

Windom Community Council Board Meeting
Minutes
September 9, 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Patricia Soulak (VP), Becky McIntosh (T), Rob Ley (S), Dembo Darboe, Sean Morgan, Patrick Barrett, Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator)

Absent: Louisa Hext

Guests: Casey Carl, Minneapolis City Clerk; Jeremey Schroeder, Minneapolis City Councilmember, Devin Zeller (resident/attendee)

Memorial (pre-meeting)

WCC Board met just before scheduled meeting to approve an apology to the spouse of Myra Woods, the deceased co-founder of the Windom Community Garden. The apology was a condition of her agreeing to a memorial to her wife, Myra, at the garden. (WCC had approved funding for such a remembrance at a meeting earlier in 2021). Rob moved; Patrick seconded. The motioned passed on a 6-0 vote, with Sean abstaining.

Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:03

Councilmember Jeremy Schroeder Report

- Water restrictions are still in place. The recent rains have helped but it is unsure by how much.
- Aqua city motel. No updates.
- Thefts of catalytic converters may possibly be dropping due to a decrease in price of their precious metals. Only one stolen last week.
- The city's first budget hearing is on Monday the 13th at 9:00 AM.
- On Sept. 30 there will be a meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development. The health department will meet later that same day.
- On October 18 there will be a budget meeting of the fire and police departments.

Minneapolis City Clerk Casey Carl

At WCC invitation, the City Clerk presented background and explanations of three questions on and upcoming ballot regarding changes to the Minneapolis city charter. (At no time did the Clerk voice an opinion for or against any of the three ballot questions.) Voting day is on November 2nd but early voting begins on September 16. The city charter is akin to the city's constitution, specifying authority and responsibilities, operating structure in a defined process for which the city takes actions, makes decisions, and implements and enforces its decisions. The proposed amendments on the ballot relate to:

- Government structure reform: would eliminate the Executive Committee. The City Council would become similar to the "legislative branch". It proposes that all ten city departments would come under the direct supervision of the mayor, rather than under the city coordinator as in the current structure.
- Public safety reform: amendment would create a new public safety department. This would include a new commissioner of public safety, remove the Police Department from the charter, and would remove mandatory minimum funding (staffing).
- Rent stabilization by ordinance: Minnesota State law no holds that no municipality may enact rent stabilization unless that is approved by its voters. If this amendment passes, it provides permission to the City Council to propose, approve and enact such an ordinance.

The clerk provided links and other resources to learn more about the proposals. He pointed out that if a question about the amendments is left blank on a ballot, it is not recorded as a no vote, but rather is not tabulated in the vote totals.

He encouraged all voters to view and even fill out a sample valid to take into the voting booth or refer to before mailing in their ballot. He also encouraged all voters to go to the elections website and refer to the *What's on the Ballot* section. And he referred voters to candidate affidavits, with link to their websites, to learn more about their backgrounds and positions.

NCR's Neighborhood Recognition Requirements (part of Neighborhoods 2020 initiative)

Equitable Engagement Plan. The most important requirement for recognition, the WCC's draft plan was submitted to the city and was met with positive reaction. We are now waiting for their formal response to our plan.

Personnel Policy & Procedures. Many of the required documents have already been filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State, and others are being updated. There will be a working meeting of the WCC Board on September 18. The Board was asked to look for relevant documents emailed prior to the 18th, and to read them carefully. An example of policy requirement for the Board is that no more than twenty percent of the Board may serve more than six consecutive years of service. Some other areas to be addressed:

- Administrative Plan & Budget. Due to the City on Oct. 15, with final approval due by end of 2021.
- Board Development. This will include Board training, etc. Board will likely be asked to participate in this section.
- Operations. Sean was asked to lead development of WCC Operations Manual.
- Bylaws. Becky has begun revising. This will be challenging to complete.
- Policies
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Patrick to lead.
 - Minimum meeting expectations, to meet state and local laws. WCC has been having one formal public meeting, but two are required. Must verify that attendees are Windom residents, etc.
- Documents requested by NRC must be checked and registered.
 - Mario to put documents on shared drive.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes to WCC monthly meeting on Aug. 12, and special working meeting on Aug. 21 were approved unanimously, by one vote (Becky moved, Sean seconded).

Committee Reports

Finance Committee. QII budget was circulated by Becky prior to meeting.

- City owes WCC \$30k to reimburse for Metro Blooms raingarden project.
- Financial policies and procedures are being updated for NCR recognition requirements
- Claire King has been hired as WCC's new part-time bookkeeper (on contract).
- There is a \$8k CD in our bank account, which originated from a Windom business group years ago. It now serves as a rainy-day fund.

Environmental Committee. After a slow start to rain garden/bioswales subsidies for residents, all available raingardens and bioswales have been designated and there is now a waiting list.

Safety Committee. Forty additional rebates for resident safety equipment are now available. Board members were encouraged to apply.

Outreach Committee. Surveys among residents in three apartment complexes are now in the field.

Adjourn

After a unanimous vote to adjourn (Patrick moved, Becky seconded) the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. by Michelle.