



**2023 Annual Meeting**  
**Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 11, 2023**  
**(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)**

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

**Guests:** Emily Koski (Ward 11 Council Representative: Minneapolis City Council), Aileen Johnson (Minneapolis Walking Group), Maddie Tatum (Windom Resident), PauPau Darboe (Windom Resident), Mary Petersen (Windom Resident), Steve Rawlins (Windom Resident), Doug Sweet (Windom Resident), Cate McIntosh (Windom Resident), Incha Krein (Windom Business Owner), Marty Forseth (Windom Resident), MaryAnn Forseth (Windom Resident), Randy Tatum (Windom Resident).

**Welcome/Call to Order:** Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**City Hall Updates:** Councilmember (CM) Koski presented the city and Ward 11's major accomplishments for 2022.

- City residents passed the Omnibus Government Structure Ordinance which establishes a new “strong mayor” government in Minneapolis. Minneapolis has 13 council members who serve as the legislative branch and a mayor in the executive branch. This is a new form of government. Both the council and mayor are collaborating to establish the “build” the new legislative functions in this new structure.
- Appointed the Commissioner of Community Safety (Dr. Cedrick Alexander) and Chief of Police (Brian O’Hara) of Public Safety. Passed 43 million dollars of American rescue plan funding. The city 2022 budget was 1.66 billion dollars. Minneapolis passes a new ordinance called the Community Commission on Police Oversight.
- For Ward 11, Councilmember Koski hosts monthly meetings, daily office hours, and organizes 3 different public safety meetings. Authored 3 amendments to the city’s legislative agenda. These amendments are more aligned with state law which 1) made it easier for better access to police records, 2) the release of police body camera data during active investigations and 3) further state restricts on the use of “no knock warrants.” CM Koski authored amendments to the city’s American Rescue Plan Phase II funding including moving \$125K to create a payroll and bookkeeping pilot project for small businesses to help them comply with city regulations, move \$162K to acquire two new vans for the city’s new 911 behavioral response team. CM Koski is the chair of the city’s budget committee. The city moved to a biennial budget or a two-year budget cycle. CM authored an amendment to the budget to create two public safety auditor positions. CM Koski organized a local senior fair in collaboration with CM Jenkins. CM Koski has organized several outreach efforts including one to work with block leaders.
- Public safety statistics Year-to-Date for the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Robberies decreased by 46.3%, carjackings decreased by 51%, shots fired by 27%, auto thefts have increased by 126%. Many of these crimes are being committed by juveniles and those arrested many have been juveniles. Reminders to residents to keep personal hidden from view, have personal awareness are we are out in the public, Kias and Hyundai are targeted and the city does provide locking sticks to secure vehicles.
- Issues: Affordable housing. CM Koski is looking across Ward 11 to identify locations for the construction of affordable housing. CM Koski is working closely with Hennepin County and neighborhoods on the housing project tied to the old motel sites. City’s 10-Year Climate Equity Plan. This is open for comment currently. Visit Ward 11 city website page.
- Windom Industrial Corridor Development (near Wild Minds). CM Koski is closely monitoring the pending sale of several land parcels in the area.
- Reminders: CM Koski, as part of the Budget Committee, highly encourages residents to understand the city’s budget process. There is a meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Pearl Park to walk Ward 11 residents through the budget process. On June 1<sup>st</sup> 7 pm at Nokomis Community Center Congresswoman Omar, State Representative Greenman, State Senator Mohammed, will meet with Ward 11 residents to provide state and federal updates.



