



Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 14, 2022
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Rob Ley (S), Patrick Barrett, Louisa Hext, Dembo Darboe, Mario Vargas (Executive Director)

Guests: Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Rawata Issa (Community Engagement Intern for Ward 11).

Welcome/Call to Order: Michelle called the meeting to order.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski

- *Introductions: Welcome Rawata, Community Engagement intern for the Ward 11 office. She has started her work with current community groups: youth, senior, Black and African-American community members. She has also started her work with a new community group: renters. "Get the word out about newsletter and get more connected to the neighborhood groups. Spoken wheel where we help each other in making connections."*
- *Community group for renters: Ward 11 initiative. Be able to have monthly/bi-monthly meetings where we connect with renters to discuss ideas, thoughts, and concerns they have. Councilmember Koski would like to share these ideas with the workgroup occurring in the city. Councilmember Koski is interested in hearing from duplexes, apartment buildings, multi-family homes, and other renters recommended by the Windom Community Council (WCC). Patrick volunteered to share his experiences renting in the Windom community for 29 years.*
- **Updates:**
 - Cars on 62nd and Nicollet by the garden: Reached out to our Regulatory Services team, they will coordinate and reach out to the area early next week. Traffic Control is now involved to see if the owners of these vehicles are open to services and engagement.
 - Rob mentioned the abandonment of private property near the garden and on the sidewalk near the freeway. Notified 411 as well. Appliances and other items have accumulated.
 - Patrick notified Councilmember Koski of additional issues with regards to semitrucks parking on the north side of 62nd. Councilmember Koski discussed the new policy that restricts semitruck parking on city streets. Starting January 1, truck drivers will be fined \$100 for violation of this policy. This rate will increase up to \$250 by 2024. Another issue raised by Councilmember Koski is the city's lack of capacity to tow semitrucks.

- The Assessor’s Residential team will be in the Windom community. Initially, teams will meet in parks and assign properties. They do not have city vehicles, so they will use their personal vehicles to park. They will wear neon vests and have city identification and business cards. They have clipboards and will make measurements of properties, which means they will be engaged with property owners and knocking on doors to notify them of their presence. Hours: 8:30-3:00pm. 311 dispatch is aware of their presence. Through July 21st.
- Mayor’s nomination for the Commissioner of Community Safety is Dr. Sedrick Alexander. The next step is the city council will consider this nomination at the July 21st meeting. This is a brand new role for the city. He served as the Director of Public Safety in Decal County, Georgia. He oversaw police, fire, emergency response and 911. He also served as the Chief of Police and later the Deputy Mayor for the city of Rochester in New York. He was a member on President Barack Obama’s task force on the 21st century policing. Councilmember Koski gave Dr. Alexander a tour of Minneapolis. Councilmember Koski feels confident that Dr. Alexander understands the issues at hand in Minneapolis and the importance of bringing together our “ecosystem” of public safety.
- Becky asked Councilmember Koski whether she was able to discuss Dr. Alexander’s view on public health as a branch of public safety. Unfortunately, Councilmember Koski did not have enough time to go into detail regarding public health however, they discussed the integration of public health and public safety and what that looks like.
- Community safety: Mayor Frey met with the Community Safety Workgroup. The workgroup outlined their recommendations. Councilwoman Koski is willing to go through these recommendations but is still waiting to hear about what is next. How are we going to implement these changes? What are the priorities going to be? Councilmember Koski is waiting to hear the response to these questions posed.
- In partnership with Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR), the Minnesota Justice Research Center has agreed to lead the official community outreach strategy for MDHR. This is around the consent decree. They will have 5 community engagements; they have already had one. The next community engagement will take place on June 21st at Bryant Park.
- Ward 11 newsletter: construction updates, an interactive map to help keep everyone remain updated on construction projects.

Council Business

1. Brian O’Shea Grievance Panel Recommendation.

- Reviewed by Becky: On April 18, 2022, the council received a grievance from community member Brian O’Shea related to the Windom Community Garden. Per the council’s policies and procedures related to member grievances, an appointed 3-board member panel (Dembo, Louisa, and Becky) reviewed the documentation provided by Brian O’Shea. As a result, the panel developed a written report in response to his concerns and recommendations. A copy of the report will be sent to Brian O’Shea 5-days after this evening’s Windom Community Council (WCC) meeting.

- The recommendation: It is the final recommendation of the panel to the board that Mr. O’Shea’s complaint lacks basis for any action. Furthermore, due to the intentional disparaging effects of Mr. O’Shea’s actions, which diminished the integrity and reputation of the organization, the board concluded that it is no longer in its best interest to keep ownership of the Windom Community Garden. As a result, the WCC Community Garden lease will be terminated with the City of Minneapolis at the end of the 2022 growing season.
- The motion has been carried. The board will take the recommendation and will no longer pursue this matter.
- The board will develop a transition plan with regard to terminating its lease. Once this plan is set, the board will notify interested parties, Mr. O’Shea and the gardeners.
- In an effort to improve the board’s connection with the community, Louisa proposes an opportunity for the community to get together to discuss the impact of this grievance.

2. 2022—2023 WCC Officer Elections

- Reviewed by Mario: The recommendation is to accept nominations for each role:
 1. The president, 2. The vice president, 3. The treasurer, and 4. The secretary.
 - President—1 nominee: Michelle; those in motion: Patrick and Rob; 0—abstentions and 0—opposed
 - Vice President—1 nominee: Pat; 0—abstentions and 0—opposed
 - Treasurer—1 nominee: Becky; 0—abstentions and 0—opposed
 - Secretary—1 nominee: Rob; those in motion: Michelle and Pat; 0—abstentions and 0—opposed
 - At-large role—1 nominee: Dembo; those in motion: Michelle and Rob; 0—abstentions and 1—opposed
- Reviewed updated council bylaws.

3. Hybrid Meeting Interactive Technology (The Owl):

- **Motion—To use up \$1,500 to purchase The Owl hybrid meeting interactive technology for WCC’s community engagement work.**
 - Patrick: investigate the accessibility of this technology.

4. 2023 Equitable Engagement Fund Rollover

- Becky and Mario: Due to the requirement that Community Participation Program (CPP) funding be expended by the end of the year, it has been recommended to the board to write a letter to the City Council to allow funding to rollover to 2023.
- The board has approved the development of a letter to the City Council requesting some rollover of funding to next year.

Committee Updates

1. Finance Committee—Becky

- **2022 1st Quarter Update:** Submitting 1st and 2nd quarter finances. Expected reimbursement of \$35,000. Spent approx. 30% of equitable engagement funds within the first 6-months. 16% of city neighborhood network funds. Garden funds of \$200-\$250, excluding garden reserve funds.

2. Safety & Health Cyber Security Committee—Patrick

○ **Cyber Security Information Session (July 27)**

- Sean Morgan will hold a Cyber Security Zoom meeting on July 27th from 7-8:30pm. Educate and arm community members with knowledge to avoid and be protected against scams and cybercrime.

3. Community Development—Dembo

○ **Home Loan Program Mailer**

- Working with Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to create a print out for marketing and develop awareness around the Home Loan Program. Mario provided visual mailer to board. The mailer will include promotional information about low cost alternative garden program.

○ **2022 Façade Grant Application Vote**

4. Environment & Land Use Committee—Becky

○ **Alternate Garden Tour July 23, 2022**

- Mailer: \$25 1-hour professional consultation from Metro Blooms about how to reduce the amount of lawn on properties. How to create a “nature-friendly” garden with pollinators and work on water control issues.
- Tour will take place from 9-12pm.

○ **Technical Consultations Program Launch**

5. Outreach and Engagement—Michelle

○ **Summer 2022 Door-to-Door Information & Training Session**

- Mario will hold individual training sessions with each board member. Fran will door-knock Block 3 with Becky.

○ **Ward 11 Block Club Leader 7/12 Meeting Update**

- Highlighting National Night Out with Jennifer Neale the original Block Leader. Discussed ideas about National Night Out. Block Leaders are cautious with regard to the MSP. Councilmember Koski will continue to hold these meetings.
- Michelle will follow-up a Windom community member regarding a break-in at the school. Michelle will ensure that the member is well connected with her Block Leaders and is aware of WCC.

March—June Meeting Minutes

- Motion for March 10th—Pat and Patrick
- Motion for April 14th—Pat and Louisa
- Motion for May 19th—Pat and Louisa
- Motion for June 9th—Pat and Louisa

Meeting adjourned.