

Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
9 December 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Patricia Soulak (VP), Veronica Walther (EAL), Becky McIntosh (T), Rob Ley (S), Dembo Darboe, Louisa Hext, Sean Morgan and Patrick Barrett

Guests: Windom resident Cole Mullins, Jeremy Schroeder (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Marion Greene (Hennepin County Commissioner), Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator)

Welcome/Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Jeremy Schroeder

- Michelle and rest of the Board thanked Jeremy for his service to Windom during his term (This is his last meeting of WCC as Councilmember.
- The Minneapolis city budget has passed:
 - Budget for bio char has passed for improved plant growth and yields, and other environmental benefits
 - \$3 million was added for the office of violence prevention
 - Includes \$2 million for labor investigators to enforce labor laws and protection of workers
- Aqua City Inn. Nothing new to report on status of a potential sale of the motel. We will be in good hands with city Inspector Craig Eliason and Assistant City attorney Joel Fussy.

Marion Greene. Hennepin County Commissioner, Dist. 3, Commission Chair

- Senior transitional housing at former Metro Inn is one of three hotels in County portfolio as part of a successful program providing services to homeless persons and a path between shelters and permanent housing. It has transitioned many people into permanent housing, where it becomes a more stable setting and easier for essential steps like taking meds, finding jobs etc.
- Afghan Evacuees. About 2000 evacuees are starting to trickle into Minnesota, with Hennepin County about to receive many as part of a safety net. Donations and volunteer opportunities will be handled through the International Institute of Minnesota.

Jennifer Waisenen. Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialist, 5th Precinct

- Car Jackings. Continue to be a problem, as there were 15 reported in one day recently. They are committed by youths (10 to 20 years), typically working in groups of two to four, with 1-2 suspects waiting in a nearby car. They are often but not always armed. Suspects have recently followed victims (usually women) home from a grocery store and wait for them to be distracted as they unload, then demand valuables, cell phone and car keys. Cars are often recovered without damage as the suspects merely go to nearby stores with the stolen credit cards.
 - Victims are strongly advised not to resist!
 - Be a good witness by taking note of suspect features, cars and license plate numbers.
 - Authorities have formed a working group comprised of members of several area law enforcement bodies. They are sharing information and coordinating efforts to track the suspects as it is believed that many are in groups of repeat offenders.
- 30-Day Part 1 (serious) Crime Report for Windom. Crime has been creeping up over the last year but burglaries are down with so many working from home these days.

- Block Captains. Minneapolis Police want to deepen relationships with block captains and recruit more in blocks where there are none. They generally want more outreach.

Charters for Standing Committees: (Land Use & Environment, Finance, Outreach & Engagement, Safety & Health, Community Development, Fundraising). Before the meeting Mario sent out drafts of charters for each, as well as a draft of the communications policy. The city is requiring standardized charters for committees. Each standing committee must:

- meet at least four times per year
- have leadership
- take minutes
- Have specific work plans for the year
- It was recommended that each standing committee issue an annual report and post it on our website.
- We will aspire to recruit five community members to each committee.
- The restrictive word “shall” will be changed to “may” throughout these charters.
- Board discussed and confirmed that a contractor will be hired part-time for the role of outreach and engagement. Also, Mario's hours will likely be increased.
 - At least one board member will be present at all standing committee meetings.
- As VP, Pat Soulak will oversee the committees, ensuring they're in good shape have enough members, and are carrying out their assigned work.
- Board members were reminded to appreciate all volunteers and to ensure their work is not duplicated by staff.
- Dedicated email addresses. There was some disagreement over the feasibility of having dedicated email addresses for each standing committee. It was believed that the board voted and approved such dedicated emails about 12 to 18 months ago. Mario to pull the minutes from that board meeting and get back to the Board with details of that decision. The topic was tabled until the January meeting.

Rob moved approval of the charters with minor edits to be submitted to the City, Veronica seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.

Communications Policy. As secretary, Rob will also be chief communications officer. He addressed his questions about this policy to Mario in a separate call.

- The policy, along with committee charters, will eventually be posted on a shared Google Drive. With so many edits and versions of drafts in existence, it was recommended to have a date and/or draft number on each page of the charters.
- The board voted unanimously to send this policy to the City (Becky moved, Patrick seconded).

Motion on Mario's Contract. Becky moved to extend the 2021 contract with Mario Vargas through January 31, 2022, with all other terms and conditions remaining the same. This will allow time to discuss an updated scope of work that better reflects his actual responsibilities. Louisa seconded, and the board approved this motion unanimously.

Committee Updates

- Finance Committee
 - WCC raised \$425 through donations on Give to the Max day. Board members were encouraged to donate if they wished. They can send checks to Becky or she will pick them up.

- Becky is wrapping up the books for 2021. WCC is estimated to receive \$40-45K in CPP rollover funds into Equitable Engagement in 2022.
- We have received the new 2022 contract with the city for implementation of our programs totaling \$22, 449. Of that \$15,000 is for administrative support and \$7449 is for Equitable Engagement.
- Our \$60,000 non-NRP budget was approved by the city.
- Windom Reads. Nothing new to report
- Outreach & Engagement. Nothing new
- Land Use & Environment. Nothing new
- Security & Health. We have paid off 19 rebates for security projects, each between 450 and \$500. New applications for rebates are trickling in.
- Community Development. Before the meeting Sean put forth a written motion regarding extending our relationship with CEE for the purpose of lending for no-interest home improvement projects, each up to \$15,000. We plan to market the availability of those funds more completely in 2022. Sean moved the motion to move \$2,500 from the Program Capital budget line to Program Administration budget line in Contract #26697 with CEE. The motion passed unanimously (Becky seconded).

Minutes to meeting of Nov. 11. Patrick moved approval with one edit, Sean seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous

- Planning for the first fundraising event for 2022 is in progress, a Wine & Chocolate event at Tailgate Sports Bar. Sat. Feb. 5. Tickets \$50. The events committee of Pat, Louisa, and Michelle is coordinating.
- Board Member Volunteer Hours. It was suggested that Board members keep track of WCC related hours for purpose of in-kind credits for some grant applications.
- Next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Sat. Dec. 18, 9am. (there will NOT be a working meeting of the entire Board on that day).

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by Michelle.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Ley, Board Secretary