

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

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call: Attending: Marvin Loxterkamp, Mary Mellen, Rosemary Knutson, Bob Metcalf, Doris Wickstrom, George Gammans, Hashi Abdi, Xan Cassiel, Susanna Dodge, Abia Ali, Mohamed Issa, James Ruiz. **Absent:** Brian Monroe, Africa Abdi

III. Agenda Approval: Motion Made and Seconded to approve agenda. Motion approved.

IV. June Minutes Approval: Motion made and seconded to approved minutes from June 21, 2006. Motion approved.

V. U of M Stadium Advisory Committee – Peg Wolf of the University of Minnesota. encouraged WBCC representation on Stadium task force. There are 2 subcommittee that are of interested for the community. See Cam Gordon Report– Impact group will finish report January 15, 2007. Next meeting is on Tuesday July 25th, 5:30 –7 pm at the McNamara Center, 2nd Floor. Contact Jan Morlock, jam@umn.edu.

VI. Anne Forsythe gave copies of the to the organization of the Academic Health Center Master Plan. Of note for the Cedar Riverside community is the Research Hospital and the Student Project precinct Plan for landscaping of Riverside Avenue and for creating a more pedestrian friendly area. The Design Center, Institute for Advanced Studies is hosting an event, October 14 and 15, to discuss historical markers on each side of the bridge. The conference will focus on connecting history of area. A new science building will be built on the East Bank bridge head. Announcement will be sent in the next few weeks with information on times and place.

VII. Council member Cam Gordon reported on Neighborhood forum on Community Engagement on July 25th from 7 – 9 PM at Brackett Park, 2728 39th Avenue South. The forum will focus on how the city can support neighborhood organizations in their work. City Recommendations will be made in September. The Cedar Riverside camera issue will be voted on Friday, July 21. Cam also mentioned the city agreement with Imperial Parking is set to end in December 2006. January 1st, 2007, the city will select manager for lots. RFP's have been sent out in July with a response date of September 1.

The City, the University and SAAG have been directed to draft a report on “the impact of the university on the surrounding community and the relationship of the community to the university and evaluate the “ and indirect impacts of the

university on the surrounding community, addressing issues of Public safety, transportation, and housing quality, availability and affordability.” Cedar Riversides involvement is requested.

VIII. Andy Driscoll – Community Liaison, Districts Collaborative Council for the Central Corridor Transit Line. Andy is staff for the District Council Collaborative StP/Mpls. The purpose of the Council is to hear the voice of the communities/neighborhoods along the transit route. The LRT between Minneapolis and St. Paul capitol (route will take approximately 35 minutes.) will be completed in the year 2014. Funding is 50% form State and 50% from Federal. The line will split at the Metro Dome station and travel down 3rd Avenue to Washington Avenue Bridge. A tunnel through the University is debatable.

IX. Officers Report

- A. **President’s report/Executive Committee Report:** Three people have expressed interest in the Small Area Plan– Rosemary Knutson, Doris Wickstrom and Jim Ruiz. Xan volunteered to be the alternate. Jim will send out University Stadium Advisory representative request.
 - 1. A letter will be sent to all community groups on how to request for representation from WBCC. The letter will be hand delivered.
 - 2. The committee made recommendation for Land Use Committee.
- B. **Treasurer’s report:** The quarterly report will be presented next month.
- C. **Secretary report:** Doris has worked on an outline for RFP on organizational development. Bob Farley from Riverside Plaza may have some information on funding for WBCC.

X. Committee Reports:

- A. **LRT/Safety Committee** is applying for grants for funding from the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation. They are seeking funding for lighting. **Motion Made and Seconded to approve preliminary budget for 2005 and for sending out balance sheet and Profit and Loss statement from 2005. Motion carries.** The LRT Safety Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM at the Hard Times Cafe.
- B. **Safety Committee** Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 2 pm at Mapps Coffee. There are new incidents of crime. Luther Krueger encourages members to file out Community Impact Statements. Safe Zone Cameras are a “hot potato” downtown. We are the only neighborhood that budgeted for the cameras.
- C. **Land use Committee** did not meet. No Report.
- D. **By laws** met in July. A Draft was circulated of proposed changes. A new draft has additions on how to count votes. Group could choose which one to support. Proposal will be presented to the President with a possible membership meeting in September. No date has been set. Bob will inform Board of next meeting.
- E. **NRP** has five Scopes to present to the Board.

