



Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2023
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Pat Soulak (VP), Rob Ley (S), Patrick Barrett, Dembo Darboe, Mario Vargas (Executive Director).

Guests: Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Christie Rock Hantge (WCC Bookkeeper) and Cole Mullins (Windom Community resident).

Welcome/Call to Order: Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski

- Reminders:
 - It is Black History Month: Event: I am my ancestors wildest dreams Expo. Saturday, February 25th 9 am – 11 pm Fee Event with Vendor Opportunities for small Black businesses, celebrity guest speakers, poets, different panel discussions. It's a kid friendly event.
 - \$30 Tree Lottery: Goes until March 31st. Go early to get the best trees. They are 5-8 feet of different varieties: Shade, Fruit, Flowery, and Evergreen.
 - Winter Parking Restrictions in Effect: One sided parking.
 - Save the Date: June 10th is the NCR Yearly Community Connections Conference.
 - How to Contact 311: CM Koski recommends doing it through email at mineapolis311@minneapolismn.gov or by downloading the application. Both ways you can send photos, for example. It works. You'll get a response quickly with a reference number for your case.
 - Land Use Regulation Draft: This document is now open for public review and comment. When the city created the Minneapolis 2040 Plan much work was done on planning. However, what was not done was figuring out how land would be used. The commenting period is for residents to comment on the land use map and make recommendations for changes such as rezoning from one type of land use to another. CM Koski is willing to meet with the Board to explain how it all works and highly encourages neighborhood Boards to review the Plan and comment.
 - Questions: Is this plan available on the city's website? CM Koski: Yes, and a link will be added to the chat. Does this pertain to empty lots and occupied lots? CM Koski: all lots. Corner of Nicollet and W. Diamond Lake Road – the corner building is considered historic for historic preservation. How will these types of building be affected? CM Koski: Will get back to WCC with an answer.
 - March 20th is the hearing to consider public comments. CM Koski is now on the Planning Commission.
 - Comment: Parking has been an issue with Semi-trailers parking near Windom Gables and near Cub Foods on Nicollet Avenue. CM Koski: Use the mobile application to take pictures and report them. The city can act but there are conditions that must be met for them to be towed. A certain number of citations are needed, and they must be caught at the time of the infraction. Semi-vehicles are not allowed to park on city streets. CM Koski: We don't want to cite drivers, but it is illegal and a safety issue.
 - Comment: There are changes happening around the Aqua City Motel. Now that CM Koski is on the Planning Commissions, please keep WCC informed of anything unusual happening from a development perspective. KM Koski: Regarding the Metro Inn, the remodeling will start now that a contractor has been hired. Improvements include drainage and accessibility, adding a community kitchen and an accessible unit. The goal is to have the facility open by the summer. Regarding Aqua City, they've concluded structural and environmental assessments and will move to cite planning. KM Koski senses that the building is not in good condition. Comment: WCC will need to inform local residents what the next steps are and if it includes construction of a tall building that will affect local residents living on Garfield and Harriet Street.

Council Business:

1. **Welcome and the introduction of the new bookkeeper Christie Rock Hantge.**



- 25 years of experience working with various neighborhood associations in a variety of roles from a community organizer to executive director. Currently, she works as an independent contractor providing various services including Board and financial management, bookkeeping for four other neighborhoods and two business associations.
- Books are now current from October 2022 through to January 2023.

