



**Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2025**  
**(Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing & In-Person at 5843 Wentworth)**

**Attending:** Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Dembo Darboe, Jamie Lieser, Dawn Uremovich, Mario Vargas (Executive Director)

**Absent:** Becky McIntosh (T), George Hall

Guests: Emily Koski (Minneapolis Councilmember Ward 11 Representative), Phoebe Cooper (Windom Resident)

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

**City Hall Update – Emily**

- Home Insurance: CM Koski shared that residents are concerned about rising costs. The city is researching programs in other cities to help resident offset some costs, not directly but via potentially grants depending on individual household circumstances.
- Fire Department Recruitment: The city council like to see more robust recruitment practices to diversity staffing at the Minneapolis Fire Department, in particular women, whose numbers have declined over the years.
- Federal Government Executive Orders: Occupancy: The city council has given the city attorney authority to act quickly and to monitor all those Executive Orders and be ready to act swiftly and quickly, should it be needed.
- Federal Funding Cuts: Concerns around cuts and attacks to LGBTQ civil liberties.

**Council Business**

- Windom Business Façade Matching Grant Program Award Discussion & Vote -Michelle
  - Mario gave an update on the process used to select Windom businesses which is led by Roger Worm with the SW Business Association. Board members expressed interest in being more involved in deciding who gets the matching grants. This means we will be working closer with Roger Worm.
    - Motion: Move to approve a Windom Business Façade Matching Grant Program grant in the amount of \$3,516.06 to Sabores de Mexico for the purchasing of signage to help promote its business which is located at 6030 Nicolet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55419.
    - Motion: Jamie
    - Second: Dembo
    - All in favor: Unanimous
    - Motion approved: Michelle
  - WCC NEW General Liability & Directors/Officers Insurance Exploration Discussion – Michelle
    - Michelle and Mario attended a presentation organized by NCR with Gallagher Insurance Group. As insurers have left the Twin Cities market and left many nonprofits without coverage, NCR has identified a potential broker to help neighborhood groups attain low-cost coverage. The Board agreed to explore new insurance options.
  - Minnesota Council on Foundations Membership Exploration Discussion – Michelle
    - As the Board looks at diversifying its funding streams to include private and community foundation grants, the Board approved the exploration of a potential membership with the Minnesota Council on Foundations.
  - 2025 Summer/Fall AmeriCorps Worker Application Exploration Discussion – Michelle
    - With pending community engagement and climate legacy funding outreach work this year, it makes sense to explore applying for the AmeriCorps VISTA and MN Green Corp programs. The Board approved exploring and applying for AmeriCorps workers this summer and beyond.

**Committee Reports – No reports**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm