

Windom Board Meeting Minutes
14 January 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: (Board) Veronica Walter (P), Pete Johnson (VP), Becky McIntosh (T), Michelle Hemingway Tatum (S), Patricia Soulak (MAL), Patrick Barrett, Katharine Krueger, Sean Morgan, Micah Stevenson

Guests: (Speakers) Jeremy Schroeder, (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Saul Mellado (Orale Mexican Eats, Owner), Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator)

Welcome/Call to Order

Veronica called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and she welcomed all neighbors, guests, and participants to the meeting.

City Council Updates

- a. Councilman Jeremy Schroeder updated the Council that he & the City Attorney met with the owners of the Aqua City Motel & their attorney the previous week. The Motel owners claimed they are interested in selling the Motel & still have a contract with Northbay Developers. Northbay has approval from the City of Minneapolis for the plans they submitted last year, but the company is not proceeding with their remodel. The City will be reaching out to Northbay for an update of their intentions, since both the Aqua City Motel and City of Minneapolis contracts with Northbay are legally binding documents. Councilman Schroeder will be updating the Windom Community Council monthly.
- b. Councilman Schroeder also informed the group Governor Tim Walz has activated the Minnesota National Guard to assist state and local law enforcement after the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol last week and reports of possible armed protests at state capitol buildings nationwide, including in Minnesota. The National Guard will work in coordination with the Minnesota State Patrol and Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers in addition to local law enforcement.
- c. Also, Councilman Schroeder and other Council Members gave notice of their intent to introduce a charter amendment that would allow voters to decide the most appropriate structure for our public safety system on the ballot this November. Council Schroeder gave the group an update on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution but asked for residents to get updated information to go to the Department of Health websites for distribution and test sites at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/>.
- d. Orale Mexican Eats Restaurant - Saul Mellado, Owner of Orale, gave the Council an update on the restaurant and request to open an adjacent bar at the location on 54th Street & Nicollet Avenue. Mr. Mellado has created an eatery to combine traditional Mexican eats to modern-day street food. He said by using fresh ingredients and an array of spices on our extensive menu, his intention is for Windom residents to frequent the spot. Mr. Mellado is working with neighbors for alley snow removal and delivery truck traffic.

Community Development Committee

Sean gave the Council a presentation of draft charter for the Community Development Committee and invited neighbors to join the committee. (See attached Charter document.)

Discussion of two neighborhood variances: Wentworth Ave residential variance, and Orale Restaurant's expansion and liquor license.

Discussions on moving to @windommpls.org emails and Windom Facebook Groups

Discussion on Windom communications including email and the two Windom Facebook groups (private and public) will be moved to online discussions.

Committee Updates:

- Events Committee - Pat - Looking ahead to Windom Reads March 6th, Tots Rock sometime in the summer, possibly under a large tent.

- Outreach and Engagement Committee – Michelle - Spring newsletter with safety focus, list of Windom education offerings and Communications Policy.
- Environmental and Land Use Committee – Pete - Looking ahead to Windom Turf Garden Tour.
- Public Safety and Health – Patrick - Department of Transportation letter, speed limit signage and health connections with the Community.

Topics to Postpone until January Meeting:

- Finance Report (End of year review and overview of 2021 budget)
- Further discussion on Communications Policy

The December Minutes were approved with request to add the Holiday Tips document to minutes.

Move to adjourn meeting at 8:35 p.m.