Windom Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2026
(Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing & In-Person at 5843 Wentworth)

Board Members Attending: Pat Soulak, Linnea Lopez, Sarah Bassett-Kim, Chad Fallon, Becky McIntosh, Austin Heald, Katharine Krueger, Derek Goodman
Board
Board Members Absent: Dembo Darboe, Aaron Corfield
Staff Present: Mario Vargas, Executive Director
Members of the Public Present: 12 members in person and via Zoom.
Quorum Present
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6 PM by the Chair, Pat Soulak
a) Introductions of the board and neighbors attending
Pat - Review Board Conduct Policy. There were no questions.
WCC approval of minutes of 6/11 and 6/23 meeting:
a) Katharine Krueger brought motion to approve the 6/11 minutes.
b) Chad 2nd -Passed Unanimously
c) Linnea brought motion to approve the 6/23 minutes; Austin 2nd --Passed Unanimously
Art Walk Update
- Katharine Krueger mentioned it is the biggest event we have had this year.
- Talked about the different art forms people will be performing/displaying i.e., Music, art, crafts, dance, etc.
- Get the word out on social media.
- Derek suggested food trucks and will look into it.
- July 31st 4-8pm August 1st 12noon- 5pm
- Katharine mentioned artists should sign up on the website to get on the map.

Committee Work updates and goals.
Safety and Health Committee – Aaron and Chad
a) Chad reported on Aaron's idea for improving accessibility in the neighborhood by checking the entrance to the sidewalks on the corners. Some corners have a higher lip when entering the sidewalk from the street which can make it harder for senior citizens with walkers or wheelchairs to get on the sidewalk. We could incorporate a special safety walk that looks at opportunities to improve accessibility.
b) Aaron had also proposed having an EKG screening event for kids that we can partner with at playforpatrick.org. It can take 12-24 months to arrange so we will need to get registered with them if we want to pursue this.
c) Chad reported on the safety walk of the past and where it is currently is now. Currently, we are scheduled to walk on the 3rd Thursday of the month, which may need to be changed depending on community feedback.
d) Chad reported partnering with the Minneapolis Police department for board meetings, events, open houses to maintain the relationship and get reports on the status of crime and safety in the city.

Community Development Committee- Derek
a) Derek has spoken with CM Jamison Whiting about the Motel sites.
b) Want to speak with Businesses in the next 30 days about the SW Business Association fall Windom festival.
c) Lyndale Avenue apartment building update for fire next to old Metro Inn Motel. Building was demolished completely after the city tested the site for toxic materials and removed all utilities.

Environment and Land Use Committee - Becky
a) WCC did not get funded for Hennepin County Green Partners Grant and is scheduling a virtual feedback meeting with HC staff.
b) Metro Inn Agate project. On July 23rd will participate with staff for a one-hour consultation with Metro Blooms on planting natives. Based on that visit, Metro Blooms can provide an estimate on the cost of a plan that Agate staff and volunteers can implement as able.
c) Continuing to talk about native gardens in the neighborhood
d) WCC organized 12 volunteers in June to help plant 30 trees at Oak Hill Cemetery that were provided by the city. ELU is also working with Oak Hill to do more native plantings and address water runoff issues.

Outreach and Community Engagement Committee – Austin and Katharine
a) Austin asked for volunteers,

b) Katharine suggested having listening sessions by meeting at ReNew.
and City Limits apartment buildings.
c) Listening sessions for residents at their places.

Communications Committee - Sarah

a) Sarah mentioned it is a new committee and brought in flyers.
b) Committee has not met yet and needs volunteers.

- Neighbor asked if environmental committee looks at Water quality. Becky responded that it does not.
- Katharine talked to people at Ice Cream Social about lead pipes. There is a map of the neighborhood that points out houses that may have lead pipes. Pat Mentioned putting the water lead pipe site from the city on the WCC website (https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/lead-service-lines/.
- Becky mentioned that we can have a lot of ideas, but it takes volunteers to implement them. We can't do it without our neighbors!

Pat Soulak our board president suggested a date for our Board Retreat for Planning for remainder of '26, and '27. August 15 (proposed date.)

a) No decision has been made regarding date yet.

- Pat Soulak our board president said that there would be no "Working Board meeting July 28 so we could focus on the Committee work."
- Communication - Austin

a) Austin requested to postponed the discussion.

Finance Report - Becky

a) Finance Committee update. Committee members are Pat, Derek, and Becky (chair). Attended by Mario. Current bank balance is about $22K, with second quarter reimbursement for $12.5K (pending completion of the Parks agreement for youth programs that needs to be finalized first).
b) Board action required to change banking authorizations with Wells Fargo NA as follows:
With the election of new Windom Community Council officers on June 11, 2026, the Board hereby authorizes the removal of Key Executive Michelle Henningway (outgoing President), and the addition of Patricia Soulak (incoming President) as a Key Executive. Elizabeth McIntosh remains as a Key Executive.
Becky moved for approval, seconded by Derek- Passed Unanimously.

Staff Scope of Work, Monthly report Mario

Mario Vargas gave an overview of his position as encompassing
Community engagement and organizational leadership.

a) Neighborhoods 2020 responsibility as mandated by the city.
b) Financial Management – works with Becky and independent bookkeeper to monitor our finances.
c) Facilitates with the City on annual tax reporting, the state Attorney General's Office on the required annual charitable report, and reporting to the county.
d) Quarterly reporting and reimbursements
e) External stakeholder relations. He is the face of the organization, will go to meetings that the board deems important.
f) Question asked about who dictates the scope of work to the executive director. Mario's scope of work is dictated by the board.
Mario is an independent contractor so therefore his contract is private. Mario said that since budgets and his hours are strained it will require the board and volunteers to do more of the work.
g) Administrative management – Website and Social media management.
h) Scheduling meetings.

Closing remarks and adjourn Pat

Derek brought the motion to adjourn.
Katharine 2nd the motion-Passed unanimously.

Addendum: After the close and adjournment of July 16th Windom Council meeting a petition for a Special Member Meeting was submitted by a community member and received by the Board President.