



Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 9, 2023
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

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

Guests: Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis, Councilmember Ward 11), Jim Hasnik (Center for Energy and Environment), Jennifer Waisanen (Minneapolis Police Department).

Welcome/Call to Order: Pat called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski:

- Highway 62 and Bloomington Avenue is still closed.
- Recycling guides mailed out, includes schedule and tips & tricks to create less trash.
- City will begin brush pile burns. None in Ward 11 but be aware.
- Tree Lottery—open until end of March. Be sure to submit your name. \$30 per tree.
- Winter Parking Restrictions still in effect. Cannot park on the even side of the street.
- The City is seeking applicants for its Community Commission on police oversight.
 - Civilian Commissioners serve as the City’s review panelists, on a rotating basis, to review investigations of alleged police misconduct.
 - As panelists, they will have direct access to investigatory case files being reviewed and provide recommendations on the merits of misconduct and allegations that will be forwarded on to Chief O’Hara.
 - This work will take place during public meetings, which will provide residents the opportunity to observe the presentations, listen, and discuss.
 - Application deadline: March 26th
- Legislative directive went through (request for action) regarding a high level analysis of a potential program, which will include a fiscal analysis, evaluation of a web based interactive tool that would track and report on different winter maintenance programs such as: snow plowing and sidewalk snow removal, and a high level evaluation of current and pilot programs being considered.
 - City Council did not pass an implementation of any program, this legislative directive is just a request to do an analysis.
 - The analysis will be due in June.
 - Councilmember Koski will share the results of the analysis and seek feedback from the City’s constituents.
- Land Use Rezoning Study
- Metro Inn
 - Project approved by the planning commission.
- Aqua City Motel
 - Potential demolition of building in the spring.
- Councilmember wishes to bring Windom and Kenny together in increasing housing, retail, and commercial space. Potential for three hundred units of housing in the area. Discussion with Bachman’s as it owns the land.

- Next Ward 11 meeting is on April 11th at 7:00 pm. Location: Pearl Park
 - Inviting interim director of safety teams (Office of Violence Prevention).
 - Will discuss alternatives to policing, navigators, and behavioral response.

Home Loan Improvement Program Update — Jim Hasnik (Center of Energy & Environment):

- Program success due to great end-of-year marketing! Excellent job!
- \$36,000.00 remaining in the program.
- Zero percent loan program
- There were bids in December, January, and one that will close sometime in March with a loan of \$6,400.
- Currently, two applications are being processed.
 - Zero bids or loan amounts as of now. Cost and sizes of the projects are unknown currently.

Windom Public Crime & Safety Update — Jennifer Waisanen (Crime Prevention Specialist at the 5th Precinct):

- Property crimes:
 - Auto thefts: high risk makes are Kia and Hyundai vehicles.
- In Windom, report from 02/01/23—03/08/23: 24 police reports made.
 - Eleven vehicles were stolen.
 - Some of the thieves are kids. Many of the vehicles are dumped and abandoned in other precincts with no gas.
 - Two catalytic converters stolen.
 - License plates stolen.
 - On March 4th at 3:47 am Wentworth Court. Shooting occurred at the two hundred Club. After investigating, officers discovered that the shooting suspects had been known to stay with a known occupant near Wentworth Court. They were able to make an arrest.
- Crime Prevention Flyer: Tips and resources.
- 5th Precinct Open House! Sometime in May 2023 during police appreciation week.

Council Business:

1. WCC 2022 4th Quarter & End of Year Financials — Review & Approval (Becky)

- \$40,000 loss
 - Motion to approve: Becky.
 - Second: Pat
 - All in favor: unanimous
 - All abstain: None.
 - Michelle: Motion approved.

2. Aqua City Building Teardown & Redevelopment — Update (Michelle)

- Due to significant damage to the building, it is unsalvageable and will be leveled.
- Commissioner Greene meeting will be held on March 25th at 1:30 pm—3:30 pm.
- Hennepin County’s bids for Aqua City have specific and restrictive guidelines, which requires the developer to agree to the terms.
- This benefits the residents as it allows them to hold the county accountable for the development of the property.

- As taxpayers, residents have the right to voice their concerns. More specifically, residents that reside on Garfield and Harriet.

3. Minneapolis 2024 Land Rezoning — Discussion (Mario)

- The Minneapolis 2040 Land Use Plan
 - Most of the plan has been solidified.
- Meeting to discuss questions/concerns on Saturday, March 11th at 9:00 am.
 - Location: Patrick’s Bakery and Café
- WCC Board Member Public Comment Deadline March 14th

4. SW Neighborhoods Associations Collaborative Agreement — Update (Mario)

- March 10th: Update on whether the collaborative will receive the \$20,000.00 grant/funding.
- To formalize, funding is needed:
 - Hire a consultant to help with that process.
 - Develop a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) focused program that unites the neighborhoods for its educational event.
- This sets the foundation for the collaborative to seek more funding from private foundations, the State of Minnesota, and/or other entities.

5. NCR: Partnership Engagement Fund Application — Update (Mario)

- Year 2023, we cannot pursue the funding, but we will continue to work with the City and find another organization for next year’s funding (2024).
- Continue to seek places to solicit to find funding.

Committee Updates – Michelle

1. Finance Committee – Becky

- Collaborating with new bookkeeper.
- She helped put together the end of the year financial reports.

2. Safety and Health Committee – Patrick

- No updates.

3. Community Development – Dembo

- No updates. Pending information.

4. Environment & Land Use – Becky

- No updates.

5. Outreach & Engagement – Michelle/Mario

- Continue to work through door-knocking data from 2022 and potentially visiting apartment complexes.
- Planning another door-knocking event in the Spring. Develop a smoother for efficient plan.

- Translation of key documents in multiple languages such as: Spanish and Somali.
 - Mario will investigate the cost of professionally translating necessary documents.

February Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Patrick
- Second: Pat
- All in favor: All, unanimous.
- All abstain: None.
- Michelle: Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned – Michelle at 8:17 pm.