

Minutes
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 20, 2007
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center Library

- I. Call to Order – 6:10 pm
Board Members Present: Jean Caron, Jennifer Moates, Abia Ali, Doris Wickstrom, Russom Solomon, Mohamed Issa, Todd Smith, Marvin Loxterkamp, Robert Metcalf, Jim Ruiz, Anne Gomez
Excused: Hashi Abdi
Board Members Absent: Africa Abdi, Abdirizak Abdi, Mohamed Ali
- II. Approved Agenda
- III. Approved 5/16/07 Board of Directors Minutes
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. Vice President's Report – Jean announced that he is having surgery next week and may not be able to attend the next board meeting
 - B. Secretary's Report
 1. Website update – Xan had gone ahead and registered the WBCC for two years on GoDaddy.com rather than one. *Jen moved that the WBCC will reimburse Xan for the expense of two years of server space on GoDaddy.com and the transfer fee after Xan has transferred the site and given all necessary information to Jen. – passed.*
 2. E-democracy – Jen asked whether the board members were interested in hearing a presentation by the e-democracy organizers at the July board meeting. Robert gave feedback that a brief presentation at the board meeting would be fine and no one objected.
 - C. Treasurer's Report
 1. Jim Erchul (NRP Treasurer) and Abia will visit Jeanne (the accountant at Lotts) to work out how she can support the NRP with its financial management.
 2. Abia estimates that the NRP account has enough funds for 3 or 4 payroll cycles before a reimbursement will need to be submitted to the city.
 - D. President's Report
 1. Jim Ruiz submitted the Executive Committee minutes for 6/17/07.
 2. NRP Contract Amendment – action in July. Marvin asked if the contract could be emailed to the board. Jim said he would forward Robert Thompson's email and any electronic information he has to the whole board.
- V. Cam Gordon Report
 - A. Cam passed out his written report and highlighted the hiring of 2nd Ward interns that will be helping with block club organization.
 - B. Upcoming meetings
 1. Free Speech Work Group will work on protocols for the Republican National Convention
 2. Central Corridor public meetings to present the preliminary engineering

3. Community Engagement Task Force – Mohammad Ali has been appointed to the Task Force
4. Jean asked about an undercover patrol that he witnessed recently. Cam was not sure what it was related to but suspected that it might have involved a specific investigation.
5. Cam mentioned that bicycle improvements in the downtown and Cedar-Riverside areas will be installed soon.
6. Doris asked Cam if he had made any progress with City staff on getting a sidewalk installed on the Dania lot. Cam said he had not made progress but suggested holding a LUC meeting with him and CPED staff.

VI. New Business

A. Dania Partners Proposal – Introduction and presentation by Tim Mungavan

Todd asked Tim to explain the purpose of the Dania Partners. Tim explained that the interest for forming the Partners was generated by the Dania site but explained that in order to make change to the Dania site a community engagement process needs to be in place. Such a process can be used for any issue in the community.

Todd asked if the stipends in the Partners process would be ongoing. Tim explained that the reasoning behind the stipends was to share part of the grant funding among the Partners and to offset the time that they invest in participating in the Partners.

Jim expressed that a lot of energy and effort could be used elsewhere if some of the administrative pressure could be taken off of the board members.

Robert expressed that he would like to see the roles of the various community organizations more well defined. Ideally the Partners could eventually be working closer with the WBCC. The biggest current impediments to the WBCC are lack of funds and lack of staff. While this proposal does not solve that problem, and NRP funds should ultimately be used to support the WBCC, this proposal will be helpful in the short-term. He expressed that the board does not need to be concerned that the CDC would have undue influence when they are only offering 5 hours a week.

Todd expressed agreement with Jim and Robert but expressed that item three does not need much time, and that he would hate to see this subjugate the WBCC as the official voice of the neighborhood. Todd also expressed, and Robert agreed, that he does not want the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the board. Tim clarified that item 3 is referring to helping with the CURA grant that the WBCC is working on. Doris expressed that she felt that there could be improvement in genuine outreach on the part of the WBCC.

Abia expressed concern with item 4. Doris expressed that we have to ask for NRP funds to be used to support the WBCC and Tim reiterated that item 4 does not make receiving NRP funds a condition of the proposal but just that some of the WBCDC board members want to have a conversation with the WBCC about its relationship with NRP and about whether there is potential for receiving NRP funds.

Doris moved to approve the WBCDC Capacity Building Proposal for the WBCC as amended. Robert – 2nd, Anne and Jim abstained, passed unanimously.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. NRP Steering Committee – Report by John Bueche, written report submitted by Rhonda
John highlighted that a part-time staff position has been posted. Laura added that the Organizational Development retreat materials were not reviewed at the June Steering Committee meeting. Doris asked why the Full Action Plan was going to be completed this fall without an evaluation of the First Step Plan and asked whether the Phase I funds were secure. John did not know the answers to these questions. John encouraged board members to help recruit new NRP steering committee members and requested that a WBCC representative participate in the hiring process.
- B. Finance Committee – given in Treasurer report
- C. Safety Committee – report by Russom, written report submitted by Russom
Russom said that the committee needs 10 people to participate in a block club leadership training offered by MPD. He said the committee had done a lot of door knocking and sent a lot of emails but they do not have enough people. Abia volunteered to participate. Cam suggested that Russom go ahead and set the date of the training and then invite people reasoning that people will be more likely to attend if they know the date of the training. Russom reported that he had met with Mustafa, one of Cam Gordon's new interns. Russom also mentioned that there was a shooting at Palmer's Bar recently.
- D. LRT Safety Committee – no report, Jean attended
- E. Bluff Street Task Force – no report
- F. Neighborhood Relations Committee – no report, Abia said that Hani had been present earlier but she had to leave. She said that she thinks they are working on Welcome Packets (an NRP strategy)
- G. Land Use Committee – Report by Doris, written report submitted by Doris
Robert moved that the board adopt the recommendation of the LUC and support the WBCDC's project proposal for the Red Nelson site and direct the chair of the board to write a letter of support. Mohammad – 2nd.
Todd expressed a desire to wait until the Small Area Plan is complete and expressed a desire to consider higher density housing for the site. David Markel expressed concern with the potential terms of a sale. Deb gave a short presentation about the project that was similar to the presentation she gave at the LUC meeting. Deb reiterated that the City requires that there be a mechanism for long-term affordability and that the WBCDC is looking at using a land trust to accomplish this. If a land trust is used, then the projects would be part of the City of Lakes Land Trust. Deb also reiterated that the City requires that the homes be owner-occupied. Mohamed expressed support for the proposal. Jean asked how it would be decided who would be able to buy the housing. Deb said the WBCDC would need to develop some criteria to choose buyers. *The motion passed.*
Doris also passed out information about University land use issues.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Organizational Development materials from Roger Meyer – Mohamed and Abia suggested that there be an email discussion and vote on the flowcharts. The vote will close on Monday.

IX. Announcements

- A. Mohamed Issa will be resigning from the WBCC board because he needs to travel out of the country on family matters for up to 6 months.

X. Adjournment – 8:00 pm