

Minutes
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2007
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

I. Call to Order – 6:05 pm

Present: Jim Ruiz, Marvin Loxterkamp, Jennifer Moates, Anne Gomez, Russom Solomon, Abia Ali, Robert Metcalf, Todd Smith, Africa Abdi, Mohamed Issa, Doris Wickstrom

Excused: Doris Wickstrom, Hashi Abdi, Jean Caron, Abdirizak Abdi

Present from the community: Peg Wolf, Cam Gordon, Cyn Collins, Susannah Dodge, James Black

II. Approve Agenda – approved with changes (Marvin, Bob-2nd)

III. Approve April Minutes – approved as amended (typos corrected, added that Afrifest passed via email vote on Monday 4/23) (Todd, Anne-2nd)

IV. Officer Reports

A. President's Report

1. Executive Committee May Draft Minutes
2. Secretary of State Annual Registration was mailed 5/15/07
3. Form 990 was mailed 5/15/07, this was prepared by the City free of charge, the preparer also filed an extension
4. Sent email message to Nathan White on 4/24/07 that WBCC voted in favor of supporting the Afrifest event proposal
5. Central Corridor CAC meeting Thursday 5/17/07 5-7pm, cannot attend, the CAC does not allow alternates but the public is welcome to attend
6. Opportunity for input on the Capitol Long-Range Improvements Committee (CLIC) projects – Jim passed around the letter from the city informing the board of the two projects in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood
7. Announced that the Small Area Plan meeting this Saturday 5/19
8. Announced that the West Bank CDC Annual Meeting will be held on Monday 5/21
9. Announced that Doris, Hashi, Jean, Abdirizak have excused absences

B. Secretary's Report

1. Organizational Development – there is going to be a second attempt at convening a meeting. Jen passed around a list of dates that the NRP has suggested (Sunday June 3, 12-4pm; Saturday June 16, 12-4pm)
2. E-democracy – the representatives are interested in speaking at a future WBCC meeting in order to describe their project. They are interesting in having smaller forums for immigrant communities on their webpage.

C. Treasurer's Report – Marvin and Abia met on Saturday 5/12

1. The committee recommends that the accountant only be used for the year-end report and the tax forms. This is not a change to current policies.
2. The committee is concerned that NRP has not been prompt about submitting funding reimbursements requests to the city. This has required that WBCC CIP funds be used to cover for outstanding NRP expenses.
3. The committee inquired whether a board member will be on the hiring committee for the new NRP Director search.
4. The committee is considering a new meeting time of the 2nd Thursday of the month at Coyle. The next meeting will be on June 12th.

V. Cam Gordon Report

- A. Report – Cam highlighted the upcoming roundtable on the future of NRP and neighborhood organizations
- B. Mr. Lux, the owner of Grandma's has put in a bid for the Seven Corners Ramp. He has put in the best bid for the ramp and it is likely that the city will sell the ramp to Mr. Lux. Board members expressed their dissatisfaction with the privatization of municipal property and encouraged Cam to speak and vote against the sale. Todd

expressed that CRBA's concern is that the ramp continue to operate and that CRBA is confident that the market will dictate that the rates will be reasonable. Cam stated that the RFP requires that the ramp continue to operate. Robert disputed the assumption that the rates will remain reasonable. Board members expressed retaining the ramp as a public asset would allow for the most community control. Anne mentioned that she has heard University staff discussing plans to park in Cedar-Riverside because of the University East Bank construction and expressed concern that the neighborhood parking demand would increase.

- C. Jim asked Cam to clarify the situation of the Somali Community Center regarding the fact that the center has been given notice to vacate the building they are currently in. Cam had suggested to Abdul that their organization try to find an empty space and/or city property that they could rent or build on and that they work with the neighborhood organizations to be part of an open public process.
- D. The condemned buildings on 4th Street have been removed.
- E. Cedar-Riverside LRT station has been identified as an "intervention" area. This will help bring in funding for economic development and grants for facades on Cedar Ave.

VI. Committee Reports

A. NRP – no representative present

- 1. Jim announced that he received notice from NRP that they do not need hard copy cancelled checks. Jean will ask Associated Bank to cancel this service.
- 2. Jim announced that he signed the NRP Contract adding \$8,500 to First Step Plan contract for funding of neighborhood services inventory and home improvement strategies and that he will deliver to Rhonda tonight.
- 3. Jim announced that he had received notice that the new NRP officers are: Rhonda – chair through July, Jim Erchul – treasurer, John Bueche – secretary.

B. Safety

- 1. The committee will be door-knocking next Tuesday 5/22. People will meet at 6pm at the West Bank School of Music.
- 2. The committee heard a presentation from the Seward neighborhood's Restorative Justice Program. The committee is considering how Cedar-Riverside neighborhood can collaborate with Seward neighborhood on a program.
- 3. Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm, Brian Coyle

C. Finance

- 1. Marvin inquired whether the neighborhood is on track with the NRP process. With no one present from the NRP Steering Committee that could not be answered. Marvin also inquired about why Wally was terminated. Jim said that the board was not officially informed of the reason.

D. Land Use Committee

- 1. Doris passed out a committee report.
- 2. Grandma's/Seven Corners Ramp - Doris spoke with Mr. Lux and he understands that the board cannot take any action until there is an opportunity for community input. He would like to build an apartment complex on the lot and wants to work with the community. The next LUC meeting will be held on 6/13, 6:30 – 8pm and will be the beginning of discussions with Mr. Lux.
- 3. Fairview will be meeting with Augsburg and St. Cate's to request that their staff use the Fairview ramp rather than on-street parking. Fairview was very cooperative with the community input process regarding the construction project. According to the plan, the 2400-2500 block of 7th Street will be covered by the new hospital edition. Half of this will be green space. No one at the meeting expressed concern about loss of parking.
- 4. Todd expressed his concerns about putting in a sidewalk on vacated 5th Street.

VII. Old Business (7:20 – 5 mins)

- A. Jim shared an email from the NRP Steering Committee that NRP will pay for the Unemployment Insurance fines.

VIII. New Business

- A. Peg Wolf (University of Minnesota) – the Neighborhood Impact Report was sent to the legislature. The University has established a Stadium Good Neighbor Fund that is accepting proposals for enhancement to the neighborhood. The WBCC has an opportunity to have a seat on the fund management group, which reviews the proposals. Peg encouraged the WBCC to find someone who could be a representative on that committee. Peg also encouraged the WBCC to send a representative to the Stadium Advisory Group.
- B. Signing of Charitable Organization Annual Report – Bob made the motion to approve Charitable Organization Annual Report, 2nd by Africa. Passed. Jim and Jen signed the Annual Report.
- C. Background information regarding Smith Partners and their potential role using NRP funds – Todd Smith described a meeting he had with representatives from Smith Partners, an organization that encourages large businesses to invest in the surrounding community. Todd expressed his concerns about the NRP process and that the NRP Steering Committee has not taken any action on this issue. Todd also expressed his concerns that the NRP funds may never be used in the neighborhood if the program expires before the NRP Steering Committee completes its planning. Todd also expressed that he thinks the board has not got much done lately. He challenged board members to participate in committees and NRP workgroups. Robert encouraged board members to participate in committees and workgroups, encouraged Jen to continue working on a WBCC calendar, and encouraged Cam to try to facilitate communication with NRP about the difficulties that are happening with the NRP process. Doris also encouraged board members to participate in committees and asked that board members also encourage community members to participate in committees.

IX. Adjournment – 8:04 pm