



Windom Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2026
(Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing & In-Person at 5843 Wentworth)

Attending: Dembo Darboe, Michelle Hemingway (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Mario Vargas (Executive Director)

Absent: Chad Fallon (S), Derek Goodman, Jamie Lieser (VP)

Welcome/Call to Order: Michelle called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Council Business

- **Ward 11 Community Engagement Event: Department of Justice Consent Decree**

- a. The City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations is assisting Commissioner Barnette, Office of Community Safety, in organizing a meeting in Windom to seek input from residents regarding locating Community Safety Training and Wellness Center which is one part of the Federal (Department of Justice) and State (MN Department of Human Rights) lawsuit with the Minneapolis Police Department, in the Windom neighborhood. Proposed Date-Time/Location: 3.14.26 1 pm – 3 pm/Windom Recreation Center. NCR is seeking logistical assistance to reserve Windom Parks' school gymnasium.

- **Position Operation Metro Surge Discussion**

- a. City and State Response Update: The City of Minneapolis has stepped up to create a \$1 million dollar fund to support renters during this time. Monarca and a number of community-based organizations have been tapped to help distribute rental assistance help, food and other services to those families affected by the ICE invasion.
- b. Windom Signal Group Update: There are currently roughly 200 individuals in the local Windom Signal chat group. A network of residents is organizing to provide food and other help to local renters. There is also a neighborhood chat group that is active sharing information across Minneapolis neighborhoods as well as St. Paul resident councils.

- **Board and Organizational Insurance Update**

- a. General Liability Insurance (GLI). Effective February 14, 2026 – February 14, 2027, United States Liability Insurance (USLI) will cover WCC's GLI. This will save WCC over \$500. In 2024, American Family Insurance exited the Minnesota market. WCC went with Nonprofits Insurance Alliance which significantly increased WCC's GLI annual cost. The increase was due to WCC being housed in a building where vulnerable individuals (children) are served. Additionally, since certain Board Members engage in walking the neighborhood, this puts the organization at higher risk for liability claims against it.
- b. Director and Officers (D & O) insurance. USLI has historically covered WCC D & O insurance coverage. WCC's D & O coverage starts in March 1, 2026 – March 1, 2027.

- **WCC Contracts Discussion**

- a. City Contracts: WCC has exited one of its contracts with the city: The Green Cost Share Program (Minneapolis Health Department. Not a Green Zone neighborhood, Windom received experimental funding for a two-year cycle that ended in 2025. The Green Cost Share program will focus on the city's Green Zones neighborhoods. In 2025, for a 3-year cycle, WCC received a \$20,000 Great Streets contract with the city's Community Planning and Economic Development Department. This is a grant matching program to help small businesses improve their facades.
- b. WCC Staff: Contracts with the Executive Director and the Bookkeeper need to be executed FY 2026.

- **Announcements**

- a. WCC ELU: Winter Seed Sowing Event 2/21/26 2:30 – 4 pm: The Environment and Land Use Committee will be hosting and Winter seed sowing event in a week. The event will be held in the multipurpose room at Windom South Park.
- b. Oak Hill Cemetery Tours: May 2, 2026: As part of the city's 2026 Neighborhood Days, the Environment and Land Use Committee is organizing two tours at the Oak Hill Cemetery. The first tour will focus on the cemetery's history and the second focus on its gardens, bushes and trees which will be led by a retired arborist who is currently on the Oak Hill Cemetery Board. This is being organized in partnership with the Oak Hill Cemetery Board of Directors.

Committee Reports (None)

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm