a working group needs anything they should get in touch with Stephanie who will make the agenda for the next Tuesday meeting.

-Kaley followed up that the process is evolving and we will be able to revise it as we go. Working group meetings should be communicated to WA staff, so that we can make them accessible as more folks are interested in getting involved.

Meeting adjourned 8:03

Minutes submitted by Julie Strand.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 18st, 6:30-8:00 pm @ zoom