

Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
12 August 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 and Patrick Barrett

Absent: Sean Morgan

Guests: Jeremy Schroeder (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator), Katharine Krueger

Welcome/Call to Order

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

Financial Authorization

Michelle lost her wallet and a WCC credit card. This prompted her to request an additional WCC Board Member be added to our bank account as authorized to sign for the WCC -- in addition to current signatories Michelle and Becky-- as a safeguard should something similar occur again. Patricia was added by unanimous vote (Veronica moved, Louisa seconded.)

Cancellations

For the benefit of Rob and other new WCC members, it was repeated that Tots Rock and the Windom Picnic had been cancelled this year, but Windom Reads is still scheduled for January 2022.

City Council Ward 11 Updates

- Aqua City. Councilman Schroeder said there were no substantial updates concerning the Aqua City Inn. Sustained violations are needed to revoke an operating license, so that is unlikely to happen. A developer looking to buy and develop the property has sued the motel owners.
- Charter Amendments. Unwilling to offer a point of view on the two amendments, on safety and rent affordability, scheduled to be on the ballot this fall, Schroeder suggested that WCC members seek out positions for and against the amendments and educate themselves.
- Biochar. Minneapolis was selected as one of 10 cities worldwide to promote and use biochar. Implementation of such a program within Windom will require funding from both the city of Minneapolis and Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- Drought. Watering restrictions remain in place. Residents can water on even or odd days depending upon their house number. No watering is allowed between noon and 6:00 PM.
- Auto thefts are on the uptick, particularly in areas immediately north of Windom.

Strategic Organizational Plan Framework

Mario provided a background of WCC funding in the past and key requirements for planning and securing funding going forward. Minneapolis' Community Participation Program (CPP) expired last January and is being replaced by the Neighborhood Engagement Program (NEP).

- Three Planning Priorities
 - Regular Board business
 - Neighborhoods 2020: New rules for funding, particularly for Equitable Engagement
 - Expending Unused WCC Community Participation Program (CPP) contracted funds of \$80k. Funds would have been lost if not used.
- Key Challenges
 - Pandemic. Zoom meetings

- City of Minneapolis modifications to neighborhood funding formula
- Major Planning Assumptions
 - City of Minneapolis is sole funder of WCC. (\$130k in the bank for pre-designated programs)
 - Full board of nine members. Mario is up to full time with WCC, and a part-time bookkeeper.
 - WCC may have an edge with competitive funds:
 - 2018 Windom Gables Engagement
 - 2019 Metro Inn resident involvement
 - 2019 Community Survey
 - Results of renter survey, now in the field, will inform our plan

WCC's New Strategic Direction

- Essential to comply with new NEP contract funding guidelines to secure funding
 - Equitable Engagement Funding is a priority
 - Must engage all our resident groups
 - Neighborhood body reorganization requirements: Byelaws, financial, HR policies, etc.
 - Sound nonprofit management practices must be adopted
 - WCC must clearly understand how to proceed to meet the requirements
- Revenue: Diversify Income Sources. Currently Minneapolis is exclusive funder
 - Prioritize Development
 - Board members to be involved in fundraising.
 - Add new board members. Up to 13 total
 - Create subcommittee on development
 - Funding raised by WCC will not affect funding from Minneapolis
- Develop a 1-5 Year Strategic Plan. Begin with a Board retreat on a Saturday in January.
 - Ask big questions.
 - Incorporate results of resident survey

Work Plan. Components and key activities and dates required

1. Conclude 2021 Plan Modification Programs
2. Develop Equity Engagement Plan (EEP). Draft to NCR by 9/1. Approved in Sep. Implementation starts in January (will NCR approve that timing?)
3. Neighborhood Organization reconfiguration requirement
4. Strategic Planning. Establish new Board committee
5. Board & Organization reconfiguration next steps:
 - a) Reallocate Board to committee assignments
 - b) Evaluate current organization goals for future planning
 - c) Evaluate current staffing strategies and levels

Board members were asked to please take their time when reviewing the materials to go along with this plan outline. Minneapolis' pot to support neighborhoods is shrinking. Expect competition for program funding. We need to give feedback on this plan outline to the Executive Committee by Sat. 8/21.

Work Plan Next Steps:

1. Mario to put supporting documents online with link, by Sun. night 8/15/2021
2. Michelle to send out WCC roster with current committee assignments, also with room to sign up for:
 - a. Strategic Planning
 - b. Development

Work Plan outline was approved unanimously by Board (Rob moved, Veronica seconded.)

Equitable Engagement Committee. To address three budget priorities in a draft Equitable Engagement Plan

1. Renters
2. Organizational capacity
3. New neighborhood programs

Michelle and Mario to distribute completed plan ASAP.

- Send to City on 9/1 for feedback
- Submit completed plan by 9/27
- Finalize plan by end of year

City Charter Amendments. Covering rent stabilization and public safety models will be on the ballot this autumn. A representative from the City Clerk's office has been invited to the September WCC meeting to provide more information and address questions about them.

Windom South Park will not be opened in September as promised by Minneapolis Parks & Recreation. Therefore, there will be no access to WCC offices in near future. The Shared Use Committee will get an update and provide it to the rest the WCC.

Hennepin County Protective Housing at the Former Metro Inn. Continues to run seemingly smoothly. Michelle will contact Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene for an update on that site and on any County interest in acquiring Aqua City Inn.

Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Waisanen will be invited to upcoming WCC meeting

Security Rebate Program Committee approved 19-20 applications for a rebate on the purchase of lighting, cameras, and other security equipment

July WCC Minutes Approved by unanimous vote (Patrick moved, Louisa seconded)

September Meeting Agenda Items will include guests City Clerk representative and Crime Specialist Jennifer Waisanen

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by Michelle