



Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 12, 2024
(Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing & In-Person at 5843 Wentworth)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Dembo Darboe, Incha Krein, Jaime Leiser, George Hall, Dean Anderson, Mario Vargas (Executive Director)

Absent: 0

Guests: Emily Koski (Ward 11 Councilmember), Ariaah Fine (NCR Neighborhood Specialist)

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

Annual Board Representation Survey - Ariaah

- Ariaah Fine from NCR presented the purpose of the Annual Representation Survey. Normally Aryca Myers, Windom's neighborhood specialist would present on this topic. NCR specialists switch neighborhoods to keep it fun and to learn about each other's neighborhoods. The city has been conducting this survey since 2014 every two years. It gives the city an idea of where some of the taxpayer money is going and who is on these neighborhood Boards from a demographics level. The data is aggregated at the city-wide level. Ariaah distributed the survey and staff distributed the survey's link on ZOOM.

City Hall Updates – Emily

- The city is currently working on the budget. The mayor presented, by charter, his recommended budget on August 15th. City departments are now presenting their budgets. Between September and October departments will go in front of the city council. The first public hearing is set for September 23rd at 6 PM for residents to express how they feel about the budget. Ward 11 feedback has been around the mayor's proposed increasing the city's tax levy by 8.1%. This does not mean an overall 8.1% city tax increase but rather for residents just an increase in their property taxes. It is meant to offset commercial property tax losses associated with the slow downtown commercial real-estate market. The burden shifts to residents. Downtown businesses are now just catching-up after the 2008 recession. Council members are aware of the burden this poses to residents and would like to see the levy go lower. The Board of Estimate & Taxation (BET) who sets the max or ceiling tax levy had their public hearing on September 11th and will set what max levy tax will be. The city council can then set it lower but not higher. The mayor's budget does not include funds for traffic calming, auto theft deterrents and maintaining the project levy of 6.1% which is what council wanted.
- CM Koski reported on the new Blue Line going through DT Minneapolis into Robbinsdale which is in the phase of municipal consent. The public hearing was held today and many individuals who are not in favor attended the hearing. The council needs to strike a balance between supporting public transportation for those who need but also avoiding causing harm at the same time.
- City council is working on a city administrative ordinance relating the encampments to get more data about them to create solutions to support the unhoused Agate Housing and Services announced the closure of a facility due to being short 3 million dollars. Council is working on a amendment to the budget that would put 1.5 million dollars in matching funds towards 3 millions to help keep the shelter from closing. There are some funders including the County that are interested in contributing funding. Even with new funding, the shelter would need to close temporarily for reconstruction in early October due to it being in such disrepair.



Council Business

- **Board Retreat Update – Michelle**
 - The Board will select a new day for the Board retreat. Saturdays are out since Incha can't make it. Incha proposes Sunday, October 6 for Board retreat. Incha can make it after 11 am on Sunday. All Board members can make it. Staff will revisit Woodlake and Hyland reserve locations including the Washburn Public Library.
 - Motion: Move to change the 2024 Board retreat to October 6 from 8:30 am – 3 pm.
 - Motion: Dean
 - Second: Dembo
 - All in favor: Unanimous
 - Motion approved: Michelle
- **Minneapolis Sustainability Contract - Becky**
 - There was training from the Green Cost Share Program that Becky and Michelle attended on behalf of Windom. The program promotes weatherization, energy savings, energy efficiency and free home energy squad visits. Since Windom is not in a designated Green-Zone, the cost saving for Windom residents under this program would be lower. The city is in the process of producing marketing materials that explain the program in more detail. We know more about the program and ways to promote it to Windom residents and property owners of single family, and 2–4-unit properties.
- **NCR 2025 Neighborhood Funding Update - Michelle**
 - The city has extended all of the neighborhoods' 2-year contracts for one year into 2025, effectively turning them into three-year contracts. The neighborhoods do need to report the goals and timelines for the Equitable Engagement Plans. Funds will be able to be extended over into 2025.
- **Aqua City Redevelopment Site Update - Michelle**
 - WCC is in the process of organizing a Windom Neighborhood Information meeting to keep Windom residents up to date on the sale and redevelopment of the Aqua City site. More information will be made available to the Board at upcoming meetings on the agenda and date for the community-wide meeting.
- **SW Collaborative Update – Michelle**
 - None
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Finance - Becky**
 - None
 - **Environment & Land Use – Becky**
 - None
 - **Community Development - Dembo**
 - None.
 - **Safety and Health - George**
 - None
 - **Outreach and Community Engagement - Michelle**
 - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm