

Windom Community Council Board Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Patricia Soulak (VP), Becky McIntosh (T), Dembo Darboe, Louisa Hext, Sean Morgan, Patrick Barrett, Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator)

Absent: Rob Ley (S), Veronica Walther

Guests: Jeremy Schroeder (Minneapolis City Councilmember Ward 11), Risa Hustad (MPRB District 6 Representative Candidate)

Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:05

Councilmember Jeremy Schroeder Updates

Aqua City Updates: There are currently two parties interested in purchasing the motel. One of them is Dan Oberpriller with Northbay Companies which is worrisome for both the city and the Garfield Core Team. The second is a well-known charity which remains unnamed. Regarding crime at the motel, it has been “hit and miss” but pressure [on the owners] to sell continues to be applied by city. The Garfield Core Team plans to hold another community information meeting. The Garfield Core Team plans to meet to discuss next steps.

Election: Early voting has begun. There are two ways to vote early, 1) Go to the early vote center downtown, in person or 2) Request an absentee ballot to be printed out and mailed, which takes some time to do.

City Budget Process: The first budget public hearing will be on November 16th. It is a good time to talk about supporting local neighborhoods as well as to remind the city where funds should be spent as well as where they should remain. Post-COVID Pandemic economics woes remain. Things at the city are tight, financially. The city was able to pass a balanced budget in part because it froze hiring. Many departments are currently operating at lower-than-normal staff levels. Councilmember Schroeder would like to prioritize this issue, as it is not sustainable or fair to taxpayers to continue with current low-staff configurations at the city.

Questions: What are the best ways to advocate during the public comment process? A. [In Writing] Send input Councilmember Schroeder and cc the mayor’s office. B. [In Person] Attend a hearing and participate in the process.

Approval of the 2022 WCC General Operating Budget

The 2022 WCC General Operating Budget was emailed to the Board in advance of the meeting. The budget is a requirement of city through the Neighborhoods2020 Plan. The budget includes our best estimates of what our costs will be next year. Some costs are not reflected in the budget including some NRP monies. More details will be coming to the Board including an Organizational Programmatic Budget that breaks down costs such as the time our Contracted Staff spends per program/activity including Nature Friendly Windom, Youth Program etc.

Under the city’s new Neighborhood Engagement Program fundraising is a reimbursable expense. WCC has allocated \$3,500 to fundraising. WCC will need to fundraise considerably, and a Fundraising Committee needs to get established to lead our efforts. For example, we have an upcoming opportunity to fundraise through Give Minnesota’s Give to the Max campaign on November 18th. Last year, our Give to the Max campaign brought in about \$175. This year, it will be a good time to promote our 2020 accomplishments and our new programs (Rain Gardens Bioswale, Renter Engagement, Home Safety Rebate programs etc.). Louisa proposed a “Chocolate & Wine” event as a fundraiser. She has a lot of experience executing this type of event. A budget would need to be developed. Pat volunteered to provide help.

A new position is being created to help WCC’s new efforts under the city’s Neighborhood Engagement Program. Becky moved to adopt the new 2022 WCC Organizational Operating Budget. Sean Seconded the motion.

All in Favor (Yes) – 7 (all present)	Objections (No) – 0	Motion Passed by a Unanimous Vote of those present.
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Approval of the Equitable Engagement Fund & Neighborhood Network Fund Applications

Clarification was provided on the type of feedback that is needed on documents submitted to the Board. The ask is for the Board to focus on the content of documents vs grammatical edits. The staff edit documents once Board members provide input into the content such as policies, programmatic ideas etc.

Along with a 2022 Organizational Operating Budget, WCC is required to submit two applications by October 15th to access important [programmatic and administrative] funding in January 2022. The applications are for the city’s Equitable Engagement Fund and the Citywide Neighborhood Fund programs.

