

Approved Minutes  
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION  
Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, February 20, 2008  
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

1. Call to Order (6:08)

Present: Jim, Laura, Doris, Russom, Bob, Todd, Jennifer, Ben, Jean Lawrence, Abdi  
Began as Committee of the Whole, but achieved quorum.  
Absent: Abdifatah (excused) Anne, Abdille

2. Approve Agenda Jim, Russom 2<sup>nd</sup>

3. Approve Minutes – 1/16/08 Board of Directors meeting minutes

4. New Business – Part 1

A. Appointment of Tim Schwarz as CAC representative

Tim introduced himself to the board. He works for the City Clerk's office. His application is pending, so he will attend tomorrow's CAC meeting as a member of the public. Moved to appoint Tim Schwarz to be CAC representative. Jim moved, Todd 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

B. WBCC Capacity Building

- a. Training on how to be an effective citizen participation organization (Options: one 2-hour session or two 1-hour periods within board meetings)
- b. Set up a visioning process with Roger Meyer after the training is done  
Tim Mungavan provided "Effective Neighborhood Organizations" handout by Robert Cooper to be used for background of the training. This will help us figure out how to be a successful organization w/o the NRP. Todd inquired if this was a brand new item, Laura informed him it was a continuation of earlier work and fulfilling Roger Meyer's contract. Bob stated meeting on a weekend is often difficult, maybe we should lengthen a board meeting. Laura suggested the possibility of splitting training into 3 meetings. Todd felt this may not be the best use of the board's time. Russom suggested meeting at a different time or form an ad hoc committee. Via a show of hands, 6 of 10 members present said they were willing to do a weekend meeting. Bob suggested Laura email some specific choices of dates and times to the board, which was agreeable to all.

5. Officer Reports

A. President's Report

- a. 2/12 Executive Committee Minutes
- b. BOD vacancies\*

1. Warsame Hassan has resigned (Renter Seat, term through the 2008 Annual Elections) – The seat will now be filled at the March 2008 board meeting pending receipt of notice from interested candidates.
2. There were no applications for Abdirazik's 2007 seat (Renter Seat, term through the 2008 Annual Elections) – Abdirazik Abdi was elected to the board in November 2006. After missing 5 meetings within 12 months, his seat was originally announced as vacant at the October 17, 2007 board meeting. At that time it was announced that the seat would be filled at the next board meeting planned on 12/19/07, that being the next board meeting. The December board meeting was canceled due to Eid. No applications were received for the seat in Dec, Jan or Feb. The seat will now be filled at the March 2008 board meeting pending receipt of notice from interested candidates.  
Note: Abdirazik was elected in November 2007 to a new term on the board through the 2009 annual Meeting.

There was confusion that applicants don't have to be self-nominated. Board members can nominate someone, with 5 days advance notice.

- c. Audit (review of agreed-upon procedures) report emailed to all board members
- d. WBCC is seeking a representative to the DCC

B. Vice President's Report

C. Treasurer's Report

- a. Financial Statements
- b. CIP funds expected to be deposited by next week

Jean Lawrence spoke of his personal observations at the NRP SC meeting. Some members are genuinely interested in working with the WBCC board and don't wish to compete, rather to be complimentary in their separation from our board.

Doris questioned if that meant financial support also. Jean Lawrence said that hadn't been discussed yet.

c. Jean Lawrence requested his middle name be included in the minutes.

D. Secretary's Report

No report.

6. Cam Gordon Report

- A. Fairview: Cam mentioned he had to abstain from Fairview issues, disclosing his wife works there.
- B. Sgt. Preston's License: He will send us information on the conditions placed on the recent Sgt Preston's license. Sgt. Preston's may be hosting DJs/bands 4 nights/week.
- C. LRT: LRT looks like it will be an at-grade platform. He is addressing traffic concerns.
- D. Bike access from #9 bridge – Cam got \$1.2 million between downtown and University to preserve connection by building a culvert under the new 35W bridge.
- E. NRP/Smith Partners: Doris questioned group formation that Mike Christiansen referenced. Cam said maybe Mike is working with reps from the NRP SC to form a strategic partnership group re the Smith Partners project, but it doesn't exist yet. They want a WBCC decision-maker. Todd may have presented himself as the WBCC rep, but this needs confirmation. Cam mentioned that University doesn't appear to be interested in this project. Ben clarified that University isn't balking, Cam agreed.
- F. NRP: Jim asked Cam if he was still willing to set up a meeting between NRP SC and WBCC,. Cam suggested that NRP staff not attend this initial meeting.

