

Whittier Alliance Board Meeting Minutes Draft
June 24, 2021 6:00-8:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Cyndo Hovey, Deja' Jendro, Erika Boelk Tapia, Kami Brodie, Nate Broadbridge, Nate Rastetter, Nick Hutchinson, Stephanie Brown, Shinjan Sengupta, Sydney Burroughs, Brigid Higgins

Absent: Daniel Perez

Non-board Community Members: Leslie Modrack

Staff: Kaley Brown, Robb Larson

Call to Order at 6:05pm by Cyndi Hovey

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

-The Standard of Conduct policy with a note on conflicts of interest.

-The community agreements are shared and read aloud.

A round of introductions is done.

Discussion question: How are you today emotionally and/or energy-wise on a scale from 1-10 (1 = struggling/totally depleted, 10 = grounded/fully rested)

What do you hope to gain from serving on the WA board this year? What do you hope to contribute?

Annual Meeting review: Members are invited to reflect on this year's Annual Meeting. Share something that you think went well, and something that could have gone better.

- The artists were great, especially the meditation at the beginning. That was an awesome way to ground ourselves before the meeting.
- I wish the polls would have worked better, and that we could have done more interactive content. It's really important because it makes people feel heard and involved. Translation worked really well.
- Compared to the Special Meeting in January, this was much smoother, especially with the translation. Closer to being on time, not as many hiccups.
- There could have been something to help people track as we go through the meeting.
- The level of preparation and planning behind the scenes was impressive. It will be interesting to make an in-person meeting as accessible as that was.
- It was good to have unbiased third party voter registration. It was nice that the meeting could hold space for people to express thoughts and feelings.
- The video of the mural from Whittier School was really cool, they're an important part of the community so it's nice to see what they're up to.
- The weeklong voting period was great.

Secretary's Report: Looking forward to filling the vacancies on the Board; we've gone from 10 active members to 13. Attendance is reset, so communicate if you need to miss a meeting.

The April board meeting minutes are reviewed. **A motion is made to approve April minutes. Seconded. Unanimous approval.**

Treasurer's Report: April: PPP loan deposited into account. No notable expenses. Not a lot to report.

Motion to approve April financials. Seconded. Unanimous approval.

We received a \$15,000 grant from MRAC for a proposal for an Eat Street Festival series. We applied under the assumption that we'd get a major source of funding from the Minneapolis Foundation, but we did not get that grant. We now have to come up with a modified version of the proposal we submitted to MRAC for a smaller event in September, or send the money back. We have an opportunity to do something different with the funds, but MRAC would have to approve it.

- The grant is specifically for arts access, such as live music or a mural. It can't be used to pay for logistical items related to closing the street. The problem won't be finding space, it will be finding staff time. We did not budget for the Eat Street Festival this year; funding would have to come from grants. We could pay an artist to do the planning, but staff do not currently have capacity.
- We should definitely do something that involves the community, but it's uncertain how far \$15,000 can take us. There's also a lot of other things going on right now that would demand staff time.
- **Q:** Is there a deadline to use the funds or lose them? **A:** We have to use the funds this year, and we need to go through the proposal amendment process with MRAC.
- A mural would be exciting and within the budget, and [Shapeshift](#) does really great dance performances.

Fiscal Policy: This project has spanned multiple board terms. Our financial policies were somewhat outdated, there was some language that we never followed because it was impractical. We combed through line-by-line in consultation with the lawyer and accountant, talked through the risks of identifying/not identifying aspects of how we manage money. The new Fiscal Policy can be found [here](#), and a comparison of the new with the old can be found [here](#).

The City requires that we conduct an audit following their audit cycle; we won't be audited every year. We will work under the assumption that we can be audited at any time.

Motion to approve the updated Fiscal Policy and Procedures document. Seconded. Unanimous approval.

Surveys: Board Experience Surveys and Anonymous Board Demographics Survey will be shared via email.

- Meetings Moving Forward survey completed in-meeting for how to proceed with in-person meetings and gauging comfort levels meeting indoors/outdoors, with/without masks and social distancing, and vaccination status/plan.

Leadership opportunities

- Board officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
- Committee Coordinators for Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Committee
 - Coordinate internal YWCA diversity, equity and inclusion training
- Nominations Committee
 - We are seeking 2 board members and 2 non-board WA members for a Nominations Committee that will work to fill the currently vacant seats on the board. There are 3 open resident seats and 1 open for-profit business seat. This is a short-term commitment to seek candidates who have already expressed interest or other community members to serve on the board. Will most likely convene in July or August.

Ongoing Projects, Board Projects List

- Add your name to the Board Project Sign-Up by highlighting the blank line under the project(s) you're interested in and adding a comment with your name.

2116 Nicollet Lot

- Steering Committee application is now live. Sign up [here](#).

Acting Committees

- **Housing and Land Use**

- Minutes/summary in board packet
- We heard from Denetric Powers who is leading community engagement around the ADA ramp to the Midtown Greenway between Garfield and Harriet through Soo Line Gardens. Still very early in the process, there is no design yet.
- George Rishmawi was elected Housing and Land Use Committee chair for 2021-2022.
- Next meeting will be July 20.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Minutes/summary in board packet
 - Nick Hutchinson was elected Community Engagement Committee chair for 2021-2022.
 - Next meeting will be July 14.

Board Officer Election

- Call for nominations for Chair position for 2021-2022 term.
 - Cyndi Hovey nominated. Accepted. Motion to elect Cyndi Hovey as Chair of the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors for 2021-2022 term. Seconded. Elected by acclamation.
- Call for nominations for Vice Chair position for 2021-2022 term.
 - Kami Brodie nominated. Accepted. Motion to elect Kami Brodie as Vice Chair of the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors for 2021-2022 term. Seconded. Elected by acclamation.
- Call for nominations for Treasurer position for 2021-2022 term.
 - Sydney Burroughs nominated. Accepted. Motion to elect Sydney Burroughs as Treasurer of the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors for 2021-2022 term. Seconded. Elected by acclamation.
- Call for nominations for Secretary position for 2021-2022 term.
 - Nate Broadbridge nominated. Accepted. Motion to elect Nate Broadbridge as Secretary of the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors for 2021-2022 term. Seconded. Elected by acclamation.

Community Concerns

- Soo Line Community Garden has about 100 members and has been there for about 30 years. We're sensitive to development because we've had to get out of past situations. We're one of two green spaces in the neighborhood. An ADA ramp means a lot more hard surface, and the grade there would require a lot of switchbacks that take up space. We're in the early stages and are looking at whether the ramp needs to be there.
 - **Q:** Has the community engagement group from NEOO partners reached out to Soo Line? **A:** They did reach out, we had a short preliminary conversation. We attended the listening session with the project team.
- We have a long history with Whittier and there is a lot of community interest in the garden, so we ask that Whittier Alliance stay connected with us.

Announcements

- Whittier Solidarity Network is having a monthly meeting at 3 pm this Sunday July 4.
- Really Really Free Market 1 - 4 pm at Whittier Park on July 10.

Closing question: If you could add an extra month to the calendar, where would you place it and why?

Motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm. | Minutes respectfully submitted by Robb Larson.