Windom Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 17, 2026
Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing

Board Members Attending: Pat Soulak, Sarah Bassett-Kim, Chad Fallon, Becky McIntosh, Derek Goodman
Board Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Mario Vargas, Executive Director
Members of the Public Present: 13 members via Zoom.
Quorum Present

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1805 by the President, Pat Soulak

6:00 Welcome Pat Soulak

- Asked everyone to have their pictures or video so we can see who we are speaking to.

6:05 Code of Conduct Pat Soulak –

- Pat read the Code of Conduct.

6:10 Board Approval: August 13th WCC Monthly Meeting Minutes Chad Fallon-

- Becky moved. Chad 2nd. All in favor.

6:15 NCR Neighborhood Specialist Welcome Ariah Fine

- Introduced himself and let us know that Mario has his email and we can contact him. He just recently switched responsibilities with Aryca. He is looking forward to meeting everyone.

6:20 Committee Reports

- Outreach and Community Engagement Pat Soulak, Becky Mcintosh
- Apartment Complexes:
  Windom Gables – Handed out voting information. They hired a manager that would setup events and we as a council can attend and get the word out. Windom organized a national night out and would like to do a larger event next year.
- City Limits management staff was invited by the WCC President and Executive Director tour the recreation center and meet the Windom Park Director, Jason Wong. Discussed about youth activities pertaining to City Limits. WCC will help sponsor a coat drive in the fall.
- WCC ~~is~~ talking with League of Women Voters to sponsor voter education.

6:30 Community Development Derek Goodman

- Aqua City Redevelopment Update
  Had a call with Justin Ellers, Project Manager at Trellis, a non-profit firm that works to provide affordable housing developments. Trellis has purchased the land for housing based on the median adjusted income. He showed a CAD rendering of a proposed 42 unit, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments. A top down map showed what would be on the lot including a community garden, play ground and picnic area. The plan is to break ground in fall of 2027. There will be continued meetings for community feedback.
- Celebrate South Nicollet Block Party
  Met with Southwest Business Alliance and they provided a block party on Diamond Lake and Nicollet. Because of the Nicollet bridge being out, it has affected the businesses in the area. The event gave businesses a chance to connect with residents and promote their businesses. It will be 16 months more to complete the Nicollet bridge reconstruction.
- Derek brought up that Minneapolis schools are planning on closing the Kenny Elementary school. It would displace kids to Armitage or Windom. There is a link for the MPS survey that people can fill out no matter what your position is on the school closings.

6:35 Safety and Health Chad Fallon

One proposed plan is for a special walking day on a fall weekend day to tell the story of accessibility and what it looks like in the neighborhood. Volunteers would split into groups and take predetermined routes around the neighborhood. On the walking route, we have people document and photograph areas that may not seem accessible. At the end of the walk, everyone meet to debrief with snacks and water. WCC would compile the pictures, data, and community comments into a living survey that is sent to the city.

Discussion: Start with 311 that can direct us to the city department in charge. Need to determine if changes are on a schedule or on an as-needed. Other resources are the Minneapolis advisory committee on people with disabilities and the Minnesota council on disabilities.
Also to look up relevant ordinances, including if there are different standards for normal vs major intersections.

2. Becky Presented ideas about school readiness as it pertains to vaccinations, cannabis and mental health in English, Spanish and Somali. The Minneapolis Health Department is putting out promotional materials toolkit. Social media things to put online. Posters and flyers in Print and digital.
Vaccinations: Where and what is recommended for kids.
Cannabis: Youth cannabis prevention. How to talk about it and other substances.
Mental Health: Resources for kids and staff about their services.

3. Michelle Hemmingway discussed the state of public safety in Minneapolis and how Windom can make connections to MPD and Faith Randall, the 5th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist in board meetings and events in the community. Inspector Ryan Kelly is the new head of the 5th precinct.

WCC was emailed a request from a resident in the Windom neighborhood to bring before the board about adding a crosswalk across Diamond Lake Road on Pleasant in order to get to the Minnehaha Creek trails safely.

Thursday September 24th at 6pm, the WCC Walking and safety group will meet at the park to walk, weather permitting.

Discussed developing a Poison Control Family event in late fall.

6:40 Environment Becky McIntosh

- Gardening Projects are the current focus of the committee. Windom homeowners are encouraged to move away from turf to native plant/pollinator gardens.
- The committee has partnered with Oak Hill Cemetery. Volunteers have planted 35 trees from the city, and the county will plant an additional 20 trees. The committee is continuing to partner with Oak Hill around Native Plant gardening to create a serene and pollinator friendly environment for when families come. Several areas of the cemetery are targeted for these Native Plant Gardening this fall and next year.

6:45 – Finance Committee. Becky Mcintosh

- Coming to the end of the 3rd quarter. Waiting for financials to finalize the reports. Should be at the next meeting.

6:55 Communications, Sarah Bassett-Kim

- Sarah stated that since there is no movement on the Communications committee, she demanded that the Communications charter on the WCC Bylaws be removed. (This was removed several days later per her request).

6:55 Data Centers Update Becky McIntosh/Sarah Bassett-Kim

- Sarah put together a report on a meeting of neighborhood associations with Unidos. Purpose of the meeting was to talk about concerns with data centers in the city prior to the end of the current moratorium scheduled to be lifted in November 2026. Unidos wants to put a Community Benefits

Agreement together between the city and the developers on what the requirements would be about acquiring and building these data centers.

- Other Neighborhood associations were thinking of putting together Community Benefit agreement on Data centers. Sarah asked if the Board could vote on this. Pat requested that the Board not vote on this at this time, and that there should be z community meeting to get input from Windom residents. The Board nodded approval. A community meeting will be proposed for neighborhood input.

7:00 Executive Director Monthly. Mario Vargas

- Working on administration such as reports and the façade grant, financial management including contracting with the park for youth services, and working with external stakeholders such as for the SW Business Alliance event and apartment complexes.

7:15 Questions from community Pat Soulak

- A neighbor asked how many people are volunteering for the committee. Derek asked for volunteers for Community Development and described their mission.
- Becky gave an overview of the Environmental committee and asked for volunteers. Pat asked about electronics pickup, and Becky said there are parameters that we would need to adhere to get this up. Pat had a question on use of green materials in building development, and Derek did not have all the information at this time.
- A neighbor asked why the Working Board meetings were cancelled. It was explained by Pat that it was in order to give time to the committees to get their work done.
- A neighbor asked about getting projections on spending in the coming months through the board meeting or a special meeting. Another neighbor asked a question about seeing what the budgets are flowing from quarter to quarter and what the projected expenditures would be.
- Neighbor asks when we can get back to in-person board meetings. Pat said the board would talk about it and we would prefer to do it, but there were interruptions in previous meetings that made some board members uncomfortable.

7:25 Closing Comments Pat Soulak

7:30 Becky made the motion to adjourn. Chad 2nd the motion. All in favor!
Adjourn