2. WCC Board Directors—Discussion

- Working Board & Executive Committee Meetings Scheduling – Discussion & Vote.
 - The Board entertained a motion on the floor to schedule the 3rd Saturdays of the month form Working Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings 9 am and 10 am respectively.
 - **Motion: Becky**
 - **Second: Patricia**
 - **All in favor: Unanimous**
 - **Motion approved: Michelle.**
- New Board Member Appointments:
 - WCC is short of four Board members. In May, an additional seat will be opened. Appointments should be made by the end of April. Question: Why appointments and not elections. Answer: Elections are held once a year. In between elections, the Bylaws of the WCC allow for appointments for Board members who either have left or have been removed. Opportunity for WCC to partner with a community-based organization i.e. The Urban League, Leonardo’s Basement, or a Church.
 - Annual Meeting & Board Retreat
 - The Board should decide where to have the annual meeting and decide the date to hold its Board retreat. Last year the retreat was organized in March. Also last year at the Board retreat, the Board had its DEI training and budgeted funds to have the training again in 2023 during the retreat.
 - Dembo has a neighbor who is interested in attending one of the meetings. Everyone should invite their interested. Pat would like to invite Mary Petersen and Cathy her neighbor.
 - Everyone’s goal is to try to bring someone to the next meeting.
 - Annual Retreat Recommendation to be postponed to June 2023. We need to have an orientation ready for new Board members.
 - Annual Board Meeting May 11th to be held in the Multipurpose Room at Windom South Park. Food: A recommendation to have no food and only cookies and refreshments or consideration of food being catered. Patrick mentioned an east Indian eatery new to the neighborhood. Promotion: Mailing of a postcard to invite people to the annual meeting was a recommendation.
 - Officers Insurance - Discussion & Vote
 - A motion was made to approve a payment of \$832 to United States Insurance Liability Company for Directors and Officers coverage for the period of 3/1/2023 to 3/1/2024. This is a requirement by the city to carry this.
 - **Motion: Becky**
 - **Second: Patricia**
 - **Point of Discussion (Patrick):** Background was requested on the company. Becky informed that it is a company that the city uses perhaps selected through a bidding process. Issues concerning American Family Insurance which is the insurance company holding WCC’s General Liability coverage.
 - **All in favor: Unanimous**
 - **Motion approved: Michelle.**

3. Hennepin County Windom Safe Housing Programs

- The city of Minneapolis does not want to take down the motel signs on historic or proprietary grounds.
 - Signage Community Input: City has requested assistance from WCC to get input from the city. Patrick can help reach out to block leaders.
 - A motion was made for the Executive Director and Safety and Health Committee to spend time to help the City of Minneapolis promote input into what should happen with the signs.
 - **Motion: Patrick**
 - **Second: Rob**
 - **All in favor: Unanimous**
 - **Motion approved: Michelle.**
- SW Neighborhoods Associations Collaborative Agreement – Update, Discussion & Vote



- No need to make a motion now. The motion was made in January 2023. Member organizations in the Collaborative include Fulton, Lynnhurst, Kenny, Armatage, Windom and Tangletown want to join efforts to bring in additional resources. This group of Collaborative members are applying to receive the city's NCR's Collaborative and Shared Resources Fund grant of \$20,000. The Collaborative might grow in membership with larger initiatives as needed.

4. Use of NRP Funds – Discussion

- Discussion was moved to the Working Board meeting February 28th. There is a chance that WCC's remaining NRP funding totaling about \$80,000 might be reappropriated by the City of Minneapolis. Also tied to NRP funding is about \$40,000 in program income money tied to the Windom Neighborhood Home Improvement Loan Program. In preparation for this, it makes sense for WCC to look at using the money now and invested in a long-term vehicle.

5. Neighborhood Archives at Hennepin County Library – Discussion

- Hennepin County Library is offering neighborhood associations the service of storing the organization's files at the Central Library in the archives section for historical preservation.
- Discussion was made to move this discussion to the February 29th Working Board Meeting.

6. NCR: Partnership Engagement Fund Application - Update

- WCC will look at applying to this Fund. Potential partners include the Isaiah Project and Beacon Interfaith. So far Isaiah has not responded to calls.

Committee Updates:

1. Finance Committee – Becky

- 2023 Financial Update
 - More information will be available on February 18th.

2. Safety and Health Committee – Patrick

- Windom Neighborhood Traffic Calming Applications Report: Waiting to hear back on the intersections near his home. The 58th & Wentworth crossing did not make it for approval. On the point scale, it scored too low [45 out of 150 points about]. The 56th & Steven crossing has not been determined yet.
- Jennifer Waisanen is sending monthly crime reports that we can upload onto the website.

3. Community Development – Dembo/Mario

- Local variance application for his residence. The application will be submitted in February. As with any other variance, WCC will facilitate a community meeting where neighbors and residents can provide input.

4. Environment & Land Use – Becky/Mario

- Hennepin County has money for environmental programs via the Green Grant Program.
- A motion was made for WCC to pursue this grant program for funding.
 - **Motion: Patricia**
 - **Second: Becky**
 - **All in favor: Unanimous**
 - **Motion approved: Michelle.**

5. Outreach & Engagement – Michelle/Mario

- No update.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes:

- **Motion: Rob**
- **Second: Patrick**
- **All in favor: 5.**
- **Abstention 1.**
- **Michelle: Motion approved.**

Meeting Adjourned – Michelle at 8:34 pm.