

Approved Minutes
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2007
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

- I. Call to Order as committee of whole – 6:10 pm
- II. Present: Jim, Jen, Doris, Todd, Russom, Abia, Robert; Hashi, Marvin, Jean, Anne, Africa arrived late
- III. Present from the community: Peg Wolf, Susannah Dodge, William – Augsburg student, Gary Esser – Augsburg faculty, Wally – NRP Director, Nathan White & Ms. Gibbins – Afrifest (AF), George Gammons, Cam Gordon, John Bueche – NRP Steering Cmt
- IV. Announcement:
 - a. Mohammad Ali excused
 - b. Jim forgot to announce that Anne Gomez was excused in March and that Marvin was excused from the Feb meeting
- V. Approve Agenda
- VI. March Minutes – Susannah Dodge asked that a transcript of her statement from last month be attached to the minutes. Todd made the motion to approve the minutes as amended to include SD’s comments under item number 5 – approved
- VII. Bob moved to affirm the prior actions taken as the committee of the whole – passed
- VIII. Afrifest Proposal – Presentation by Nathan White
 - AF has put everything on hold for their festival. They had planned to hold the festival at a location in N Mpls before they heard about the possibility of holding it in Cedar-Riverside.
 - The event location would be on 15th Ave between 4th Ave and 6th Ave. Cedar Ave would remain open.
 - Jen asked for clarification what Nathan White is seeking from the WBCC Board. Susannah Dodge explained that Mr. White needs preliminary support from the WBCC in order to proceed with getting permits for the event. She reiterated that the Neighborhood Relations Committee recommends that the WBCC support the event and that the committee plans to continue to work with Mr. White to clarify the size and other details about the event.
 - Abia expressed concern about sale of alcohol because a large portion of the Cedar-Riverside population is made up of children. Mr. White stated that any service of alcoholic drink would be within 2 designated areas. One would need an ID to get into those areas and could not take drinks out of those areas.
 - Hashi asked Mr. White whether he had tried to make contact with other organizations in the neighborhood and suggested that he try to connect with them and then come back for WBCC approval. Mr. White expressed concern that he is running out of time.
 - Bob expressed that he agreed with Hashi and that he also understands the time constraints. Bob asked whether a subcommittee of the board could give Mr. White a list

of people to contact. The Board could give conditional approval subject to an email pool from those people. Bob expressed that that would ultimately help with the financial success of the festival.

- Todd expressed concern that Mr. White would run out of time.
- Russom expressed that we should not make this process difficult but expressed that we should carry out Hashi's suggestion quickly.
- Marvin encouraged the Board to look at this event in terms of whether it is good for the community.
- Doris expressed concern that the Board would be making a decision without consulting the neighborhood. Doris also expressed that if Mr. White's organization is going to promote Bohemian Days, it should also promote The Parade of Community Gardens, which is occurring on the same day.
- Anne expressed that she liked the idea of conditional approval. She wanted to see the proposal explicitly include neighborhood businesses.
- Todd expressed concern about how many people would be talked to and how those people would be chosen.
- **Bob moved that the WBCC support the proposal to give approval to holding Afrifest in Cedar-Riverside subject to an email vote of the board on Monday 4/23 to close by 5pm Monday – passed (ratified by email vote Monday 4/23).**

IX. Cam Gordon Report

- Cam passed out his written report.
- Doris suggested that Cam also work with the WBCC Safety Committee in his efforts to meet with a Riverside Park block club to discuss safety concerns after a shooting in the park.
- Cam announced that the construction behind Riverside Plaza is due to the city working on the water pipes in order to maintain access to them.
- Cam and Doris discussed work on efforts to put in a sidewalk between Cedar and 5th St.
- Cam told the Board that he had encouraged representative from Fairview to contact the WBCC Land Use Committee about their construction plans. Doris announced that she had tried to contact Fairview and Beth Elliot but that neither has responded to her.

