

Windom Annual Board Meeting Minutes
10 June 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Veronica Walther (P), Pete Johnson (VP), Becky McIntosh (T), Michelle Hemingway Tatum (S), Patricia Soulak (MAL) and Patrick Barrett

Absent: Sean Morgan, Micah Stevenson, Katharine Krueger (resigned)

Guests: Keynote Speakers: David Rubedor (Director, Neighborhood & Community Relations Department, City of Minneapolis) & Michelle Rivero (Director, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, City of Minneapolis), Jeremy Schroeder (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Eric Loichle (Principal of Windom Community School), Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator), Rob Ley, Michael Smith, Abigail Ernst, Dembo Darboe, and Mary Peterson.

Welcome/Call to Order

Veronica called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and welcomed members of the community in attendance. Due to the severe heat, this meeting was moved to be solely a virtual meeting and Veronica thanked everyone for being so adaptable.

City of Minneapolis NCR & Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs Presentations and Q & A

David Rubedor, Director, Neighborhood & Community Relations Department, City of Minneapolis, informed the meeting attendees of the NCR changes taking place in 2021. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has released guidelines and application forms for four new funding programs for neighborhood and community organizations: the Equitable Engagement Fund, the Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund and the Partnership Engagement Fund and The Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund.

These programs emerged from the Neighborhoods 2020 community engagement process, a five-year-long community engagement initiative that aimed to make Minneapolis' network of 70 neighborhood organizations more equitable and effective. Neighborhoods 2020 redefined the roles and expectations of neighborhood organizations that receive funding from the City for public participation projects.

While the Equitable Engagement Fund and Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund are reserved for neighborhood organizations, community organizations are eligible to apply for up to \$15,000 through the Partnership Engagement Fund by July 1.

Rubedor also praised residents of Minneapolis for being so active showing their solidarity supporting social equities.

Read more about these programs at minneapolismn.gov/neighborhoods2020.

Mr. Rubedor can be reached at david.rubedor@minneapolismn.gov

Michelle Rivero (Director, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, City of Minneapolis, reviewed the goal of this Office (OIRA) as to ensure that Minneapolis is a safe and welcoming place for all. The Office is within the Department of Neighborhood & Community Relations, and supports the City's One Minneapolis goal to "eliminate disparities, so that all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper." Ms. Rivero also shared that the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs provides programs and information of changes in immigration law, policy, resources and enforcement, provides free or low-cost immigration legal help as well as hosting events and informational sessions about topics related to immigrants and refugees.

<https://stories.opengov.com/minneapolismn/published/DB-GI-eso>

Ms. Rivero can be reached at michelle.rivero@minneapolismn.gov

City Council Updates

Councilman Schroeder informed the Council the City Council this week continued its discussion on how to spend the first \$89 million of the City's \$271 million allocation of federal funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act, to support our recovery after significant economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council built upon Mayor Jacob Frey's previously announced proposal, including amendments that support legal services for low-income renters and the City's Division of Race and Equity. American Rescue Plan Act funding online public hearing 6:05 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, City Council's "Committee of the Whole."

Learn how to participate in a public hearing.

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/meetings/participate-in-a-meeting/>

Along with Council Members Cam Gordon and Lisa Goodman, Councilman Schroeder coauthored an ordinance that would allow single-room occupancy (SRO) housing in Minneapolis. These units would fill a critical gap in our housing market by providing a deeply affordable housing option, which could particularly support people who are transitioning out of homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Under our proposal, these units could be added across Minneapolis except in our lowest-density areas. SRO units could only be established by non-profit or government agencies with a track record of successfully managing housing. Standalone licenses would ensure renter protections for tenants. The Planning Commission has forwarded our proposed ordinance for consideration by the City Council this summer.

Presentation, gives a good summary of all the proposed funding, including additional staff:

[https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/5389/ARP%20Phase%201%20Proposal_Presentation%20\(Jun%209%202021\).pdf](https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/5389/ARP%20Phase%201%20Proposal_Presentation%20(Jun%209%202021).pdf)

The City Council has approved a plan to release \$5 million to the Minneapolis Police Department to help cover overtime expenses. As the MPD prepares to fully onboard all the new hires the City Council approved as part of the 2021 budget, this funding will help bridge a gap so we can meet urgent public safety needs.

The best way to reach Councilman Schroeder is to email jeremy.schroeder@minneapolismn.gov or call 612-673-2211.

Windom Community School

Eric Loichle, Principal of Windom Community School, provided highlights of the changes taking place at Windom's neighborhood elementary school. During the summer months, Windom School's administration plans to offer tours of the building, time to meet with teachers and ice cream socials to meet fellow students (new and current). The Windom Community Council looks forward to continuing and building its relationship with the school. Mr. Loichle can be reached at Eric.Loichle@mpls.k12.mn.us

Year-end Financial Review/City of Minneapolis Contract Change

Becky reviewed the upcoming changes in funding from the City of Minneapolis highlighting the equity focus within the upcoming year. For Windom, Outreach and Engagement funds used will be tied to reaching out to the neighborhood's rental community. Windom is also addressing the residents' requests from the neighborhood's 2019 survey for more environmental and safety initiatives. (See attachments from Committee Updates below.)

Windom Neighborhood Plan Modification Projects Status/Updates

- Outreach & Engagement: Research work continues for a renter's survey to be disseminated to Windom's rental population with collaboration with CURA, evaluating survey tools to use, translating survey into 3 (or 4) languages, potential partnerships surveyors, use of IT equipment for surveys, etc. Kick-off date slated to be in early July.
- Environmental: Pete reviewed the Nature Friendly Windom Program and its funding.
- Safety: Patrick informed the group the neighborhood's crime watch specialist, Jennifer Waisanen, and the Home Safety Rebate Program is currently being implemented for neighbors to use.
- 2nd Annual Garden Tour: Becky highlighted this event will take place on Saturday, July 17th from 9 a.m. – 12 Noon in collaboration with the Mayflower Church. The tour will include a

Master Water Stewart and Master Gardner who will be able to answer questions from members of the tour.

- Tots Rock Event: Patricia is working to hold this event later this summer or in early autumn with date and time to be announced at a later time.

Annual Board Elections

As discussed during this meeting and voted upon by Board Members, the elections will be postponed until the end of June to allow for online community input as well as voting capabilities.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. by Pete (due to power outage at Veronica's home).