

Windom Board Meeting Minutes
9 July 2020
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending Board Members: Jacky Juneke (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Veronica Walther (VP), Patrick Barrett, Steve Rawlins (S), Brian O'Shea, Pat Soulak, Michelle Hemingway Tatum

Absent Board Members: Pete Johnson

Additional Attendees: Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator), Jeremy Schroeder (Councilman), Tim Hokanson (Mount Olivet Homes), Ira Jourdain (Minneapolis Public Schools), Windom residents: Katherine Noreen, Sean Morgan, Robyn Hansen, Elizabeth Bieging

Meeting:

Called to order 7:02PM by Veronica (our VP) who ran the meeting in Jacky's absence.

Councilman Jeremy Schroeder

Motels Update: no updates since news that Oberpriller bought Aqua but is no longer interested in Metro Inn. The City still cannot do inspections due to Covid, but there are already violations reported on those motels. City can resume inspections when it is safe.

License revocation still a possibility as there are already violations on the books from before Covid. City attorney indicates that, if inspections resume and are failed, they can proceed with the license revocation process.

Budget: \$165M hole due to Covid. Council must revise the 2020 budget which was already approved but must be cut. Trying to avoid lay-offs by using furloughs (unpaid days off) but difficult choices lie ahead. City employees are union members so part of bargaining units and this must be taken into the mix. Taking some cash out reserves to pay employees seems legitimate use of "rainy day funds" in this time of emergency. Trying to be realistic vs kick can down the road. Abbreviated Budget work must be completed in 2 weeks vs months.

Encampments: Powderhorn, very sad situation. Governor put an order that no city can break-up encampments. Prioritize family with children into temporary housing.

Motels

Garfield neighbors group continues to track and report on progress but find it difficult to know who to talk to at the city and at the Motels.

Northbay (Dan Oberpriller) is no longer interested in Metro Inn.

Sal, of Metro Inn, joined the call in progress. He spoke on behalf of Metro Inn. He expressed frustration at not being given a fair chance to develop, after working hard to improve the property since 2003. He feels unfairly targeted by Inspections and points to the apartments between the motels as a possible source of complaints. He emphasized that Metro is a different business from Aqua, and so not to lump them together.

Census 2020

State is ready to send door-to-door canvassers this month (June 2020)

Modification to By-laws to allow for Electronic Voting

Mario presented the changes, reading the new language. Veronica modified the wording to drop the "if the vote is inconclusive" part because the purpose is to provide an electronic option. Steve moved to make the changes, seconded by Becky. Motion carried

Although prompted by Covid and our 2020 election, we agreed we should make the change permanent, i.e. no automatic revocation of this new language. We feel it behooves us to get with the times and plan on potential need for e-voting in the future.

Annual Meeting

The official meeting, with Elections, is to be held on the regular Thursday in September which is the 10th

Our in-person Celebration, more of a party than Business Meeting, to be held either the next day (Friday 11th) or Saturday 12th.

Mario walked us through Armatage Neighborhood Association's experience, who just completed their Annual Meeting in June, virtual evote.

Armatage experienced a larger turn-out than usual, maybe double, so we should plan on the same. They confirmed with NCR that electronic election is legitimate. They distributed a Voter Guide in advance. Armatage actively promoted, encouraged BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and LGBTQ "looking to diversify their board" and we should do the same in our communications.

East Isles sent us a sample of their ballot

We could conduct balloting via Google Docs or Google Forms.

We should do our best to diversify our board by using appropriate terms to address people, including pronouns. Veronica recommends contacting NCR for appropriate language because we want to recruit a diverse board and also need to be sensitive to the times.

Traffic Safety

We have a \$2500 grant to improve Traffic Safety in Windom by Outreach and Community Engagement. Mario & Patrick generated ideas:

Identify dangerous intersections, perhaps a top-5 or top-10 list of dangerous roads and intersections.

Veronica recommends using Google Docs or Forms to solicit feedback

Some contenders include:

Nicollet at Diamond Lake, and Nicollet at 61st

Lyndale (also at DLR and 61st)

Stevens south of TMORA, speeding

58th Street speeding

Communications and Outreach campaigns:

Buy ads on Facebook, Run campaign for two months ending in September

Mailer or Postcard to community in multiple language, unless too expensive

Promote at National Night Out (NNO) which has been rescheduled to September 15th

Distribute free "20 is Plenty" yard signs for board members to post in their front yards.

Working Meeting in August

Since we have so many projects coming-up, Mario floating the idea of a working meeting. Mario will present some dates to schedule, Veronica suggested August.

Event Ideas

Virtual book-reading with Children's Books Authors this summer. Pat mentioned the little girl who witnessed G. Floyd's murder is writing a book which we can watch for when published and have read. Someway to keep the reading spirit going, with local dignitaries and authors reading; may need to adopt a Virtual approach for Feb 2021.

Minutes Approved

June Minutes approved, as adjusted to reflect the correct Sept dates for our Annual.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35PM