

**West Bank Community Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
April 19, 2006
Brian Coyle Community Center**

- I. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Jim Ruiz, President and roll call was taken.

- II. Roll Call: Attending Board members: Jim Ruiz, Abia Ali, Treasurer and NRP steering co-committee chair; Doris Wickstrom, Secretary; Africa Abdi, George Gammons, Rosemary Knutson, Robert Metcalf, Marvin Loxterkamp, Brian Monroe, Hashi Abdi, Susannah Dodge, Mohamed Issa, Todd Smith, Xan Cassiel arrives mid meeting at end of LRT safety update.
absent: Mary Mellen

- III. Approve Agenda: Agenda was amended to move committee reports before officers report. **Motion Made and Seconded** to approve agenda as amended. Motion passes.

- IV. **Motion Made and seconded** to Approve 2/15/06 Board Meeting minutes with corrections and March 15, 2006 minutes. Motion passes.

- V. Committee Reports
 - A. NRP Committee report by Abia Ali. 275 people voted on the NRP First Step Plan. All proposals passed with a majority vote. Money from Dania Hall (\$212,000) will be channeled into First Step Plan along with \$350,000. Abia handed out percentage of votes given to each Strategy. See attachment.

Demographic information on some voters was presented, see hand out attached. 182 residents and 90 workers voted in the neighborhood vote. Hashi learned that many in the neighborhood did not understand the purpose of the vote. We need to look at how we can strengthen the process. There is a need to better explain and educate people about the process. George pointed out that some things that people who work here like may be different than what the residents want.

Deven was requested to get break down of votes by businesses and residential areas. Two of the voting places were held on U of M and Augsburg College campus. It was explained that no other voting places could be found close to residential areas. Deven's perspective on the elections was that it was safe way for people to voice their opinions.

Deven was not able to answer questions requested by the Executive committee on the neighborhood vote:

- a What was the count of residents, business property owners and workers in

- the neighborhood participating in voting process?
- b What is the percent or number of votes for each group?
 - c Did the group ask for verification of residency?
 - d What is the breakdown of votes among:
 - Students
 - Riverside Park
 - Riverview Tower, Grand Mark and Seven Corners

Motion made and seconded : The WBCC Board of Directors approves the Cedar Riverside First Step Plan to be taken to the NRP Policy Board and to the Minneapolis City Council.

Motion carries, with one no vote and 2 abstentions.

The Board wishes to thank the NRP Steering Committee for all their hard work in drafting the plan and reaching out to the community.

- B. Financial Committee Report: Abia presented the financial quarterly report. Our bank accounts is -\$170. The balance for the CIP account was not available. There is a problem with making payment requests. It is the understanding of the financial committee that the balance must be spent down to \$1000 before a request can be made. This is cutting it too close. There is a need to make monthly requests. Robert Thompson , NRP Contract Manager says this is possible. Treasurer will make requests for CIP and NRP moneys. It is unclear why a check bounced earlier in year. It may be a bank error.
- C. Bluff Street Task Force: Doreen Bower, Chair of the Task Force presented in formation on document for Adopt a Park.

Motion Made and Seconded: The WBCC authorizes the Bluff Street Park Task Force to submit an Adopt a Park agreement to the Minneapolis Park Recreation Board , under the aegis of WBCC and Groundwork Minneapolis, which includes a liability waiver for the West Bank Community Coalition.

Motion Passed.

Doreen will provide copies of all contracts and waivers for the organization files.

Clean up will be at the proposed park location on April 22, 2006, at 9:30 - 12:30. All are invited to attend. Coyle Center and Americore volunteers will participate in the Earth Day activities. Marvin Loxterkamp donated \$20 for water. Rosemary and Doreen will be picking up trash at the site through out the year. Others are encouraged to join them.

