

Approved Minutes  
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, August 15, 2007  
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

I. Call to Order: Committee of the Whole convened at 6:06 p.m.

Roll call: Russom, Marvin, Anne, Robert, Jim, Jennifer

Joined later: Doris, Abdirizak, Todd, Abia, Africa

II. Approved Agenda

III. Approved July Minutes with addition to item IV 3 re: Org. Dev't. added:

Decision made that Jim will pose question via e-mail vote to the board: Should we continue our joint NRP/WBCC planning committee for this organizational development process?

Board answered yes to this question via e-mail vote concluded on July 27th.

A. Approved with quorum. Achieved at 6:11 with arrival of Doris and Abdirizak.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Secretary's Report – no report

B. Treasurer's Report – no balance sheet due to problems accessing the bank account online. NRP will be going back to monthly payment requests to prevent the need to transfer funds from the WBCC account to cover expenses. Robert Thompson is looking at the NRP budget to see if there are additional line items that can cover Hani's wages.

C. President's Report

1. Executive Committee minutes 7/31/07

2. Organizational Development update – Jim coordinating training with Roger.

3. WBCC representative to Central Corridor CAC needed (Citizens Advisory Committee) Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. every month. Large Met Council advisory committee – 48 people. Jim unable to make meetings. Anyone interested let Jim know.

4. Sent a Letter to Cam re: July LUC resolutions

5. Rescheduled NRP/WBCC meeting with Rhonda for Tuesday 8/21.

6. Signed and mailed NRP Contract Amendment to Robert Thompson on 7/19

7. Board of Director Vacancy Announcement

Hashi has missed 5 meetings in a 12-month period. Position is open to someone that is a resident tenant, but not a resident of Riverside Plaza as the board is at quota.

V. Cam Gordon Report

Encouraged attendance at public meeting on Monday, August 20 at Van Cleve Park regarding transportation and traffic issues from I-35W Bridge collapse.

Discussed impact on local businesses due to access issues. Cam has had reports of traffic getting better since Washington exit re-opened 2 days ago.

Discussed how Bina would sell lot for \$1.4 million, when encroachment is \$10,000.

VI. Committee Reports

A. NRP Steering Committee – John Bueche reporting.

Approved Housing & Economic Development workgroup recommendation to enter into contract with Smith Partners to undertake economic development consultant strategy.

Jennifer Blevins will be volunteer consultant for staff supervision.

Andie Martinez will be offered position as community organizer for full action plan. Abia participated in interviews.

Todd brought up that \$1,900 is left for personnel in NRP budget and suggested that line items could be shifted to pay Hani. John mentioned the possibility of making a formal plan modification. Bob pointed out amount of time that would take.

- B. Finance Committee – Marvin reporting. Meeting led by Jim Erchul was held last Thursday 8/9. At meeting, Robert brought up issue with Hani and finances for Safety Committee and shifting funds. Bob Metcalf brought up that maybe Human Opportunities workgroup could assign her to work on Safety Committee to get around lack of staff funding. Rosemary said at last NRP SC meeting they decided to focus on this issue. Marvin pointed out that we as a board made up funding allocations in First Step Plan. Todd mentioned that since NRP will be done in 2009, he would like to keep paying Hani so that we're at least using the NRP resources. Doris said it is just Phase II money that is going away. We have barely tapped into Phase I money. Robin will look into clarifying what he can with Bob Miller and others.
- C. Safety Committee – Russom reported block club training in progress. Not a great turnout for NNO at his location, but many people came to NNO at the West Bank School of Music, including Cam Gordon. Someone broke window of Coyle Center staff employee's car, causing concern over criminal activity in the neighborhood. Russom is helping her file reports. Safety Committee is out of funding so Hani can no longer support that committee. Hani is now working for the Human Opportunities workgroup. Board members express a lot of concern over this issue. Jim will bring up at meeting with Rhonda. Doris mentioned that \$46,000 has been allocated for personnel in the NRP administrative contract.
- D. LRT Safety Committee – Rosemary and Chris Ruiz present. Rosemary presented a plan for installing art lighting beacons with sculptural seating and wayfinding signage. The budget is \$456,350 of which they raised all but \$103,000. Chris has written 25 grants. The committee raised \$40,000 from McKnight Foundation. Chris is resigning (since he is moving out of neighborhood), so Rosemary is requesting community volunteers. Todd spoke for the board in thanking them for all of their efforts, and encouraged all board members to join a committee.
- E. Bluff Street Task Force – Rosemary reporting.  
**The committee brought the resolution:** the WBCC recommends that the area known informally as Bluff Street Park become a memorial for the 35W Bridge Collapse victims. Resolution passed. Doreen Bauer, chair, has moved away from the neighborhood. There will be a meeting Thursday August 30 at 5:30 at Riverview Tower. Robert moved to approve the Bluff Street park motion. Abia seconded. Robin mentioned this would fit in with a city venture to make a memorial in that area. Park Board owns the land. Motion carried. Robin requested to receive this on WBCC letterhead.
- F. Neighborhood Relations Committee – no report
- G. Land Use Committee (no August meeting) – Doris reporting
  - 1. September items: West Bank School of Music wants to acquire the access to their parking lot, Dania Lot encroachment, Fairview/U project
  - 2. September LUC meeting will be on September 12th at 6:30pm at Coyle Center. Judy Cedar will talk about options in response to the Albina encroachment.

H. Small Area Plan – Doris reporting. Bike lanes discussed. Business Development focused more on lack of people spending money in neighborhood. There will be an announcement of a presentation of the plan on Tuesday, 9/25. The content concerning Cedar Avenue looks like its getting support. This will be part of the presentation at the 9/25 meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Election to fill Board of Director vacancies – 1 Renter Resident Seat (term through November 2007) & 1 Renter Resident Seat (term through the 2008 Annual Elections)  
Four candidates: Susannah Dodge, Warsame Hassan (lives in McKnight building at Riverside Plaza, works at MPL Library. Finishing masters degree.) Abdille Mohammed (lives in McKnight building at Riverside Plaza, U of M student, active in student union, works at Health Partners Clinic). Abdullahi Mohammed not present but is another candidate.  
Secret Ballot vote held – separately for 2008 seat and 2007 seat. Robin counted votes. Warsame won 2008 seat. Abdille won for 2007 seat.

B. Smith Partners Contract – NRP strategy 7.1.4 Strategic Partners – Todd summarized handouts covering Scope of Services for Cedar Riverside Partnership and Agreement for Consulting Services.  
Todd motioned to have president sign agreement for consulting services with Smith Partners. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment (8:03 p.m.)