

## Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft

June 23, 2022 6:00-8:00 PM

### Hybrid Meeting: Whittier Recreation Center (425 W 26th St) & Online Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Kami Brodie, Nick Hutchinson, George Rishmawi, Allison Bross-White, Kate Davis, Sydney Burroughs, Katie Heimer, Daniel Hansen, Danny Villars

**Absent:** Stephanie Brown, Jesse Oyervides, Megan Mathew, Cyndi Hovey

**Staff:** Kaley Brown, Krystin Eldridge

**Call to Order** at 6:06pm by Kami Brodie

-The agenda is reviewed. **Motion to approve the agenda. Seconded. Motion passes.**

-The Standard of Conduct, Conflicts of Interest Policy, and Anti-Discrimination Policies are reviewed.

-The Board community agreements are shared and read aloud.

**A round of introductions is done.**

**Discussion question:** 1. How are you physically/mentally/emotionally/spiritually on a scale from 1-10? (1 = struggling/totally depleted, 10 = grounded/fully rested)

2. Looking at a new term, what is one thing you would find supportive or helpful to your active participation? Each board member and staff present introduces themselves and shares their number and prompt response.

#### **Officer election:**

Because it is the start of a new board term, we need to elect folks to serve in the officer positions for the next year. We will start with the Chair position, then move to Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Officer position descriptions were included in the board packet for advanced review.

**Chair:** Kami Brodie is nominated to serve as the Board Chair for the 2022-2023 term. She accepts the nomination. No other nominations are put forth. Kami Brodie is elected to the Chair position by acclamation.

**Vice Chair:** Danny Villars is nominated to serve as the Board Chair for the 2022-2023 term. He accepts the nomination. No other nominations are put forth. Danny Villars is elected to the Chair position by acclamation.

**Treasurer:** Sydney Burroughs is nominated to serve as the Board Chair for the 2022-2023 term. He accepts the nomination. No other nominations are put forth. Sydney Burroughs is elected to the Treasurer position by acclamation.

**Secretary:** Daniel Hansen is nominated but cannot accept the nomination. Kate Davis is nominated but cannot accept the nomination. Allison Bross-White is nominated and accepts the nomination. Allison Bross-White is elected to the Secretary position by acclamation.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

We have 13 active board members and 4 vacant seats (two 2020 Resident seats, 2021 Resident seat, 2022 Biz/Nonprofit Representative). This month begins a new board term, so everyone's attendance record has reset to a clean slate.

Katie Heimer shares that she will be stepping down after the July board meeting because she is moving out of the neighborhood.

Board Attendance Tracking Summary Below:

As of June Meeting	
Zero (0) Unexcused Absences	13
One (1) Unexcused Absence	0
Two (2) Unexcused Absences	0
Three (3) Unexcused Absences	0

We encourage members to regularly review the attendance policy in the Bylaws to be sure you are planning ahead if you have a schedule conflict at any point during the board year; this will allow yourself the opportunity to convert the absence into an excused one with volunteer hours, if possible.

We will be reconvening the nominations committee soon to fill the board seats that have become vacant before their full term was completed, so please be thinking about neighbors you think would be good to encourage to join the organization.

**Motion** to approve April meeting minutes. **Seconded.** Motion carries.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Because of the Annual Meeting, we did not have a regular board meeting in which to review and approve the April financials, so we will do two months' worth now.

#### **April Financials:**

- Weirdly nothing out of the ordinary really happened in April
- Property tax on the lot was paid
- Postage was high, but it's from the annual meeting mailer costs that were paid out to the vendor
- Q1 payroll taxes were paid; the state's unemployment insurance rate was very high, because legislators had not yet come to an agreement on that bill to lower it and reduce the burden on employers. It has now been reduced down to a more normal rate.

