

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

- I. Call to Order - 6:10 Present: Jim, Jen, Doris, Abia, Russom, Mohamad, Todd, Marvin, Jean, Robert, Abdirizak, Africa (joined during Roundtable discussion)
- II. Approve Agenda
- III. February Minutes – approved as amended (delete Bob spoke with Rhonda but she hadn't had time to review) motion by Doris, 2nd by Mohamid
- IV. Announcements
 - A. Rhonda introduced Wally McLaughlin, the new NRP director. Wally's first day of work was Monday, March 19, 2007
- V. Dania Partners Roundtable –Tim Mungavan gave a presentation about the purpose and activities of the Roundtable and invited the WBCC to become a member.

Robert asked Tim to address the issues of why there is a need for a separate organization. Tim explained that the reason the Roundtable began the process because at the time, there was not an organization fulfilling that role. The Roundtable also is active in working with other organizations that do not have time to commit to community involvement. Tim also described that the CDC also has some staff and financial resources that they have dedicated to the Roundtable. Todd commented that he did not think that a recommendation from the Executive Committee is not appropriate. Todd also commented that he agreed with the purpose of the Roundtable but felt that too many voices have been a historic problem for the neighborhood and expressed that this could create confusion. Todd expressed that he felt that the Roundtable being involved in the Central Corridor process would be duplicative. Robert commented that he hoped that very soon the WBCC would be able to take a leadership on the Central Corridor and that he is impressed by the Roundtable's ability to consistently facilitate discussion with the many diverse organization in the neighborhood. Robert expressed that this may not be a good structure for the long-term but felt that it would be fine for the present situation. Todd expressed that he would like to see the Roundtable be a group under the WBCC. Tim expressed that the issue to not who is in charge but who has done the work and who has been successful. Robert expressed that this could be an opportunity for the WBCC to start engaging with the other members of the Roundtable and to start moving in the direction of the WBCC taking a more leadership role. Abia expressed that she would like the WBCC to join the Roundtable and use that as an opportunity to work with the other groups and ask them to work more closely with the WBCC. Russom also expressed that the WBCC should join the Roundtable with the intention of ultimately having the members join us. Mohamad expressed that WBCC is in the right position to take a lead on issues in the neighborhood but is lacks capacity. He described the Roundtable as an opportunity to gain that capacity and get the Roundtable members to work with the WBCC. Susannah Dodge, a community member, expressed the opinion that signing the Memorandum of Agreement would be a rubberstamp so that the WBCC could say they have community support when they apply for grants and thought the WBCC should have more oversight. Todd made a motion to make the Roundtable a committee of the WBCC. No 2nd. Robert moved that the WBCC join the Roundtable. Mohamad 2nd. Passed.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Land Use Committee

1. Doris announced the LUC that will take place Thursday 3/22 evening. The committee will work on a vision statement, a purpose statement, review of the Small Area Plan to date, getting a sidewalk on the Dania lot, and a developer's checklist when bringing items to the committee
2. Announced that Bluff Street Park Committee will have organizing a clean-up on April 21
3. Announced that there is a bill at the legislature to provide \$7,000 in funding in conjunction with the University neighborhood impact report.
4. Announced the Central Corridor meeting on April 13. Keith Ellison will be speaking
5. Abia moved approval of the vision statement and purpose that she had been working on. No 2nd. Abia withdrew her motion. The LUC will further discuss these at the meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Payroll Taxes

Robert moved that the WBCC request that the NRP Steering Committee take on the administrative task and the expenses involved in filing 941 forms. 2nd by Africa. Africa explained that this is primarily an issue of not having a budget to fund this. Passed.

VIII. Old Business

- A. League of Women Voters Honorarium – Todd moved that the WBCC give the League of Women Voters an honorarium of \$50 for their services at the 2006 Annual Meeting (check-in and vote counting). Mohamad 2nd. Passed
- B. Africa moved that Jean be appointed of a new alternate to the Small Area Committee. Todd 2nd. Passed

IX. Robert moved that the board adopt the action of the committee of the whole previously made. Abia 2nd. Passed (Approval of agenda and minutes.)

X. Cam Gordon Report

- A. Cam apologized to Doris for his office not responding to her regarding meeting a meeting he had organized regarding the Central Corridor.
- B. Cam highlighted items 5, 6 and 7.
- C. Doris invited Cam to attend the LUC meeting so he could be present during discussion of getting a sidewalk on the Dania lot.
- D. Cam wanted to assure people that he wants to avoid the appearance of having secret meetings regarding important issues and said he would try to be more responsible in this regard in the future.
- E. Cam mentioned that during his meeting with Augsburg College reps, they expressed interest in establishing a shuttle program
- F. Cam reported that as far as he knows there is no longer a purchase agreement between Fine and Dr. Johnson but that that could change in the future.

- G. Cam mentioned that the mosque at 504 Cedar is interested in renovating their building in the near future. The mosque has approached Cam about city grants and resources.

XI. Committee Reports

- A. Rosemary announced that Bluff Street and LRT Safety committees need board members to attend. Jean said he would plan on attending the LRT Safety
- B. Rosemary sent around a thank you letter for Fairview thanking them for their \$15,000 donation to the Safe Zone cameras
- C. Bluff Street Park Task Force – Rosemary announced that the committee is planning on cleaning up the Bluff Street Part lot and the Bohemian Flats on Earth Day April 21st 9:30 – noon.
- D. LRT Safety – Committee is hoping to fundraise \$57,500 to complete funding for the lighting and way finding signage.
- E. District Collaborative Council – The council has formed a sub-committee regarding the West Bank station location. The council is supportive of having the station located at Cedar Avenue and wants to help the WBCC. Rosemary asked people to think about things the WBCC could ask the DCC to help the WBCC with.
- F. Rosemary attended that meeting with Cam and Kathleen O’Brien and felt that Kathleen was willing to work with the neighborhood on the location of the station.
- G. Rosemary attended a meeting with representatives from the Met Council and Peter McLaughlin and felt that the Met Council representatives were open to studying the station location.
- H. Rosemary announced that the subject of KFAI’s program Truth to Tell show this Sunday 3/25 will be issues surrounding the Central Corridor. Rosemary will be participating in the program.
- I. Safety – Russom announced that attendance at Safety Committee has not been good. Luther Kruger has been attending all the meetings and has been putting effort into helping to establish block clubs. Russom asked for referrals on finding contacts for block clubs and suggestions for activities for the Safety Committee.
- J. Finance Committee – Abia gave the balances of the accounts and announced that the WBCC will only have to complete a single year-end report to the city. The WBCC will also discontinue receiving original canceled checks and instead print out the scans of the cancelled checks from online.

- XII. Organizational Development – Jennifer asked the board to review and sign the draft code of conduct from Roger Meyer. Roger Meyer would like this signed before the organizational development meetings are held. Jennifer also sent around a sheet for people to note their availability. Robert expressed that opening the second meeting up to addition people may not serve the purpose of the organizational development and expressed that having a representative from the city NRP may be more appropriate.

XIII. Officer Reports

- A. President
 1. Executive Committee March Draft Minutes were distributed.
 2. Poster to organization was passed out.
 3. Response letter from Met Council re: Central Corridor was distributed.
 4. 1099-Misc for Rodger Meyer has been processed.
 5. NRP is processing MN Unemployment Insurance.

6. NRP is researching whether they need a 1099-Misc prepared – Rhonda reported that since Dendros does not need a 1099-Misc.
7. Todd expressed concern that the Executive Committee brings recommendations to the board and that the Central Corridor flyer listed WBCC as a Dania Partner. Robert explained that at the last meeting the issue of joining the Dania Partners was tabled. Robert explained that in general he is supportive of the Executive Committee meeting between board meeting as filter and prioritizing issues. He explained that in some organizations, an Executive Committee may act on behalf of an organization between meetings but that is not the case for the WBCC. Marvin expressed that only having items to be approved can make board members feel like there issues are not coming to the board unless it is something the Executive Committee wants. Robert recommended that administrative issues come with recommendations but that issues that should be debated not come with recommendations. Robert also suggested the Executive Committee report cases where they have filtered information and chosen not to put it on the agenda.

B. Vice President

1. Jean was scheduled to attend Cam's meeting with Kathleen O'Brien but was not able to attend.
2. Jean will be handling the cancellation of the service from the bank of receiving hard copies of cancelled checks.

C. Secretary

1. Jen will be donating a file cabinet that will be put in the WBCC office
2. Jen is working with Xan on getting the WBCC website updated. There is a problem with access to the website and Jen and Xan will explore getting a different internet website provider.

D. Treasurer – no report in addition to information reported earlier.

XIV. Committee Reports

- A. NRP – No representative from NRP was present to give a report. Robert moved that the board approve the strategy titled “5.1.2 Develop inventory of neighborhood resources”. Abia 2nd. Passed.

XV. Adjournment – 8:03 pm

Attachment to Minutes
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Statement by Susannah Dodge regarding item V:

From Article 1 of the West Bank community Coalition's bylaws, you are "the official conduit of information and advice between the neighborhood – its residents, businesses, institutions and organizations – and the agencies and offices of the city, county and State."

You are allowing the West Bank Community Coalition's name to be used as a partner in a developer's project without official voting oversight on their projects, scope, goals, spending and fundraising.

As a democratically elected Neighborhood representative on the officially recognized Neighborhood group, paring with a developer in the Dania Partner's project is not in line with your fiduciary duty as board members to abide by the mission of the Community coalition stated in Article 1 of the West Bank community Coalition guidelines.