- D. LRT Safety Committee:
Rosemary is circulating a letter to area institutions requesting funds for infrastructure improvements in the neighborhood. Rosemary requested \$54, 500 from Fairview Hospital. A similar amount will be requested from Augsburg

College and the University of Minnesota. The total amount of money being sought is \$650,000. \$98,500 is coming from Cedar Riverside NRP Funds. This money will be used for Public Art, pedestrian lighting, signage, and safe zone cameras. The Mayor is providing \$108,000 for the cameras.

Many positive things are happening in the neighborhood. The Master Plan, NRP and on Saturday Rosemary is meeting with Sen. Larry Pogemiller. Thank you Rosemary for your work to better the neighborhood.

Rosemary will make copies for organization files of letter and fundraising materials.

E. Land Use Committee:

1. The committee has met with Fine Associates on March 20, 2006, to discuss changes to the initial plans presented to the neighborhood in 2005. The committee feels it is an improvement to the previous plan. There will be more housing units - 440 units; and the addition of Robert Johnson's property and the Baja property to the south by the light rail station. Phase one will build 251 units, which includes 50% of the units considered affordable. "Station Place", next to the Baja property and LRT station will have 70 units.
2. Land Use committee discussed neighborhood boundaries.
3. Lot A, Susannah wants to write Cam a letter requesting RFP be delayed until completion of small Area Plan.

Land Use requests 1/2 hour time slot for discussion at next meeting.

Next Meeting is May 1st, 8:15 PM, Hard Times Cafe.

F. By Laws Committee:

Bob reported on proposed changes to the by-laws. He recognized all the hard work that people put into the previous by-laws. There will be approximately 2-3 more meetings before a final draft. Next meeting May 10, 2006, Lucky Dragon - 6:30 pm.

VI. Rod Johnson, CRBA parking committee chair, Presentation:

Rod of Midwest Mountaineering, spoke about city sale of neighborhood Parking Lots through out the city. The local Seven Corners Ramp will be sold. The assessed value is \$6.5 million. Many businesses are concerned that parking rates will increase and hurt local businesses. The RFP needs to address that issue. Judy Cedar, CPED, said currently income is generated from that lot. CPED, Public Works, U of M and Holiday Inn are involved in discussions.

Resolution: The WBCC resolves to support restriction on sale of Seven Corners parking ramp to allow for continued reasonable parking rates and keeping open some parking spaces during evens for local businesses and their customers.

Resolution is approved unanimously.

CRBA Parking Lot Committee would work with WBCC around this issue. CRBA Parking Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of the Month at 10 am.

VII. Anne Forsyth, University Of Minnesota, Presentation of Draft Student Report

Ann Forsyth of the University Design Center presented the draft student report on 2 projects for the Academic Health Center (AHC). Facilities are being designed to create a more welcoming and attractive space. Students worked on better signage for the mixed use site as well as making suggestions to make the area more pedestrian friendly. Their guiding principles involved incorporating nature, visual connectedness and provide for the needs of the facility and the neighborhood. The students highlighted the auto domination and pedestrian unfriendliness of the area. Check attached hand out for details. Comments can be made online through early May.

http://www1.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic_positioning/tf_recommendations.html

You can comment before April 30 at:

<https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?id=566265>

VIII. Council member Cam Gordon passed out his written report.

IX. Report from Meeting with City Planner Beth Elliot.

See Devens' handout. A Steering Committee is being formed.

Beth Elliot from City Planning wants time on the agenda for May Board Meeting.,

X. Presidents' Report:

A. Jim passed out to the Board a handout on contact information for members.

B. Bulk Mail rate is approved as of April 13, 2006 Deven will check on refund from last mailing.

C. Liability Insurance is infect form March 2006 until 2007..

XI. Joining District Council Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis (DCC).

Doris presented information for the DCC. This is a new organization formed to involve citizens in the Central Corridor Transit planning process. We are asked to be a part of this planning group. There are 2 meetings coming up.

XII. Tabled

A. Goals and

B. Africa's' Appointment.

XIII. Adjourn : 8:20 pm