

Approved Minutes  
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 19, 2007  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

1. Call to Order – 6:04 pm as Committee of the Whole  
Present: Jim, Jen, Doris, Russom, Marvin, Anne, Robert; Todd joined at 6:10  
Excused: Abia, Abdille, Warsame, Africa, Jean  
Absent: Abdirizak

2. Approve Agenda

3. Approve Minutes – Approved 8/15 minutes

Todd arrived at 6:10 pm

Robert motioned to approve the actions of the Committee of the Whole. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Marvin, passed

4. Officer Reports

- A. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer not present. Financial statements were distributed.

- B. Secretaries Report – no report

- C. President's Report

- a. Executive Committee draft minutes 9/12/07 were distributed
- b. Jim noted tonight's excused absences
- c. Roger Meyer update – Jim met with Deb and Tim and Roger. Roger expressed an interest in complementing the work that Deb and Tim are doing
- d. LRT Safety Committee report for McKnight – the deadline has been extend until 12/1/07
- e. Jacob McKnite nominated for LRT CAC
- f. Dania Partners have decided to start gaining momentum by working on the sidewalk and encroachment
- g. Minutes from 8/28 meeting with NRP steering committee chair were distributed. Rhonda has resigned as NRP Chair.
- h. Jim signed and mailed the 3<sup>rd</sup> NRP Program Contract Amendment to Robert Thompson. Robert Thompson received it on Monday 9/17/07.
- i. Jim attend a U of M class and spoke representing the WBCC
- j. Meetings with State Auditor will start in October
- k. The Smith Partners contract is delayed. This will be discussed under New Business
- l. The WBCC website is up and running at [www.westbankcc.org](http://www.westbankcc.org)

5. New Business

- A. Chris Stedman from the Bridge introduced himself. He is the new reporter covering Cedar-Riverside.

- B. Presentation of Capacity Building work plan by CDC staff.  
Tim presented some of the analysis that Deb and Tim had done as part of their organizational capacity work plan. Tim described a typical funding source/prime contractor relationship. Tim contrasted this with the current Cedar-Riverside NRP process. He also discussed the difficulty with the WBCC accepting funding and the requirement for accountability to the funding source going to the WBCC board but having the authority to act given to the NRP steering committee.

John Bueche noted that the participation agreement doesn't require that there be accountability between the NRP steering committee and the WBCC. John expressed that the NRP steering committee does not have an objection to being accountable to the WBCC. Tim responded that that is fine but clarified that the documents don't reflect that arrangement. John expressed that there are issues with the CDC managing funds. Several board members expressed that they did not understand John's point since the CDC is not managing any funds.

Todd expressed that he thought this was a moot point because the WBCC signed a contract amendment last month. He also expressed that he thought that what John was trying to articulate was that the Minneapolis NRP has some difficulty working with the CDC. Todd expressed that he thinks the NRP steering committee should just be thought of as a subcontractor to the WBCC. Todd expressed that there just needs to be greater dialogue and communication and there is no need to revise the contractual relationships. Todd expressed that it would be a waste of time to try to change the contractual relationships. Tim responded that there are greater issues about whether the WBCC will be able to fulfill the requirements of a contract especially when the amount of funding increasing during the implementation of the Full Action Plan.

Doris expressed that she had never heard what John had expressed about the CDC and NRP. She said the WBCC has been told repeatedly that it cannot change the Participation Agreement. Tim reiterated that the issue is not about personal relationships but about the structure that the contract outlines. Tim expressed that there are multiple options for change. His analysis concludes that the WBCC is in a bad position for being accountable for public money. Tim suggested that one of three options may be agreeable to Minneapolis NRP. The three options were: 1) WBCC is given authority rather than the NRP steering committee, 2) NRP steering committee becomes an independent organization that can have authority (to sign contracts, etc.) on its own, 3) the Minneapolis NRP oversees the Cedar-Riverside NRP process and have the NRP steering committee, and possibly the WBCC, act as an advisory group.

Marvin expressed that he did not understand the goal of this discussion.

- C. Smith Partners contract update. Laura discussed a handout regarding current WBCC contracts and gave an explanation about how the Smith Partners contract has been delayed because a contract amendment to the NRP program contract (contract 23687) releasing funds for the Smith Partners contract is still pending.
- D. Annual Meeting Date – recommendation to move Annual Meeting Date to 11/28. The Annual Meeting had been scheduled for 11/21, the day before Thanksgiving. Robert moved that the date of the Annual Meeting be changed to 11/28. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Marvin, passed.
- E. Election to fill Board of Director vacancies – 1 Renter Resident Seat (term through the 2008 Annual Elections). Robert moved that Laura Silver be appointed to the vacant resident board member seat. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Anne. Passed. Marvin abstained.
- F. LUC resolution re: Dania Site encroachment:

*The WBCC Land Use Committee recommends that the City of Minneapolis not sell the portion of the Dania lot that has been encroached on by the Bina Investment Group (2.55 feet of Lot 14, plus a 1.4 feet easement for building footings, from Meldal and Sunde's subdivision of Block 179, Town of Minneapolis situated in Hennepin County). Since such an action would be harmful to the interests of the community, the committee further recommends that the City seek a legal opinion from an outside attorney prior to taking action to sell the land and prior to taking any further actions concerning this property. The WBCC Land Use recommends that the city report back to the community with the recommendation from outside council.*

Robert questioned why the resolution calls for asking for outside legal council. Todd moved to endorse the LUC resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jennifer. Robert expressed that the question is really an economic question. Cam said he received an informal opinion from an outside attorney that a judge would say the same thing that the City attorneys are saying. Doris clarified that this is concerning public land and that the community is saying that this is against everything the community wants. Doris asked Cam whether that means anything to the City. Cam said that it might and admitted that there are not many cases for the attorneys to base their opinion on. Passed.

Doris also handed out a draft report from the September LUC meeting that included announcements of several public input meetings.

- 6. Cam Gordon Report – Deb asked Cam whether he would be supporting the staff recommendation regarding the Dania lot encroachment. Cam said was undecided. He said a second opinion and additional city attorneys could be a good strategy. However, he cautioned that a delay could give other council members cover to vote for the sale. Doris pointed out that Bina does not clean up the trash behind his building. Cam advised Doris to call 311 and said that Bina could be fined.
- 7. Committee Reports – no written reports were submitted. Since no board members needed to leave to break fast for Ramadan, Jim asked any committees if they wanted to give a verbal report.
  - A. LUC – Doris announced that on 10/10 there will be a LUC meeting to discuss Fairview’s expansion. Bob Lux will also be present to update the community on his development plans in 7 Corners at the Grandma’s lot.
  - B. Safety – There was high turnout at the last committee meeting. A large number of Somali elders have expressed poor relations with the MPD. Luther has reiterated that in general more calls to the MPD means better service. The community is getting very frustrated with relationships and police response.
  - C. NRP – John Bueche passed out notes on the September NRP Steering Committee minutes and other materials regarding the Full Action Plan. He announced that the Full Action Plan is on track for approval on Oct. 6 by the NRP steering committee and on Oct. 17 by the WBCC board.

Todd and Marvin left at 7:29 pm

Russom left at 7:35 pm

- 8. Adjournment – 7:35 pm

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Submitted by

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Date

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Approved by

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Date