X. Officer Reports

a. President

- i. Distributed Executive Committee April Draft Minutes
- ii. Jim has spoken with the City regarding the 990 filing & conducting the audit. Jim verified that the renewal of the nonprofit insurance is underway.
- iii. Jim Announced that the LRT Public Meeting was well attended.
- iv. An IRS Change of Address form has been filed.

b. Vice President

- i. Jean attended the Small Area Committee meeting and the LRT/Fundraising Safety Committee

- ii. Jean will fill Jim's place on the bus tour of the Central Corridor for Community Advisory Committee members.
- c. Secretary – The organizational development meetings are on hold. The NRP Steering Committee has not had a chance to meet and poll the Steering Committee members for availability.
- d. Treasurer – Abia directed Wally to prepare a reimbursement request in order to replenish NRP funds.

XI. Committee Reports

- a. NRP:
 - i. The Human Opportunities Workgroup is working on hiring two interns.
 - ii. Safety Committee heard from Mr. White and recommends the event.
 - iii. Todd asked when the next Economic Development Workgroup meeting would be held. Wally said it should be soon.
 - iv. Unemployment Insurance (UI): Wally announced that NRP would be preparing an appeal to the state to request that expenses pertaining to past UI taxes be waived. Jim requested that the appeal be shown to the Board prior to any action and he agreed. Laura Silver asked several questions about the distinction between back payments and fines but Wally did not have detailed information.
 - v. Land Use Committee – future meeting will be on a Wednesdays
 - vi. Doris presented written minutes from the last meeting.
 - vii. The committee did not review the vision and purpose statement at the last meeting.
 - viii. Todd mentioned that the City will have two reports on the small area plan posted by Thursday 4/19
- b. Safety – 2nd Tues of month
 - i. Russom announced that the addition of the two police officers assigned to the neighborhood will be a positive thing for the neighborhood.
 - ii. The committee is finding organizing block clubs challenging. The door knocking and flyering does not seem to be effective.
 - iii. The committee discussed coordinating efforts with LRT Safety/Fundraising committee but discovered that the LRT Safety/Fundraising committee is primarily working on fundraising.
 - iv. Russom expressed that he would like to see more activities for youth but that planning these was beyond the capacity of the small committee. Abia mentioned that the Human Opportunities Workgroup is working on activities for youth such as the strategies concerning sports equipment and interns. Africa mentioned that her organization organizes soccer teams for youth and invited Russom to attend a planning meeting for this program. Africa also mentioned that Brian Coyle is providing a coach. Doris suggested trying to make a connection with Augsburg to recruit volunteers. Hashi expressed that Russom should not give up on door-knocking and offered to help.

- c. Neighborhood Relations Committee – no additional report
- d. Finance – did not meet, will meet on second Saturday of April.

XII. New Business

- a. Website – Todd moved to approve \$52 to pay for the annual website service - passed
- b. CURA E-democracy pilot project – CURA has inquired whether the WBCC would be interested in being involved in a pilot project involving e-democracy. Jen did some research about the organization. She discovered that it is an online forum where members can talk about issues going on in Minneapolis. The organizers would like a letter of interest from the WBCC regarding being a pilot site. It is not clear what being a pilot site entails. Bob suggested we ask for more information. Jen will continue to work on this.
- c. Marvin requested that the Board do a “Check Out” and offer comments on the meeting and suggestions. He requested that times for items be listed on the agenda. Jim said he will provide these on the next agenda.

XIII. Announcements

- a. John Bueche announced that next Wednesday Bedlam Theater will be putting on their performance of “Sprit of Dania Hall”. This performance is a collaboration between Bedlam, Coyle and the University. The theme centers around neighborhood-University relations.

XIV. Land Use Committee – Doris moved that the WBCC approve the vision and purpose statement of the Land Use Committee as presented.

- a. Todd expressed that he did not think these were needed and that he thought the content was opinionated. He said that the purpose of the committee should just be to act as an interface between developers and the neighborhood. Todd expressed concern that there are no items about economic development in the statements Doris presented.
- b. Bob expressed that he though these statements should be discussed at the Land Use Committee. He said that statements of purpose should be brief in defining the purpose of a committee and should come from the Board. Bob moved to table the motion – passed.
- c. Doris added that all of the content of the statements is drawn from city plans.

XV. Adjournment – 7:57 pm