A brief explanation of the Equitable Engagement Fund in relation to NCR’s Neighborhood Engagement Program (NEP) which as replaced the Community Participation Program (CPP). The Equitable Engagement Fund is one of four funds under the NEP. Each

fund supports the city's overall goal to assist neighborhood associations reach Minneapolis residents more equitably and to help them be more transparent to their neighborhoods.

Questions were addressed regarding how progress will be measured using the metrics, especially around quantitative goals, outlined in the Equitable Engagement Fund application. A specific evaluation plan has not been developed. WCC will work with NCR and internal resources to put a process in place for next year. WCC needs to ensure that we provide clarity as to what we mean by "activate vs. engage" and how we will reach the quantitative metrics tied to those strategies. The main difference between the two is that engagement means organizing renters on issues that concern them. Activate is the first point of contact which can be sharing information or getting them to attend a community event that WCC plans.

Becky moved to approve WCC's Equitable Engagement Fund Application as is. Pat Seconded the motion.

All in Favor (Yes) – 7 (all present)	Objections (No) – 0	Motion Passed by a Unanimous Vote of those present.
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The Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund applications takes care of administrative costs. Questions were addressed relating to certain expense budgeted items including insurance, translation/interpretation costs. With regards to the general liability and board insurance policies both are required by the city, as they help WCC mitigate legal risks associated running private community-based nonprofit organization. The budget is flexibly to accommodate other languages as needs arise in serving other ethnic groups.

Becky moved to approve WCC's Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund Application as is. Dembo Seconded the motion.

All in Favor (Yes) – 7 (all present)	Objections (No) – 0	Motion Passed by a Unanimous Vote of those present.
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Approval WCC Policies and Procedures

Approval today does not mean that they can't be changed. WCC is expected to periodically review and revise them.

Pat moved to approve the 11 WCC Policies and Procedures. Patrick Seconded the motion.

All in Favor (Yes) – 7 (all present)	Objections (No) – 0	Motion Passed by a Unanimous Vote of those present.
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WCC Fall Newsletter Discussion

Please submit ideas to Michelle for our fall newsletter. The theme will be achieving equitable engagement and informing residents of the new programming (Nature Friendly Windom, Business Interviews etc.) that was implemented this year.

Committee Updates

Community Development Committee: The Committee is focusing on promoting WCC's Home loan program. The Committee plans to meet with Jim Hasnik, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Administrator.

Events: Windom Reads last Saturday, January 29th. A strong effort will be made to include multicultural authors. Planning will start on the Valentine's Day fundraiser proposed by Louisa potentially on Saturday, February 5th.

Public Safety and Health Committee: Interest in the program remains flat. There are currently seventeen applications. The committee will be closing the project.

Environment/Land Use Committee: The Rain Garden / Bioswale project has concluded. 23 projects. 8 people on the waiting list were not able to be accommodated. There is funding for 1-hour alternative garden technical consultations. The committee will work with Metro Blooms to move the program to 2022.

Outreach/Engagement Committee: The committee is currently interviewing renters at the targeted apartment complexes. Windom Gables Townhome Somali renters have been interviewed. City Limits and Woodhaven are next on the list.

Announcements:

October 23rd -- 9:00 am – 10:30 am WCC Executive Committee Meeting

November 13th -- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Hennepin County / Windom Community Information Meeting re Protective Housing Program (currently located in the old Metro Inn building).

January 2022 Annual Board Retreat – Full Working Day, Cultural Competence Component, Food will be provided. Michelle is working on details to be announced at a later date.

Minutes:

Approval tabled to November. Becky recommended for approval of the last several minutes to be moved to the November meeting. Becky would like for Michelle to send out the list of meetings for Board members to put on their calendars.

Becky moved postpone the approval of the September Regular and Working Board Meeting Minutes to November. Patrick Seconded the motion.

All in Favor (Yes) – 7 (all present)	Objections (No) – 0	Motion Passed by a Unanimous Vote of those present.
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