**Aileen Johnson – Minneapolis Walker Group**

- In March 2021, Aileen started the first walking group in her neighborhood, the North Loop.
- She started the group because the neighborhood was having problems with drug dealing, car break-ins and thefts. After a bullet tore through her neighbor’s apartment on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor both decided to start an initiative to bring other residents together which led to creating the first neighborhood safety walking group.
- Soon thereafter, Aileen and her North Loop neighbors helped start walker groups in Loring Park, Mill District, East Isles, Lowry Hill, Windom south (this month), and Dinkytown.
- The underlying idea is that residents, business and MPD can come together (in the spirit of friendliness) and work to deter criminals in the neighborhoods by creating a physical presence by walking streets and alleys. The program involves working closely with MPD, City Hall, getting training (personal safety, NARCAN) and touring MPD facilities and call centers.
- The program is showing positive signs in its initial phases. MPD’s 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct has credited, in part, the North Loop Safety Walking club for a drop in auto thefts in the north loop and Loring Park neighborhoods.
- Starting a Walkers Group in Windom Steps. The North Loop walking group has the goal of reducing car thefts by the end of 2023 by 25%.
  - Organize a neighborhood meeting to launch the Windom safety walking group. There are already some interested community members willing to start the program in Windom. The group will work closely with the MPD 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct to organize information sharing and safety training events in the neighborhood.
  - At that meeting, the group will decide on a weekly schedule to walk including a beginning hour and ending hour to the weekly walks.
  - Free T-shirts provided. This Walking Program has a benefactor, Dana Swindler of MartinPatrick3, who provides specially neon orange logo printed t-shirts with participating neighborhood logos. The t-shirts and hats for the tough winter months are provided to the residents at zero cost by Dana Swindler and his team at MartinPatrick3.

**Annual Programmatic and Financial Discussion**

• **2022 WCC Program Accomplishments Presentation**

1 <sup>st</sup> Door-Knocking Campaign	Finalizing the Windom Small Business Façade Program
1 <sup>st</sup> Diversity Equity & Inclusion Board Training	2022 In-Person Windom Reads Event
1 <sup>st</sup> Board Fundraising Training	Several Public Safety Neighbor Resident Engagement Events
Successful Community Engagement Collaboration w/Hennepin County	Reached over 2,000 Windom residents through print and social media.
Successful Programs Collaboration with the New Windom School PTO	Reached over 200 homes through our door-knocking campaign.
Implemented Windom Home Improvement Loan and Launched Alternative Garden Programs	Dedicated over 1,500 hours in Board volunteer hours to the neighborhood.
Supported over 17 Windom Homes with Alternative Garden Technical Consultations	Granted over \$60,000 in Windom Home Improvement Loan to homeowners.



- **2022 WCC Financial Overview Presentation**

- WCC has 1 funder which is the City of Minneapolis. WCC undertook training to learn about fundraising and how to diversify its funding and revenue streams. City funding has been substantially reduced not only for the Windom neighborhood but for all neighborhoods. Every expense needs to be budgeted and accounted for in our program city budgets and in our organizational operating budget.
- 2022 Total Expenses
  - \$101,312 totals
- 2022 Total Revenues
  - \$75,939 (2022 End of Year Income Balance)
  - \$69,072 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 NRP & CPP Reimbursement)
  - 2022 Actual Total Income: \$145,011

### **2023 Board Member Elections**

The 2022 Board Member elections were held. The process is as follows. Nominations were accepted between April 17<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The final list of nominee candidates was posted online, and electronic and paper voting opened at Noon May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup> at Noon. The day of the election (May 11<sup>th</sup>), nominations were taken from the floor from anyone in attendance who was interested. Election Results: four incumbents got re-elected including Becky McIntosh, Dembo Darboe, Patricia Soulak and Patrick Barrett. The public also elected long-time resident Mary Petersen to the Board.

### **Youth Volunteer Recognition Awards Presentation**

The WCC Board of Directors recognized the volunteer contributions of two high school graduating Windom youth: Maddie Hemingway Tatum and PauPau Darboe.

Maddie was recognized for designing the Windom neighborhood's Census 2020 print campaign which was distributed in print and digital form throughout the neighborhood. It contributed to the overall great Census 2020 count Minneapolis produced at a national level.

PauPau Darboe helped the WCC Board launch it's first door-knocking campaign. As a volunteer doorknocker he helped interview and record resident responses from Windom residents to help better understand their needs. He contributed to our efforts to for better engagement.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM**