



Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2023
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Jamie Lieser, Melissa Wallingford, Becky McIntosh (T), George Hall (newly seated), Mario Vargas (Executive Director).

Absent: Mary Peterson, Incha Krein, Dembo Darboe

Guests: Emily Koski (Ward 11 Council Representative: Minneapolis City Council), Arnetta Hall (Windom Resident), Doug Sweet (Windom Resident), Patrick Barrett (Windom Resident), Trudy Barret (Windom Resident), Patricia Soulak (Windom Resident), George & Arnetta Hall's nephew (visitor).

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

City Hall Updates: Councilmember (CM) Koski presented updates on the city and Ward 11.

- The airport commission is still taking comments on their long-term plan. No plans to expand with more runways. The city will be making public comments on the airport's environmental impacts, specifically the noise impacts.
- Black Business Week July 24-30, 2023.
- New 311 Routing System. The new system should be more efficient, more equitable, and a better voice system all around. The launch date is July 19th. The testing has gone well. Residents can use the 311 email to connect as well as the electronic application.
- Auto theft crime done by youth has increased. The city is collaborating with local law enforcement and Hennepin County to combat this up tick. They are working on addressing the problems with the traditional court ordered process. Law enforcement can only hold people for 48 hours. Juveniles are being released after arrests due to a variety of factors, including lack of evidence, long DNA verification periods, difficulty identifying the criminals due to the clothing they wear such as gloves, masks, and hooded jackets. Up until now, the only 'post arrest' court intervention tools that law enforcement has been able to use are in cases where charges have been brought. This new effort aims at implementing new court interventions right after arrest upon release if no charges are brought including social worker interventions, meetings with the juvenile's parents and other 'wrap-around' services. In those cases where no charges are brought within 48 hours, it is still possible that charges can be brought against the offending juvenile if new evidence is uncovered and presented to the judge.
- Budget Committee. The committee will meet on July 25th. The city departments present their budgets, and the committee reviews each budget and any line-item changes for approval.
- Public Works Committee. The committee got cost estimates for new sidewalk repair & maintenance pilot programs. This is not to fix all of the sidewalks in Minneapolis which was received a few weeks ago. That analysis came to about 40 million dollars a year if all sidewalks would be replaced each year. These new estimates are for programs to address problematic sidewalks that impact seniors, individuals, and those with various physical disabilities. The cost estimates for the first year of implementing all of the pilots is about 1 million dollars. Ongoing funding for those pilot projects is about 2.5 million dollars annually. This approach is more targeted and more cost effective. One of the proposed ideas is to create a grant program that neighborhood associations can apply for to help with the implementation and support of these sidewalk programs.
- Rent Control & Stabilization Legislative Proposal. This ordinance will not be moving forward and will not appear on the ballot this fall. It was voted against for now.



New Board Member Appointment

- Proposal to appoint George Hall who lives at 59th and Wentworth. They have two children. He wants to help make Windom a better place. He's lived five years in Windom.
- Motion: To appoint George Hall to the Windom Community Council Board of Directors.
 - Motion: Becky
 - Second: Jamie
 - All in favor: Unanimous
 - Michelle: Motion approved.

Minneapolis Neighborhoods Collaborative (SW) Grant

- Update: WCC met with DeYoung Consulting to begin planning for their engagement as consultant both with the Associations Collaborative for visioning and establishing a formal coalition structure and the WCC Board for DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) training planned for the August Board retreat. Mario gave a recap on the Collaborative grant: its history and the six neighborhoods involved.

Updates:

- **Hennepin County Juvenile Judges Panel**
 - Update: This agenda item was covered by Councilmember Koski in her presentation. Michelle and Mario attended the panel and observed that the judges are working within their parameters. WCC will reach out to the organizers of the event (Kate Blackwell) to see what (if any) follow-up will happen.
- **Aqua City Motel Site Redevelopment**
 - Update: The Aqua City motel site is being demolished and the county is getting ready to sell the property to a developer for an affordable housing project. WCC plans to work closely with the County to ensure that resident feedback and engagement is present throughout the project. More updates will come in the foreseeable future.

Council Business

- **Executive Director Contract:** Discussion around the contracting of the Executive Director. A motion to extend the Executive Director's contract from July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. The first contract ended on July 30th through Socios Consulting Inc's pre-paid 6-month contract that was executed in December of 2022. The new contracted total amount is \$23,400. Payment under this contract to the contractor involves the contractor submitting biweekly invoices that will be received, reviewed, and approved by the executive committee prior to payment being issued. WCC operates on a reimbursement basis with the City of Minneapolis. WCC hires independent contractors not employees. There is a difference between the two types of hires. Independent contractors operate independently in terms of supervision, work execution and taxes vs. employees are subjected to more control and hands-on management and work production control and tax withholding internally at WCC. The new contract would be different in that it entails WCC continuing to contract with Socios Consulting Inc. for Executive Director services.
 - WCC Operating Budget: Executive Director operates 30 hours per week at \$30.00 per hour for 26 weeks. This totals \$23,400. The budget expense line-item breakdown is as follows:
 - \$5,000 – City of Minneapolis: Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund
 - \$5,000 – City of Minneapolis: Equitable Engagement Fund
 - \$2,000 – Collaboration and Shared Uses Fund
 - \$11,400 – WCC General Operating Funds
 - Motion: To approve the new contract with Socios Consulting Inc. for Executive Director services:
 - Motion: Becky
 - Second: Jamie
 - All in favor: Unanimous
 - Michelle: Motion approved.



- **August Board Retreat**

- **Date:** Saturday, August 19th 2023 - 9 am – 3 pm. It makes sense to potentially have it at the school or in the neighborhood to encourage participation locally. The challenge is that WCC does not have access to the building. Parks & Recreation hours are Noon – 6 on Saturdays. The school is closed, and we'd have to work closely with the principal to allow us entry on any given Saturday morning. This means that the principal would have to take personal time to let us in in the morning. We are working through this on our Building Shared-Use Agreement which has not been finalized. Nonetheless, WCC board members will work to find a location and report back to the Council.

- **Summer 2023 Print Newsletter**

- Michelle is leading the newsletter development. Please submit your ideas to her. WCC will work to find a location and report back to the Council.

Committee Updates

- Finance Committee: 1st and 2nd Quarter will be ready for our August meeting. The first two quarters will reflect a low reimbursement amount from the city due to expenses being low as a result of the contract with Socios Consulting Inc. Currently there is \$45K in the WCC bank account. This is all unrestricted funding. WCC operates on a strict reimbursement basis with the city. The budgeted amounts coming from the city contracts are all on a reimbursement basis. A suggestion is to have a separate email for the treasurer.
- Safety & Health Committee: WCC is facilitating the establishment of a new safety walking club in Windom. Aileen Johnson is leading this effort. She's presented to the Council in the past. This walking club will operate independently. Mario gave an update on the local crime statistics. Larceny crime is down but we continue to have an increase in car thefts and automobile related crimes such as break-ins and catalytic converter thefts. It is important for WCC to continue to promote direct access to Jennifer Waisanen, our MPD crime prevention specialist, for unreported crimes and to keep her updated on escalating crime in the neighborhood.
- Community Development: Report is the same as the what was discussed with the Aqua City site development.
- Environment & Land Use: Mayflower has an event on July 17th to promote alternative gardens. WCC supports this effort and has organized for three years events to promote turf to alternative gardens in Windom which are better for our environment.
- Outreach & Engagement: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM