

Windom Board Meeting Minutes
13 May 2021
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Veronica Walther (P), Pete Johnson (VP), Becky McIntosh (T), Michelle Hemingway Tatum (S), Patricia Soulak (MAL), Patrick Barrett, Sean Morgan

Absent: Micah Stevenson, Katharine Krueger (resigned)

Guests: Jeremy Schroeder (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator)

Welcome/Call to Order

Veronica called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and members of the community in attendance. Veronica mentioned that this meeting was going to be focused on Windom's Plan Modification Policies and the Community's votes.

City Council Updates

- Councilman Schroeder informed the Council he has not heard from Aqua City Motel's lawyer concerning any progress with finding a buyer of the Motel. Once Jeremy learns any information, he will pass it along to the WCC.
- Mayor Frey will keep Minneapolis' indoor mask requirement in place pending review of public health data and local vaccination rates after the CDC and Gov. Tim Walz announced they would lift mask requirements for most indoor and outdoor activities. Public health officials strongly recommend that anyone who has not yet been fully vaccinated continue to cover their faces indoors. Private businesses, public transit, and other settings may also have face covering requirements. A mask requirement in schools will remain in effect through the end of the school year.
- Jeremy Schroeder said he is seeing an increase in local businesses requesting business licensees, liquor licenses, signally revitalization within the economy.
- The Councilman also highlighted Minnesota has kept all its current Congressional Seats allowing an increase in Federal funding due to Minnesota's high 2020 Census response rate.

Councilman Schroeder mentioned that the police are seeing an increase of license plate thefts occurring in south Minneapolis. A way to avoid this happening to your car is by purchasing locking bolts to attach your plate to your car. You can get these bolts at automotive stores.

Lastly, Mr. Schroeder shared that he and other Council Members Phillippe Cunningham and Steve Fletcher, presented a vision and next steps for their proposed Transforming Public Safety Charter Amendment at the City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting. This proposal would create a new Department of Public Safety. It would ensure law enforcement is as accountable to the public as every City department, that they're filling gaps in our existing system by adding public safety functions lacking today, and that they're reflecting the diverse perspectives of residents citywide to build a better future for all.

You can watch the presentation here: <https://youtu.be/9gEFsCzQV7A?t=4189>

You can follow along with our presentation slides here:

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/.../Transforming%20Public...>

The best way to reach Councilman Schroeder is to email jeremy.schroeder@minneapolismn.gov or call 612-673-2211.

2020 Charitable Report/Qtr. Financials/New City of Minneapolis Contract Requirements

Becky reviewed the amendment to WCC's Community Participation Program (CPP) contract with the City setting the course for WCC's future relationship (contractual) with the City. (See three attachments.) The biggest part of this plan requires neighborhood organizations to submit an engagement plan, which will plot out WCC's engagement work for the next year or several years by identifying goals, strategies and resources needed to reach all demographic groups present in your neighborhood. WCC's engagement plan is intended to be a living document on which an organization can continually apply lessons learned to improve the equity and effectiveness of your organization's community engagement.

Becky also reviewed WCC's 2021 1st Quarter Financials Review (attach balance sheet). WCC has approximately \$50K in unrestricted funds as well as a CD approximately between \$8-9 K.

Becky further explained NCR is amending WCC's 2017-21 Community Participation Program (CPP) contracts to:

- extend the time of performance through December 31, 2021;
- increase the contract amount by the total of your Neighborhoods 2020 Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund allocation (\$12,500 per neighborhood) and Equitable Engagement Fund allocation for 2021;
- add a new scope of services detailing your organization's Neighborhoods 2020 Program responsibilities – specifically the development of an engagement plan; and revise the budget to include the Neighborhoods 2020 Program funds being added to the agreement.

Windom Neighborhood Plan Modification Projects Status/Updates

Michelle provided highlights of Renter Engagement Survey Project, which includes implementing an outreach and engagement process to reach these apartment complex residents through focused outreach using culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach staff for door knocking and other strategies. Funds obtained through plan modification will be used to implement outreach strategies and provide resources to address the needs identified through resident engagement (either directly by WCC, or in partnership with community partners).

Next, Pete gave an update of the Nature Friendly Windom Project. This Program is a joint venture with WCC and Metro Blooms by using rain gardens/boulevard bioswales, which are environmentally sustainable, to help manage Windom water runoff especially since our neighborhood is within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed district. Program goals are to have beautiful and functional landscaping features that: capture rainwater before it runs over roads, dumping pollution, sediment and debris into our creek, lakes, and river; increase pollinator plants to provide year-round food and habitat for pollinators; and support neighborhood equity, beautification, and community values. This prompted a Committee vote for Nature Friendly Windom Program Unrestricted Funding

Patrick provided a status update of the Home Safety Rebate Program. This program is to promote neighborhood safety and security for residential properties, including owner-occupied and rental, in the Windom neighborhood. WCC is offering rebates for actual costs incurred for up to \$500 per property to reimburse residents and property owners who make safety-enhancing improvements.

Windom Business Façade Grant Program

Becky informed the Committee that several Windom Businesses were asking for additional grants for their business facades. She asked the Board if WCC should investigate providing these grants. The Board decided not to provide additional grants at this time.

WCC Administrative/Bookkeeper Retirement & New Hire

Becky also informed the Committee Clare King interviewed for WCC's bookkeeping position after Elizabeth Raasch-Gilman's (Betsy) retirement. This position would be a contractual appointment and Ms. King has experience working with other non-profit organizations. Becky also shared that Bob Cooper of NCR, would be available for additional assistance to Ms. King.

Annual Meeting & Board Vacancies

Pat and Veronica will be hosting the Annual Meeting and the Council agreed the Meeting should be moved to June 10th. Moving the date will allow more time to work on the Plan Modifications and to recruit potential Board Members, since the Board has two vacancies to fill and four re-elections.

The Board also discussed using videos of members promoting their work on the Board, having additional money set aside for safety items not covered by NCR's requirements and request the sub-committees meet next week to begin work from the Plan Modifications.

Windom Garden Committee Updates

Brian O'Shea informed the group that the Garden has been established for ten years now! He also mentioned the garden paths are wide enough for wheelchair accessibility, the budget has been reviewed and approved, key locks has been reinstated to provide access to the garden and there are five new gardeners this year. A memorial for Myra Woods has been approved and is planned for this year.

April Minutes Approval

These minutes were approved with one spelling change. Add an "h" to Veronica's misspelled last name.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by Veronica.