



Windom Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025

(Hybrid Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing & In-Person at 5843 Wentworth)

Attending: Becky McIntosh (T), Dembo Darboe, Jamie Lieser, Derek Goodman, Mario Vargas (Executive Director)

Absent: George Hall, Michelle Hemingway (P), Chad Fallon, Dawn Uremovich

Welcome/Call to Order: Becky called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Council Business

- Annunciation Catholic Church Shooting - Windom Response and Engagement Update
 - Neighbors Together Event at Richfield United Methodist Church: WCC's response to the shooting was fast. By Noon on Wednesday, August 27th, the day of the shooting, WCC put out a public statement of condolences for victims and affected families on the website. WCC and several Board members met that same day at 7 PM with Paster Nate (Richfield United Methodist Church) to discuss a plan for a quiet response from the Windom neighborhood. Many protest-driven events as well as vigils were organized throughout the Twin Cities, Minnesota and nationally. The discussion went in the direction of organizing an "victim-led" 'Neighbors Together' grieving-focused event for Saturday, August 30th 9 am – 10:30 am primarily for victims, families and neighbors directly affected by the shooting. Becky worked closely with Paster Nate and other community stakeholders to provide licensed mental health professionals and trauma counselors specializing in grief and trauma. 35 people attended, including many professionals in support and to staff the event.
 - Minneapolis Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC is a very structured department. Prior to the 1970s each department would have its own emergency response systems. In Minneapolis, we've created a streamlined system that coordinates with department emergency response offices. A standing program is for EOC to setup a family assistance center to support families directly affected by the traumatic event [tornadoes, shooting as in this case].
 - Annunciation Church Victim's Family Assistance Center: EOC setup an assistance center for families which until now is private to respect the privacy and security of families affected by the Annunciation Church/School Shooting.
 - Minneapolis Neighborhoods Assistance Center at Lynnurst Park: For the first time, EOC in coordination with NCR staff setup a similar center but one to serve community members at-large affected by the shooting. Local neighborhood associations were called upon to help staff at the emergency neighborhood center located at Lynnurst Park Recreation Center. The Emergency Community Assistance Center operated Sunday, August 31st through Tuesday, September 3, 2025. WCC staff and volunteer Board members staffed most of the days at the community assistance center. The University of Minnesota's Medical Corp provided member health services support as well as other government (Hennepin County's Victims Compensation Fund Office), faith-based groups and animal support organizations. It was a great success due to the number of volunteers. Becky is recommending to NCR that they help develop a plan for neighborhood organizations to deal with an emergency, how ever they define an emergency in their community.
- Introducing Josh Holness WCC's 2025-2026 VISTA Tenant Organizer
 - Windom VISTA Assignment Description Tenant Organizer: Josh had a family emergency and is unable to attend. We will ask him to attend the 23rd of September Working Board Meeting.
- Community Organizing Training 101 – The full orientation on Community Organizing will be done at the upcoming Board Retreat in October. Staff gave a short presentation on what to expect. Key topics will include 'What Community Organizing is not, "Organizing from the Bottom Up" and some current active local and national community organizing efforts happening.
- Board Fall Retreat
 - Logistics: Date (October 4th - 9 am & 4 pm), Hyland Park Reserve Bloomington.
 - Agenda Discussion: Some suggested topics include Comprehensive training on Community Organizing and Neighborhood Future Strategic Planning. For the planning piece, it makes sense to include the feedback received at the annual meeting as well as what we've learned through Windom past surveys to inform the Board what strategies and tactics we lay out in the future.
- Agate Housing Next Steps Discussion: Windom Garfield Avenue residents have been complaining for over year about drug use and violence & thefts happening out of the Agate Housing facility. It seems the Liquor Store is now involved in a



complaint against Agate due to thefts coming from tenants at the SOR (Single Occupancy Room) housing facility, formerly known as The Metro Inn Motel. Someone organized a meeting that WCC was not invited to. Emails and calls to Council Member Koski have not been answered. The concern is that Agate Housing Services, which owns and operates the SOR facility, did not follow the social community engagement contract it agreed to when it purchased the property from Hennepin County. WCC staff and Board leadership plan to engage Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene on what the next steps should be whether a community-wide meeting is organized, or a small stakeholder meeting is a better idea.

Committee Reports

- Finance
 - Amendment to previous computer workstation motion
 - Motion: To amend the 8.26.25 approved Board Meeting Motion from \$1,000 to up to \$1,500 for a WCC computer workstation to include a laptop, monitor, keyboard and mouse, docking station and accessories.
 - Motion: Derek
 - Second: Dembo
 - All in favor: Unanimous
 - Motion approved: Becky
- Environment & Land Use
 - MnDOT Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Grant
 - Motion: To approve the recommendation from the WCC Environment and Land Use Committee to apply for MnDOT's Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program Grant up to \$10,000.
 - Motion: Derek
 - Second: Dembo
 - All in favor: Unanimous
 - Motion approved: Becky
 - Minneapolis Green Cost Share Program Update
- Community Development – None
- Safety & Health - None
- Outreach & Community Engagement - None
- Fundraising – None

Approve WCC Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Move to approve July & August 2025 Meeting Minutes. Moved to next Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm