

MINUTES from the 2020 Annual Windom Board Meeting
10 September 2020
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: (Board) Jacky Junek, Veronica Walther, Becky McIntosh, Michelle Hemingway Tatum, Pete Johnson, Patricia Soulak, Patrick Barrett, Brian O'Shea

Guests: (Speakers) Mayor Jacob Frey, House Rep Jamie Long, Senator Scott Dibble, CM Jeremy Schroeder, (Staff) Mario Vargas, (Windom Residents, Other Guests,) Katharine Krueger, Sean Morgan, Robyn Hansen, Haley Canaday, Dominic Rigert, Chris Reano, Laura Kirstein, Gia Vitali, Marty Koessel, Donna Clark

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Jacky

Mayor Frey

Thanked us and addressed issues of budget, police, and homelessness. Pat Soulak asked about the Minnehaha Park encampment near the Vet's Home. Becky McIntosh asked about Police Restructuring proposals and how the community at large can participate and be heard. The mayor emphasized that the solicitation of ideas and feedback will be genuine and not just for show.

Rep Long

Thanked us for our work and reviewed accomplishments including stopping "Warrior Training" and choke-holds by MPD. Pete asked about COVID19 Contact Tracing technology via mobile phone.

Sen Dibble

Spoke about conflict with Republicans, mentioning that we are the only split, bicameral legislature in the country right now. He thanked us for our work.

CM Schroeder

Thanked us and added depth to the homelessness issue. He has environmental expertise and is delighted by biochar, which he champions, explaining that it is a win-win for gardening and the environment. He added depth both on the homelessness issue and community engagement for police restructuring. Becky asked about the city's new Public Service office building near City Hall on 4th Avenue and the Covid19 precautions for its roll-out.

Voting

With some 50+ votes cast electronically, via Google Form, the Annual Election results are: Veronica Walther and Michelle Hemingway-Tatum were re-elected, joined by new board members Katherine Krueger and Sean Morgan. All were elected to serve a 2-year term ending with the 2022 Annual Meeting. Brian O'Shea and Steve Rawlins are leaving the board.

Year in Review: Committee Reports

Safety: Patrick shared info on the speed limit and census grants. Patrick has also contacted Block Leaders, with assistance from Jennifer Waisanen our MPD Community Crime Prevention contact.

Garden Tour: Becky and Veronica spoke of the recent success of the First Annual garden tour, emphasis on pollinator front yards, and the Mayflower Church west-side garden. We hope to do again. Great way to share ideas. The Windom Garden itself has benefited from biochar.

Pat Soulak reported on the successful Windom Reads event; new this year: Wild Rumpus Books. Returning: book exchange, braille demo, police outreach, and a good turn-out of kids and authors.

Environment: Pete explained the Mdw Sioux donation of biochar to the Windom Garden, and highlighted the Litter Be-Gone and noxious-solvent reduction goals for Windom auto body shops. With the help of the city, the body shops can be encouraged to use water-based paints in the same way that Dry Cleaners were weaned-off PERC.

Communications and Outreach: Steve on the Survey and Spring Newsletter and Social Media.

Survey

To-date we have received 344 responses. Written responses were transcribed into the same Google Form as the online respondent's used. We started the survey almost one year ago, in September 2019.

Brian reviewed the aggregated results from the 350+ surveys we have received in the past, noting areas in which responses may be skewed relative to the overall demographic (more older, white, homeowners responding than their population, for example). Common themes emerge.

Minutes of August 2020 Board Meeting with approved.

Meeting adjourned a little after 8pm

Board Meetings are usually held on 2nd Thursday of the month, so

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 8th October