

Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
9 June 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)

Absent: Patricia Soulak (VP)

Guests: Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11), Kristin Petersen, (Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., Senior Planner, Lead Engagement Specialist), Meseret Wolana (Bridge Project Manager City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works), Ted Arbeiter (Communications and Outreach Coordinator, City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works), Ahmed Omar (Professional Engineer at the City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works), Mark Maves (SHE, Senior Bridge Engineer), Brian O’Shea.

Welcome/Call to Order. Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski

- With Block Parties and other events begin scheduled this summer, if anyone would like to invite Councilmember Koski to the event, please contact/email her office.
- Councilmember Koski had a Town Meeting on May 31st with other project partners for a presentation and public forum to discuss findings of the Lake Nokomis Area Groundwater & Surface Water Evaluation.
- Councilmember Koski’s Office also published a special edition newsletter with an interactive construction map.
- The second phase of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act was unanimously approved by the City Council. Councilmember Koski, as the Chair of the Budget Committee, collaborated with colleagues on amendments to move \$160K to support our Behavior Crisis Response Teams in acquiring 2 additional vans, authored by Council Member Elliott Payne and Ms. Koski. Councilmember Koski also authored an amendment which moved \$125K to create a “Small Business Payroll Provider and Compliance Subsidy” Pilot Program within the Department of Civil Rights.
- Councilmember Koski was present at the neighborhood meeting with County Commissioner Greene highlighting the County’s intent to purchase the Aqua Inn Motel for additional programming to combat homelessness.
- A celebration week will take place July 25-31 highlighting black-owned businesses within Minneapolis.
- Questions from community: Patrick relayed the closing of the Best Steak House on Diamond Lake Road and Nicollet Avenue. Ms. Koski shared there is a new store across the street that offers an eclectic array of products.
- Becky inquired about Sasha Cotton leaving the Department of Violence Prevention and shared her concern if the Department of Health will be folded under the Department of Community Safety. Councilmember will provide an update once she learns of it to Becky

Nicollet Avenue Bridge (Minnehaha Creek) Construction Update

- The City of Minneapolis will rehab the historic Nicollet Avenue Bridge over Minnehaha Creek. Dates of construction continue to be discussed on construction funding and timing, which is yet to be determined.
- Project overview for bridge was built in 1923 and repaired in 1973. Currently, the bridge is 63 feet wide and 816 feet long. The bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Repairing it will allow use for many years to come.

- Repairs will include replacing and fix all structural elements of the bridge and roadway. The repaired bridge will be 60'-4" wide and have 6-foot-wide protected bike lanes, 8-foot-wide pedestrian sidewalks, two 11-foot traffic lanes.
- An interactive map can be viewed at: www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/nicollet-ave-bridge/nicollet-ave-bridge-project-map/
- During construction the bridge to all traffic during construction, including cars, bikes, and pedestrians.
- Detour routes will be on the website in the future.

Council Business

- **NCR Annual Report Discussion & Approval.** With minor edits and modifications, the Board reviewed and unanimously approved the two-year, 2020-2021, WCC Annual Report which is a required report to the City of Minneapolis. The report is filled annually electronically, and it contains 25 questions that seek qualitative and quantitative data. The information gathered serves to inform the public and the City of Minneapolis as to the accomplishments and challenges that neighborhood groups are facing while under contract with the city. The report can be accessed on the City of Minneapolis website: <http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cofm/Neighborhood-Organizations/>
- **Windom Community Garden Budget Discussion & Approval.** Brian presented the 2022 Garden Program Budget including plot fees. NRP money remaining in the garden fund is about \$2,000. Priorities for purchase for the garden include additional water buckets, wheelbarrow, and an additional battery for weedwhacker (approximately \$300). Steve Rawlins found a lawn mower for the garden. No new trees will be planted this year. Final water bill for 2021 was \$458.62. Open plots are available and set aside a full plot for Food Shelf purposes. Permit fee \$50 additional \$100 is required to ensure all bills are paid. *Motion was made and approved the Garden budget noting the addition of a \$300 expense, as well additional plot fees revenue to be included within this budget.*
- **Portable PA System.** The Windom Community School and the Windom South Park Recreation Center are under new leadership and management. WCC can no longer depend on the school to provide use of their PA System. WCC recommend that the Board invest in purchasing its own Portable PA System. The Board voted and unanimously approved up to \$1000 for the purchase which are estimated to be in the range between \$300 - \$700. Usage will be for public meetings, community engagement and regular monthly Board meetings.
- **Board Elections Update.** Voting was posted on the WCC website and will concluded tomorrow, Friday, June 10th. Board positions will be voted on at the July 14th Board Meeting.
- **New Staffing Update.** WCC's Executive Committee continues to look at hiring more contracted staff to assist this summer and fall with outreach and engagement. A candidate for the two positions has been difficult to fill, since WCC cannot offer benefits and we will be offering a contract position. An interview panel will be convened once viable candidates have applied.

Committee Updates

- **Finance Committee.** Becky reported 2021 taxes filings are still in progress to be completed with Michael Wilson, CPA with the City of Minneapolis NCR, and our bookkeeper Claire, working to ensure the finalize the numbers are correct. Mr. Wilson is also working with WCC for our annual charitable organization review of WCC's financials. This review will need approval at an upcoming meeting prior to sending it to the Attorney General's Office, as well as the 1st Quarter reimbursement request.
- **Safety & Health Cyber Security Committee:** The Cybersafe community information session by Sean Morgan will take place on July 27, from 7-8 p.m.
- **Community Development.** Home Improvement Loan Program Mailer will be mailed to the homeowners at the end of July. This mailer will include promotion of the garden technical consultations program.
- **Environment & Land Use Committee.** The 3rd annual Garden Tour Saturday, July 23rd from 9 a.m. – 12 Noon. Need to review how many gardens will be part of the Tour this year as she is discussing it with fellow gardeners. The Technical Consultations Program is a continuation with WCC's contract with

Metro Blooms, including 23 gardens with 3 gardens, which have been rolled over from last year. The Tech Dump collaboration with Mayflower Church and Tangletown Community is scheduled for September 24th 12 Noon - 3 p.m. will include paper shredding. Will need to have volunteers to help gather technology for event as well as paper.

- **Outreach and Engagement. Windom Reads:** Attendance was not as good as in past years. Authors had fun but were disappointed they didn't have book sales. They did enjoy seeing the mayor and talking to the kids. Possibly better advertising, not just with flyers going home in kids' packs, but announcing to other neighborhoods organizations, on Next Door, more on Facebook (not just the Windom Reads Facebook Page)? We can also ask the park, post it on their park signage and the Minneapolis Parks Pages. **Windom Spring Celebration** in collaboration with Windom Community School. The celebration was well attended and beneficial to have WCC's presence. This is especially beneficial, since the students are from the Windom neighborhood compared to citywide & suburbia students attending a Windom Bi-Lingual School. Mario also shared that working with the Windom PTO is a good collaborative relationship with WCC. **Earth Day PTO Activity.** The collaboration was successful, the event was well attended. **Aqua Inn Motel Update.** County Commissioner Marion Greene & Housing Director, Julia Welle-Ayres, held a community meeting on June 4th as part of the County's Due Diligence requirement with the Windom Community. The County is slated to take ownership of the Motel for programming to alleviate homelessness in the Twin Cities by the end of August. Councilmember Koski, Rob, Dembo & Michelle were in attendance. **Summer Canvassing and Apartment Surveying.** Board decided to move the apartment renter surveying/organizing until August and focus July on the door-to-door knocking initiative. Board members assigned themselves one of the six quadrants within the Windom Neighborhood would be a beneficial way to reach the 20%-30% goal of residents within the neighborhood to have a better communication process with our neighbors. Mario will also be providing Board members a training on how to engage and interview neighbors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm