

Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
13 January 2022
(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)

Attending: Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Patricia Soulak (VP), Veronica Walther (MAL), Becky McIntosh (T), Rob Ley (S), Dembo Darboe, Louisa Hext, Sean Morgan, Patrick Barrett and Mario Vargas (Administrative Coordinator)

Guests: Windom resident Kelly Casey, Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11)

Welcome/Call to Order

Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski

- Temporary emergency regulations: City requiring proof of vaccine or COVID test within 3 days to enter all indoor public spaces including retail, restaurants, and other businesses
 - See city's Facebook page with link
 - Docket App is helpful for mobile records of proof of vaccine
 - Mask mandate for all restaurants, bars, retail and public accommodations.
- Redistricting process. All 13 City Council wards and six park districts are being completely redrawn.
 - Committee meetings/listening sessions on new maps on January 18 & 26, 4pm.
 - Public hearings on February 9 and 27. There are also interactive maps on the city's website.
 - New maps will be approved by the City Council on March 2nd.
- City Council leadership/Emily Koski Committee assignments
 - Andrea Jenkins is City Council president. Linea Palmisano is vice president.
 - Emily Koski is chair of the Budget committee and vice chair of Public Works/Infrastructure committee. She also sits on Government Policy Oversight committee, the Audit committee, and The Board of Estimate and Taxation.
 - City initiated working groups to come: Housing Stabilization, Public Safety
- Carjacking. There is a City/County task force in place addressing the problem. Emily's office is particularly focused on support for victims and will put victims in touch with dedicated victim resources. She is also meeting regularly with the 5th precinct crime prevention specialist.
- Public Safety Meeting was held. Major action steps include recruiting more police officers, violence intervention program, youth diversion programs, and youth programs in Minneapolis public schools.
- BIPOC Resident Engagement & Dialogue. Jan. 22. 10am. (see attached chat notes).
- Councilmember's Contact Info & Staff. See attached chat notes.

Kelly Casey, Windom Gables resident and former leader of Windom Community Garden

- Kelly expressed her deep hurt regarding the treatment of her and her late wife Myra in relation to the Windom community garden.
- Michelle and Mario both expressed their apologies to Kelly and committed to not tolerating such treatment in the future. Mario also said WCC will work to take back ownership of the administration of the community garden, which always was a WCC program. Myra had created the model of co-ownership.

- There was discussion of some memorial of Myra at the garden, but no decision was reached. There was discussion of establishing a scholarship to help with garden fees in Myra's name (see attached chat notes).

Windom Gables Rent Increases (see attached chat notes)

- Both Kelly Casey and Patrick Barrett live at Windom Gables. Both said that they will be unable to remain there given the dramatic rent increases just imposed there for 2022. Mario is working on organizing the community on this issue.

Public Meetings to be scheduled by WCC:

- Windom Gables Rent Increases (no date yet)
- Carjacking (no date yet)
- Aqua City Inn Motel Development. Jan. 29

Committee Updates

- Community Development (Sean). Renewed Windom home loan program. \$100,000 total in no-interest loans. Developing budget for promoting program to residents.
- Security & Health.
 - Dembo's neighbor at 59th and Wentworth was carjacked. WCC will bring this up with our Crime Prevention Specialist.
 - Twenty-eight residents participated in our home safety rebate program.
- Land Use & Environment. (Becky). Need to find a chair for this committee. Veronica volunteered to be the interim chair.
 - Metro Blooms raingarden/bioswales program. 92% budget was spent. \$3k remains for technical consultation for environmentally friendly gardens. That will be picked up in the spring.
 - The Windom 3rd annual alternative garden tour will be held at a date TBD.
 - Need people with passion and energy on this committee.
- Outreach & Engagement.
 - The Aqua City Inn is in the process of being sold to either North Bay Properties or to an unnamed non-profit. A virtual informational meeting with residents will be held on Saturday, January 29.
- Windom Reads. To be held on Saturday, March 5th at 9:00 AM. Representatives from Police, Fire and Mayor's office will be in attendance. Councilmember Koski is willing to participate. (See attached chat notes).
- Finance Committee (Becky)
 - Final report for 2021 books will be available next month.
 - Home security rebate. Spent 57% of \$40,000 budget.
 - Raingardens and bioswales. Spent 92% of the \$30K budget.
 - Renter engagement. Spent 67% of \$12,800 budget
 - All unexpended funds will roll into the Equitable Engagement contract.
 - WCC received \$520 in donations, of which only \$20 was restricted for the community garden.
 - With budget rollovers and new contracts there is much to spend by December 31, 2022.

Board Meetings

- Jan. 22: Executive Committee (moved from Jan. 15). And Working Board Meeting.

- Board Retreat. New date is Saturday, March 26th.
 - Morning: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training will be provided for the board. Led by Karen DeYoung.
 - Afternoon: session facilitated by a fund-raising expert.

Minutes to meeting of Dec. 9. (One edit for Safety & Health Committee) Patrick moved, Sean seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Michelle. A small group stayed afterward to discuss rent stabilization with Councilmember Koski. (see attached chat notes).

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Ley, Board Secretary

WCC Meeting on January 13, 2022 chat –

Councilwoman Emily Koski shared the following:

•Black/African American Community Meeting:

o This is a formal invitation to participate in a meeting for the Black/African American community in Ward 11 to build connections and engage in conversation with our myself, your current Council Member. This will be an online meeting Saturday, January 22nd, 2022 from 10:00 AM-11:00 AM via Microsoft Teams.

o Black/African American Community Meeting for Ward 11

📅 Date: Saturday, January 22nd, 2022

🕒 Time: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

📍 Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting Room

o It is our intention that this meeting will act as the first of many meetings during which the Black/African American Community can engage in regular dialogues with my office.

o If you know of other community members in Ward 11 that may be interested in this conversation or getting better connected to our Black/African American community, please forward this email to them. We'd like to reach as many Black and African American people as possible.

•Office/Staff Contact Information:

o Emily Koski – Council Member – emily.koski@minneapolismn.gov – (612) 322-4221

o Melissa Hill – Senior Policy Aide – melissa.hill@minneapolismn.gov

o Corinne Horowitz – Policy Associate – corinne.horowitz@minneapolismn.gov

o Temporary Office Phone: (612) 673-6141 (Extension Number for Voicemail Only: 2211)

o Sign up for our Ward 11 Newsletter on the Ward 11 webpage – the first newsletter will come out next week. <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-11/>

In response to a memorial for Myra Woods & the Windom Community Garden, Veronica Walther noted:

I suggest we look into the logistics of the scholarship and see if we can put that to a vote at the Feb or Mar meeting so we can maybe put that in place before the growing season.

Kelly Casey replied she “loved this idea”.

Kelly Casey shared info concerning book discussed for Windom Reads event:

<https://www.amazon.com/Good-Time-Truth-Race-Minnesota/dp/168134002X>

Councilwoman Emily Koski shared the following for the Windom Reads event:

Here are the authors/writers from A Good Time for the Truth. Like I mentioned, Andrea Jenkins our Council President is included. Taiyon J.

Coleman, Heid E. Erdrich, Venessa Fuentes, Shannon Gibney, David Lawrence Grant, Carolyn Holbrook,

IBé, Andrea Jenkins, Robert Farid Karimi JaeRan Kim, Sherry Quan Lee, David Mura, Bao Phi, Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria, Diane Wilson, Kao Kalia Yang

Patricia Soulak shared rent/lease information in response to the Windom Gables high increase of rent:

Pat - that's the standard lease that people use so they know that everything is up to par with the city/state. However, landlords can (and do) draft up different leases. There's a lot that you can contract for in a lease and they try to do everything they can in their own favor.

Veronica Walther's reply regarding high increase of rent:

I shared this via email to a few folks. This org formed after a similar situation and has been successful in pushing back against similar rent hikes in the area:

<https://www.inquilinxsunidxs.org/>

Councilwoman Emily Koski asked:

What is the name of the corporation who owns the Windom Gables?

Kelly Casey replied: hegenes Properties Inc.