



Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2022
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Rob Ley (S), Patrick Barrett, Dembo Darboe (MAL), Pat Soulak (VP), Mario Vargas (Executive Director).

Absent: Becky McIntosh (T)

Guests: Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Tate Nguyen [They/Them] (City of Minneapolis: NCR) and Ira Jourdain (Minneapolis Public School District).

Welcome/Call to Order: Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski

- **Updates:**
 - Brian O'Hara was sworn-in as new Minneapolis Police Chief as of Monday, November 7th.
 - Councilmember Koski is having her third Ward 11 Public Safety Meeting on December 13th at 7 pm at Pearl Park. Police Chief O'Hara will be in attendance. Staff will be there to discuss data driven approach to public safety.
 - Budget Committee (she is the chair). The committee met today for its first public hearing. Their next meeting is November 13th. The public can submit comments online in writing to councilcomment@minneapolismn.gov or the day of the meeting in the person. The public has 2 minutes to speak. There are 3 Public Hearings. The next step is for Councilmembers, who are working on amendments, to submit those to the Budget Director and Councilmember Koski before Thanksgiving Day. After this, the City Council will begin to have mark-up meetings with all amendments brought to the table to be discussed and voted on. A new budget will be voted-on December 6th.
 - Snow is coming. Neighborhoods should be prepared to receive snow emergency information in the mail to all residents.
 - Adoption of new city government structure. It was voted-in by the voters in 2021. The city then had to codify via ordinances some of the actions. These went through the City Council this month.
 - Questions. M.V - Is there new funding proposed for neighborhood associations in this initial round of budget discussions? Koski – Currently the Mayor has not added or changed funding going to neighborhood associations. The funding is back to 10,000 dollars annually plus additional funding through a formula for each association. She understands that there are several councilmembers who plan to bring amendments. She had not seen those proposals. Koski has met with the NCR team. The long-term plan is to take a look at NRP and CPP funding which comes from multiple government sources not the budgeting process. This is to see if there is interest in the future to create new initiatives like these. M.V. – Associations have been tasked with meeting new and higher contract requirements, but funding has been diminished. Koski – She understands this and is working with NCR and team to address this concern which is shared by other groups.

Minneapolis Public Schools Update - Ira Jourdain

- COVID-19 Update. No mask mandate. Mask optional. Still provide PPP equipment for those who are requesting it. Vaccinations are recommended but not required. MPS does monitor the data around COVID infection rates. Numbers are very low – Hennepin County, Minneapolis, and State of Minnesota.
- Coming up towards the end of the month is the Free and Reduced lunch forms also known as Combined Application for Free Benefits. This is how the District gets Compensatory Education money which funds Special Education, English as a Second Language, and Homeless Children. The higher the number of signups the higher

the compensation the District receives. Ira encourages families to complete the form even if they think they are over income.

- **Transportation.** Since the new boundaries were set, there has been talk about streamlining MPS transportation. The District uses Metro Transit for high school students. There have been some incidences where students have come in harm's way. Most recently there was a drive-by shooting at the Lake Street and Hiawatha stop that resulted in an injury to a student. Parents are asking for a yellow bus service for high school students for their safety. No timeline or plan to change transportation yet. Go To cards extension for those students traveling late in the weekends.
- **Belt Time Study.** This is for high school students. Having a universal start time for everyone to be around 7:30 am or 7:45 am. Currently start times vary and are scattered throughout the district with a few exceptions.
- **Projects.** The District is currently rolling out a math curriculum program. Teaching pedagogy has changed in the last twenty years. Today, we are using a lot more technology in the classroom. So, a new math curriculum is being started with the lower grades and will quickly move to middle and high school grade levels. The current math curriculum is from 2007. District has rolled out a new literacy curriculum. This will happen primarily in north Minneapolis grades 1-5. It will take a few years to assess progress in scores. Mental health services. The District is looking at providing online, through partnerships, ways to increase mental health services for students and families. Human Resources and hiring. Budget process and District audit is currently underway. The District has lost Year-to-Date over 7,000 students and the dollars that come with enrollment for a number of reasons including parents moving out of the district and millennials not having children or waiting to have children. The District is facing tremendous shortfalls. It used ESSER funds (One Time COVID funds) to cover deficits but also used the money to fund the new math and literacy curriculums. In December, there will be a Budget Performance looking at student performance. At some point in the future (sooner rather than later), the District will have to entertain the idea of closing schools. There are seventy-four school sites open and a total number of 27-28K students. The facilities do not match the number of students to provide the adequate education services needed. It is not cost effective. St. Paul closed schools recently and combined programs. It thus saved some spending and met deficits. The District will have that conversation as early as Spring 2023.
- **Superintendent Update.** Ed Graff left on his own accord in the Spring of 2022. Rochelle Cox is the current interim Superintendent until June 20, 2023. 50 school districts across the county looking for superintendents. The District is currently under a tight timeline to hire someone but it needs to be done right. Starting in January, the District will take applications (20-25 people) for a search committee. Candidates do not have to have children in the school system. The only requirement is that those who apply must live in the City of Minneapolis. They would like new candidates and not ones that served on Ed Graff's recruitment. The community decides the process and criteria/questions and brings forth two or three finalists. The School Board then makes the decision to hire one of the finalists. Community engagement will be done by EPU Consultants. School Board members will be attending community listening sessions. They would like to have someone selected by April and hired before the end of June, with a starting day of July 1st.
- **Elections.** The District has five new Board members.
- **Questions.** Pat – Is staff retention a problem and what is being done? IJ - The District is providing mental health support services. Many are taking early retirement. This is a problem due to the teachers as well as substitute shortages. They are combining classes. Same issue with bus drivers and special education teachers. They are trying hard to retain them and are working with local colleges to recruit and hire new teachers. Pat – Kids are behind on the behavioral spectrum, what is being done to fix this universally? IJ – Many parents are resorting to outside help like Frazier for mental health services and other parent groups like SEC (Special Education Council). M.V. – WCC needs Ira's support in the development of a new Shared-Use Agreement and to address parent concerns over the 58th and Wentworth crosswalk. The Windom Community School is struggling with teachers and substitute hiring. Patrick – Will the District consider second language offerings and/or requirements in the schools? IJ – Agrees and it is an equity issue.

NCR Board Diversity Survey – Tate Nguyen

Tate (they/them) self-introduced as a new employee and Neighborhood Support Specialist with the City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department. Attending today, Tate spoke about the biennial Neighborhood Board Representation Survey which was last conducted in 2014. NCR took a break with the COVID pandemic. The purpose of the survey is to see how Boards are representing the neighborhoods, community, and the city that they are serving. It is very brief and should only take a few minutes. All responses will be aggregated at a community-level vs at a neighborhood-level and individual completing the survey remain anonymous.

Council Business

1. Windom Holiday Food Drive Proposal

- a. Pat is proposing a food drive before the end of the year to collect dry foods. We plan to have a sign-up with local churches. Put up fliers. Drop-off would be our offices.

2. NRP/CEE Contract Renewal End of 2022 Discussion

- a. Our annual contract with CEE will end at the end of December. The Board will have to vote in December to renew the contract and approve the \$2,500 line item to be replenished and annual contract amount.
- b. WCC currently has 75K in funds left in the home improvement loan revolving fund. There are currently four loans in process. If they are all at the 15K level, the amount will be reduced significantly.

3. Give to the Max 2022 Campaign

- a. WCC is launching its Give to the Max 2022 Campaign with the fall print newsletter which was approved by the Board last month and is currently in production. The last printed newsletter was produced in the spring of 2020. Mario gave an overview of each area in the print newsletter. In the second quadrant, our elder residents have asked and are glad to get it in print. An electronic email will be sent to our list of newsletter subscribers.
 - i. Pat Motion: Approve \$100 gift card as an incentive to get renters to send in their surveys. Patrick seconds the motion. Pat amends the motion to make it Cub Foods card. Vote: Approved unanimously.

4. Neighborhood Fundraising Events Discussion

- a. WCC has had many requests by the Windom School PTO to help with their fundraising efforts. It is important that we look at the partnership between WCC and the Windom School PTO. It is important that WCC evaluate how the association supports other entities and groups in the neighborhood in their fundraising efforts.

Committee Updates

1. Finance Committee – Becky/Mario

- a. Close Out of NRP Contract - Active Adults 55+ Transportation & Programming
 - i. The above-referenced contract with the MPRB has now been closed out. The final expenditure for the program was \$2,065.53. The funds were returned to the following Phase II strategies: (1) Transportation for Seniors (Community Life 1.1.5.) (\$8,000.00); and (2) Senior Programs (Community Life 1.1.6.) (\$5,934.47). These funds are now available for additional contracting through those strategies or for reallocation to other NRP Action Plan strategies.

2. Safety and Health Committee –Patrick

- a. Traffic Calming Applications Update: Michelle submitted a traffic calming application for the 61st and Nicollet Avenue. Mario submitted a traffic calming application for the 58th and Wentworth Avenue and Pat's zone 56th or 57th and Stevens. WCC will know in early 2023 which cross sections were selected for Traffic Calming. The 58th and Wentworth was sent in with four sheets of signatures from residents. Rob – Is the intersection of 54th and Pleasant for a crosswalk a possibility? MV - Yes. We need to wait for the new applications to open up in 2023.

3. Community Development – Dembo/Mario

- a. YTD Funding Home Loan Program Update: To-date, the WCC has loaned more than 219,000 in home improvement loans to Windom residents. There is currently roughly \$75,000 left in the loan revolving fund which will be depleted in early 2023. Rob – Was very impressed with the process.

4. Environment & Land Use – Becky/Mario

- a. None

5. Outreach & Engagement – Michelle/Mario

- a. Door-Knocking Update: We plan to door-knock City Limits before the end of year. The door-knocking electronic survey cannot be sent electronically. It is not a regular survey because of its pre and post components. % Responses in the 2,3, and fifth zones are very good for now. Marina and Mario will be looking at posting results on our website. In January, it would be good to review what was learned from process to outcomes to better the spring and summer door-knocking.

September Meeting Minutes

- Patrick made editorial changes to the Minutes.
- Pat Soulak motioned for approval with Patrick's Edits. Patrick seconded the motion.
- Vote: All voted in favor. October minutes are approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm —Michelle