XI. New Business

- A. Cultural sensitivity** – Mohamed Issa spoke to the Board about the need for better understanding of the immigrant condition. Comments are summarized as: ‘New immigrants came to this country for the very reason other immigrants groups came here – for a better life. We all need to work on resolving misunderstandings about the use of terms such as Somali Gangs. It hurts everyone in our community. The recent e-mail circulated about the need for cameras based on our immigrant population, youth and poverty, distorts our community situation and furthers incorrect stereotypes. We need to avoid these kinds of statements to avoid conflict.

Abia talked about cultural sensitivity workshops in Country workplaces. Since we live in the most diverse neighborhood in the city we need cultural sensitivity training. Hashi spoke of the need to know and understand each others values and differences.

Resolution:

Whereas, the neighborhood constituency that the West Bank Community Coalition represents has and is changing and becoming significantly diverse in recent year;

Whereas the WBCC leadership has changed to reflect the changing demographics

Whereas this change in demographics and leadership has created racial tension and lack of understanding between cultures;

Whereas, this racial tension and understanding has affected the organizational culture and it’s focus on community concerns;

Whereas, there exists resources, (NRP funds and professional trainers) available to provide leadership training and consultation to process and resolve this racial tension and lack of understanding between cultures;

Be it Therefore proposed that the WBCC explore a training contract with the Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond to lead with the WBCC leadership an upcoming Undoing Racism Workshop

The organization will explore time flexibility.

Contact person is Sarah Richardson (612) 327-7010.

Resolution is unanimous.

A discussion ensued about how to pay for such training. Suggestions included putting it into a Scope of Service –Community Building. We could develop a Report Card for Racial Equality.

- B. Land Use Committee Procedure recommendations from the executive Committee. WBCC Responsibilities under our CPED Contract.**

The CPED contact obligates the WBCC to “ensure that membership is open to all resident of the geographically-defined neighborhood, with no

barriers to participation or membership (such as membership dues, requiring attendance at a certain number of meeting before voting rights are conferred, etc.).”

The 2006 contract also contains a new clause that obligates the WBCC to “provide notice to those residents most directly affected by a proposed development” and to hold open meetings at which they can find out about and comment on the proposed activity.

In light of these obligations to the City of Minneapolis, the following resolution is proposed:

Whereas the WBCC is obligated to ensure that membership is open to all resident of the geographically-defined neighborhood, with no barriers to participation or membership,

And whereas the WBCC is obligated to provide notice and organize meetings for the purpose of informing and receiving comment from residents most directly affected by a development project or zoning review,

We request the Land Use Committee to provide a plan for carrying out our obligations. The plan will include specific needs of the residents concerning providing information and receiving comment from the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

The plan will ask for input from Social Service, Institutions, Colleges and local community groups for input on how best to inform their constituents.

This plan will be discussed and reviewed by the Board of Directors of the WBCC for approval.

Resolution is Tabled. There is a need to open up lines of communications with the Land Use Committee.

C. Cedar Riverside NRP Scopes of Services: Vote of Approval was given for

1. page 22, Strategy Name: 6.1.1 Install Safety Cameras at Key Locations in Neighborhood by 2007.
2. page 40, Community Building and Neighborhood Relations Strategy Name: 14.1.1 Purchase a community gathering tent.
3. page 41, Strategy Name: 14.1.2 Organize up to four community events/gatherings annually.

- D. Tabled Scopes:** for further discussion
1. page 21, Hire a Safety Coordinator.
 2. Page 42, Events Coordinator.

XII. **Motion Made and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.** Meeting Adjourn
8:20 pm