

Windom Board Meeting Minutes
11 February 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: (Board) Veronica Walter (P), Pete Johnson (VP), Becky McIntosh (T), Michelle Hemingway Tatum (S), Patricia Soulak (MAL), Patrick Barrett, Katharine Krueger, Sean Morgan.

Absent: Micah Stevenson

Guests: Mario Vargas (ED), Jeremy Schroeder, (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Michael Smith, Community Needs Community, Trudy Barrett

Welcome/Call to Order

Veronica called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and she welcomed all neighbors, guests and participants to the meeting.

City Council Updates

Jeremy provided the Council with an update for the City of Minneapolis:

- Councilman Jeremy Schroeder updated the Council that he, the City's Attorney, the owners of Aqua City Motel & their lawyer met in late January to discuss the Motel's future plans. The owners informed the group they were interested in selling and are looking for potential buyers.
- Mr. Schroeder also informed the Council of the Neighborhood 2020 Plan included new Neighborhood & Community Relations requirements and guidelines. Monthly meetings will take place to learn of these changes to the funding program.
- Minneapolis Public Elementary Schools will reopen in early March.
- Stolen cars from other areas of Mpls. are being dropped off in the Windom neighborhood. Catalytic converters also are being stolen at a high rate and he suggested all neighbors to call 911 if you hear an electric saw being used, especially during the night. Ways of deterring thieves are currently being addressed in the State Senate.
- Councilman Schroeder informed attendees of Minneapolis Police Department on 2/18 at 1:30 p.m. The proposal under consideration would create a new Department of Public Safety that would oversee and lead public safety efforts that prevent, intervene in, and reduce crime and violence to ensure safer communities for everyone in our city. It would house a Division of Law Enforcement made up of police officers.
- Councilman Schroeder mentioned Mayor Frey's commitment to permanent affordable housing as part of the city's 2040 Plan. Mayor Frey believes that housing is a right and residents should have access to affordable housing all throughout Minneapolis.

The mayor's first two budget proposals featured \$70 million for affordable housing. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, he shored up record support for ongoing affordable housing work in his 2021 proposal.

Community Needs Community Group

WCC invited Michael Smith, of Community Needs Community, to review the program's focus and possibility to collaborate on initiatives. Mr. Smith highlighted to group's focus meet the needs within urban environments from holiday toy drives, food distribution, providing hygiene products, etc. Mr. Smith can be reached at communityneedscommunity@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Becky reviewed the initial discussion on NCR's new guidelines to neighborhood organization for recognition. (See attached Changing Approved Neighborhood Plan Policy document.)

Committee Updates:

- Community Development Committee – Sean

The Committee's Charter was updated and eight people attended the initial committee meeting.

- Events Committee - Pat

Pat provided an update of Windom Reads Event having 7 readers, collaborations with Minneapolis Public Schools and National Federation of the Blind, both the MPLS Police and Fire Departments will participate as well as Mayor Frey.

- Outreach and Engagement Committee – Michelle

Working on Spring Newsletter and Neighborhood Citywide meetings focusing on Neighborhood Recognition Requirements.

The January Minutes were approved.

Move to adjourn meeting at 8:41 p.m.