#### **May Financials**

- Collected final payment on Great Streets Receivable; a portion of that will be paid out to Lyndale Neighborhood Association for their role in the project
- \$2000 remains to be paid out to us on the CURA grant; that will happen at the conclusion of our grant period later this year.
- Paypal/event fundraising is high from the artist registration fees coming in for the spring fling arts fest
- Fiscal Agent is reflected on the financials. This was for the pass through activity we did for the city's Community Connections Event
- Eat Street Fest expenses - this is the line we budgeted for an event like the spring fling, so those event costs will be coded there in May and June
- Printing was higher this month because of the Annual Meeting flyers

**Motion** to accept April 2022 financials. **Seconded.** Motion carries.

**Motion** to accept May 2022 financials. **Seconded.** Motion carries.

#### **Acting Committees**

- **Housing and Land Use**
  - This month we had a presentation about a proposed housing development on 2542 Blaisdell Ave & 110 W 26th St. the project.

- The developer has met with a small group of community members to discuss the project, and has come to the HLU committee for the past 3 meetings, sharing updates and incorporating feedback.
- Overall, community members were supportive, and the committee put forward a motion for Whittier Alliance to provide letters of support for each building in the proposed development.
- The projects are on our development tracker page for your reference.

**A motion** is made to endorse the committee’s vote to support the project overall, including the request for one variance to reduce the Blaisdell side front setback from about 24 feet to about 20 feet. **Motion is seconded. Motion carries** by a vote of 8-1.

- We then continued to discuss the various ongoing work including Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing Preservation Project, the 1st ave reconstruction project survey, and neighbors collaborating on traffic calming efforts in our community.
- **Community Engagement**
  - Presentation this month by Bria Fast and Dan Pfeiffer of the City of Minneapolis and Zan Associates, respectively, who gave a presentation on the 1st Avenue reconstruction project.
  - The plan will improve safety by widening boulevards and replacing the current two-way bike lane with one at curb level. It will also improve green stormwater management.
  - Kaley then gave an update on the 2116 Nicollet lot development project. Remember to take the survey if you have not already done so! (Available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Somali](#).)
  - We were then joined by Ward 10 Councilmember Aisha Chughtai, who gave us some city-level updates, including work being done by the Trans Equity Advisory Group to make single-stall restrooms in Minneapolis gender neutral, additional funding being allocated for technical assistance and pandemic recovery for small businesses, and recent developments around the Hennepin Avenue S Reconstruction Project as well as the Housing/Rent Stabilization Work Group.
  - Finally, Kaley filled us in on efforts to activate green spaces near the newly reconstructed stretch of 35W along Whittier's eastern boundary, as well as the former Kmart/new Nicollet Avenue Community Engagement Team.
  - Next meeting is scheduled for August 10th.
- **2116 Nicollet Ave Steering Committee**
  - The Steering Committee has been making progress on developing a request for proposals (RFP) for development partners. In April, Brigid provided an in-depth overview of the history of the project and the major legal/financial decisions that will be in front of the board in the next couple of months as we finalize the RFP and begin receiving proposals. The video is in the board packet under “Committee Docs,” so if you are new to the board especially, please be sure to watch that video for that additional context.
  - The survey is live and we are setting up tabling times at the lot and high traffic locations in the neighborhood; please sign up for a volunteer shift to help with one or more of those as you are able.
  - We are pushing the RFP approval date to the August board meeting instead of next month, which will allow for more time to ensure we get it right and also accommodate people’s summer travel, etc.

**Board Projects Sign-up:**

- This is a document that overviews the projects well-suited for board members to take some leadership on during each term; it is updated every few months as projects are completed and new opportunities and capacity arises.
- This year we will shift to breaking out most projects with a slot for a project manager and support role(s), which will allow for a more clear set of expectations for who should be initiating the work and the degree to which staff need to step in to move it forward.
- Kaley will send around the updated version when she has a chance to make those edits, and folks can consider their capacity and decide what to sign up for.

**Soo Line Garden ADA Access Point:**

- The topic of the proposed ADA access point to the Midtown Greenway at the Soo Line Community Garden is raised as a proposed topic for an upcoming board meeting.
- A brief overview of the project and history to this point is provided for context to new board members, and we agreed to add it to a future agenda when agenda time allows.
- As far as we are aware, the project is currently on hold; we can seek out an update on the status prior to the board conversation for a more clear understanding.

**Moved to closed session at 7:48 PM. | Minutes submitted by Kaley Brown.**