7. Committee Reports/Items

A. NRP

- a. Rebuttal to Thompson's critique sent to Robert Miller 2/15; emailed to Board  
Todd brought up how our NRP SC/ WBCC meeting never occurred. Laura clarified we asked them to have a discussion about it, not that they had to make a choice about it. Todd expressed his unhappiness with their choice to incorporate as a separate entity. He questioned Laura supporting this as an NRP SC member, and now saying it is wrong. She countered saying she advocated it as an option, figuring the SC would come to the board saying it was their preferred option. The fact that NRP went ahead without discussing with the WBCC wasn't anticipated. She clarified that option #1 wasn't an option only because the NRP wouldn't consider it. Todd questioned our response to Robert Thompson's letter and said it seemed defensive instead of projecting an attitude of let's consider how we can improve. Bob mentioned how Robert's letter was after the fact. Robert didn't tell us his benchmarks in advance of the critique, and we couldn't let something like that go without a response.

Todd referenced Capacity Building Work Program document. Maybe it's more efficient to have the groups be separate, but let's try to get it back. Laura countered saying it is clear the current organizational system isn't working for the WBCC. Two separate groups may work.

Abdi validated our response letter, highlighting that we didn't bring up any issues of separation. Suggested we look to future to work together. If our groups had come together (united) to Robert Thompson about implementing the program as it should be, this may not have happened.

Bob mentioned Cam and John Bueche seemed agreeable to working together. It would be a waste of time and energy to fight this decision. We should move on as long as we become comfortable with our roles in the future of our organizations.

Russom suggested inviting Robert Thompson to a meeting. Jean Lawrence said we'd have to make our BOD meeting occur on a night other than a Wednesday.

Abdi suggested we map out our organization's mission so there is no confusion in the future.

Laura said John Bueche has been open to a conversation, Cam has offered to be there. Bob mentioned how we definitely don't want to get in the way of NRP funding, let's meet w/ Cam and NRP SC to attempt to clear the air of our issues to make some progress. Laura summarized that we should have a conversation with the NRP of how best to work with the neighborhood.

**Safety Committee** – Russom mentioned problems on Cedar Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. They visited the area businesses to suggest they call 911 if there are any incidents. Not all incidents seem to be reported. Crime stats show crime down 16%. They are in the process of discussing how they should use their Safety Committee Funds. Professor Garry Hesser from Augsburg has a student group studying our area, which may help the safety of our neighborhood.

**LUC Committee** – See new business. Todd asked if there was input submitted about Small Area Plan. Doris has sent in neighborhood comments. Laura handed out summary of comments she had received.

8. New Business – Part 2

A. LUC Report / Fairview Good Neighbor Agreement

Neighbors are happy with the signing of this document, as it will lead to monthly meetings with hospital. Coalition needs to approve Fairview Good Neighbor Agreement and send letter to involved parties. Bob moved, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

B. Univ Alliance RFI (Request for Ideas) - Pedestrian Enhancement and Sequential Gateway Project

Doris submitting proposal to fund wayfinding beacons/lighting/public art. This is a continuation of the work that the LRT safety committee began. The goal of the Alliance is to create an organization that will work on improving the communities adjacent to the University. Doris and Laura are our representatives.

Bob made a motion to endorse the “Cedar Riverside LRT Station Pedestrian Enhancement and Sequential Gateway project” idea as drafted. Ben 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved. Doris will put a letter on WBCC stationery and submit.

C. CE Core Principles / Review and comment on CE TF report and NRP WG report

Citizen Engagement – comments needed by March 17<sup>th</sup>, our next board meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>. Laura suggested board members comment as individuals. Laura sent out her suggestions by email (possible not received by the board – Laura will re-send). Ben suggested the board empower the Executive Committee to draft a comment letter and circulate a draft to the entire board before the comment period ends. Bob moved. Todd 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

Jim moved that the WBCC adopt the Core Principles of Community Engagement. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

D. Announcements

Jim and Abia spoke at the CURA conference and it will receive mention in the publication TC Planet.

Ben announced he has been working with the youth council at Coyle Center. They played a basketball game against Humphrey Institute. Next game occurs March 7th at 6:00pm.

9. Adjournment(7:56)

\*WBCC Bylaws, Article V Section 8 - VACANCY : A vacancy, no matter how it is caused, shall be filled by a majority vote of all remaining directors. Once a vacancy has occurred, it shall be declared at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the president at least 5 days prior to the following regularly scheduled board meeting, at which time the new director will be elected. A director elected to fill a vacancy will serve out the rest of the unexpired term of the director who left the board.

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Submitted by

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Date

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Approved by

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Date