

Approved Minutes
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2007
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

- I. **Call to Order** – 6:06 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: entire board with exception of Marvin Loxterkamp, excused. Todd Smith, Russom Solomon, Bob Metcalf, Doris Wickstrom, Anne Gomez, Jennifer Moates, Africa Abdi, Abia Ali, Mohamed Issa, James Ruiz, Hashi Abdi, Abdirizak Abdi, Mohamed Ali, Jean Lawrence Caron.
- III. **Agenda Approval:** Motion made and seconded to approve agenda. Motion approved.
- IV. **January Minutes:** Motion made and seconded to approve 1-17-07 meeting minutes. Motion approved.
- V. **Jeremy Stratton** – The Bridge community newspaper, introduction. Jeremy handed out business cards and can be contacted at readthebridge.info
- VI. **NRP Items**
 - A. Approve revised lottery guidelines for NRP Housing Program.
Motion to approve Lottery guidelines as amended per Deven's revised document. Motion seconded. Motion carries.
 - B. NRP Scope of services for the NRP Housing Program
 1. CEE program guidelines
 2. Program marketing
Scope of Service: \$8,000 total (\$4,000 between two programs) postcard coming out in 1.5 weeks in English, general info. Then tri-fold brochure in multiple languages coming out soon also. Deven encourages word of mouth.
Todd makes a motion to approve marketing Abia seconds. Doris has question re: wording saying WBCC meaning actually NRP. Deven mentions the actions of the NRP are represented by the WBCC. Robin brought up accountability under our names.
Motion to approve Program marketing. Motion seconded. Motion carries.
 - C. NRP Director search
Interviews will begin Friday and Monday, request board member attendance. Same board member must be available for all interviews. Africa volunteers to attend if she is able.
 - D. NRP Home Ownership Assistance Program
 1. Jim read Jennifer Blevins e-mail aloud regarding the recommendation from the housing committee to expand the use of NRP first-step home ownership funds by allowing qualified buyers to purchase a property in one of the surrounding neighborhoods.
 2. Don Snyder, City of Minneapolis Department of Finance gave an update.
 3. Todd, then Jim made motion to amend Cedar-Riverside/West Bank NRP Homebuyer Assistance Loan and Grant Program document to make applicable to Cedar/Riverside applicants only under "Eligible Applicants" section. "Anyone buying a residential property within the Cedar-Riverside/West Bank, that will become homesteaded and owner-occupied." ... remove all neighborhoods but ours from program guidelines.
VOTE: All approved, but Jean abstained.
Todd motions to approve as amended, seconded, approved. Motion carries.

VII. Letter to Metro Council re: Cedar-Riverside Station

- A. Todd moves to approve letter to be sent to Peter Bell at Met Council. Bob seconds. No discussion. Motion carries.
- B. Mohammed Ali made motion for WBCC to join Dania Partners Task Force. Bob recommend we move to table the motion. Todd seconds. Motion carries.
Robin (Cam's representative) recommends we cc: the University – Cathy and Bob Baker especially need to see this.
- C. Todd makes a motion to amend our resolution to make the LRT stop on Cedar specifically, not Cedar & 19th. Bob seconds. Motion carries.

VIII. Officer Reports

- A. President's Report: Jim went to LRT citizens' advisory committee meeting and highlighted Mark Fuhrman's report seemed to be lacking in progress. Committee will get a tour of LRT line and how to outreach to community. Peg Wolf mentioned that Doris participated in University Impact Report task force. Peg will send Jennifer info.
- B. Vice President's Report: After much ado, no report
- C. Treasurer's Report: No report
- D. Secretary's Report: No report

IX. Cam Gordon Report

Robin gave Cam's report. Highlighted items included a failed vote on the Condo Conversion ordinance, working on a building purchase agreement for the West Bank School of Music, working to repeal the "lurking" ordinance as it currently manifests racial profiling, resolution passed calling for immediate cessation of war in Iraq, and support of an ordinance to ban circuses from bringing wild animals such as elephants and tigers into the city.

X. Committee Reports

- A. Finance – Change to Financial Policy Segregation of Duties – The financial committee recommends changes to the Segregation of Duties to reflect that the NRP Director and the WBCC treasurer will prepare financial statements.
Africa Motions to accept change Hashi seconds. Motion carries.
Abia mentioned Marvin didn't update her. Deven to gave narrative report. Everything is balanced out. Abia and Marvin will co-chair now.
Abia reviews how we all can access bank account now and provides handout of current account summary. Deven questions \$5,000 grant usage/if we received it. Jim and Abia confirmed we received it and we need to plan what to do with the funds. Abia mentions it is specifically to promote immigrant participation in community organizations. Deven wonders if NRP will be involved in decision of fund usage. Jim and Abia say it is in process.
- B. Land Use Committee – Doris left but Jim gave handouts
- C. NRP Steering Committee – see earlier items under section VI.
- D. Community Relations Committee –no report
- E. Safety Committee – Deven reported block club plan. Survey to go out this Friday. Wants at least 250 responses to move on with First Step Plan.
- F. Bluff Street Task Force – no report
- G. Small Area Plan committee – President requests a board member join committee as an alternate. Susannah Dodge explains it will be someone who will chat with neighbors and provide input to committee for city. Doris and Jim are currently appointed representatives, meetings are 2nd Tuesday of month from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Humphrey Institute.

NEW BUSINESS

- XI. **Appointment of a new alternate to the Small Area Committee** – Jim suggested an alternate be made available in the case he cannot attend meetings.
- XII. **WBCC appointments to Organization Development planning committee** – Executive committee recommended Doris and Jennifer (Jennifer in substitute for Jim) for ad hoc planning committee for Org Development with Roger Meyer. Todd makes motion for approval. Bob seconds. Motion carries.
- XIII. **Computer Usage** – The Executive Committee recommends that the WBCC not lend out the laptop for committee meetings and recommends that the NRP steering committee purchase their own computer if necessary. Hashi makes motion to not lend out the laptop, Mohammed A. seconds it. Motion carries. Deven wonders why we would use financial software (Quickbooks) as Segregation of Duties mentions the NRP director is listed as preparing finances. Jim said it changed from accountant to treasurer. Abia mentions due to budget constraints we (WBCC) need to do balance sheets since accountants charge so much. Africa asks for explanation. Jim reads Jennifer's e-mail regarding laptop usage. Abia explains how she and Jennifer will receive training in Quickbooks software and work on updating finances together. Hashi wants to make sure this won't interfere with relationship between NRP and WBCC. Abia assures this won't happen. Deven recommends we keep our separate finances if that is the case. The NRP decided not to fund a laptop. Deven suggests financial policies be changed.
- XIV. **Hiring Policies**
Bob moves to table Hiring Policies again. (Changes not that drastic, there has been a challenge that would be in conflict with the city.) Suggests further discussions with city. Questions that the coalition should be listed as employer when we don't have the authority to hire and fire employees. Deven mentions it is actually the NRP steering committee that has ultimate authority, her error in the document. Bob mentions the liability is ours (WBCC), so we should broaden discussion with city and make changes. Bob spoke with Rhonda but she hadn't had time to review. Todd mentions that we are the last neighborhood of 87 in Minneapolis to use our funding. Africa mentions it is best to be cautious with lawsuits abounding. James Black (guest) mentions we should smooth the animosity and move on. Bob agrees.
Motion made to table, Motion carries.
- XV. **Adjournment:** 7:58 p.m.