

Approved Minutes  
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION  
Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, May 21, 2008  
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

1. Call to Order (6:03)

Present: Russom, Bob, Doris, Anne, Jennifer, Ben, Jim, Laura, Jean Lawrence, Todd

Absent: Abdifatah Samatar (excused), Abdille, Abdi

2. Approve Agenda: Anne moved to approve agenda, Jim seconded, approved.

3. Approve Minutes – 4/16/08 Board of Directors meeting minutes (signed 3/19/08 Board of Directors meeting minutes)

Jim moved to approve, Jean Lawrence seconded, approved.

4. Officer Reports

A. President's Report

a. May Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

b. BOD vacancies – 2 Renter Seats, both terms through the 2008 Annual Elections, no nominations for May.

c. WBCC is seeking a representative to the DCC board and to the DCC Northern Alignment Committee

d. Excused Absences – Abdifatah, and it is his 5<sup>th</sup> missed meeting

B. Vice President's Report (not present)

C. Treasurer's Report

a. Financial Statements

D. Secretary's Report: no report

5. Cam Gordon Report (see printed report)

• Resurfacing 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue approved

6. New Business

2008 Charitable Organization Form (with 990 attached)

Laura proposed the following resolution: We hereby state and acknowledge that we are duly constituted officers of the organization named in this Annual Report, being the President and Treasurer thereof, respectively, that this Annual Report is executed on behalf of the organization pursuant to resolution of the West Bank Community Coalition Board of Directors duly adopted on the 21st day of May, 2008, approving the content of this Annual Report and all its attachments.

Jim moved to pass resolution, Jean seconded, **motion passed**.

7. Presentations

A. **Ann Peterson** - President of the SE Publications Board (They partner with Triangle Park to publish The Bridge newspaper): solicitation for feedback on how to best represent West Bank issues in The Bridge, and general ideas/suggestions

B. **WBCC Capacity Building** – Tim Mungavan

Tim summarized April 9 meeting and training exercises. Next steps include: agree on organizational vision, find a good org development consultant, develop funding proposals to reach organizational vision.

Todd brought up fragmentation of groups/competing groups in fears section, and how we should be trying to consolidate our groups instead of creating more, for example Dania Partners could fall under WBCC umbrella. Tim agreed and said this is just a first step. Jim suggested we work on vision statement to move forward. Tim suggested finding a consultant that will agree to be paid once we get our first grant. Jim, Robert, Ben, Jennifer and Todd agreed to the possibility of a committee if Roger Meyer could help. Tim agreed to arrange the group and contact Roger Meyer.

C. **Linda Bryant** - Summer Streetwerks Initiative

Youth group of 120 people that conducts cleanup and cleansweep projects, yard & garden work for senior citizens, vacant home lots, etc. Program runs June 23-August 8. Suggestions welcomed for projects – no one has contacted them from our neighborhood yet. They lay sod, take care of flowers, and other duties mentioned in brochure (for those 7 weeks).

Linda will be doing a walkthrough with all the businesses on Cedar Avenue as she has received feedback about uncooperative business owners. Todd suggested Linda interact with new WBBA (formerly CRBA) staff member.

Todd made **motion** requesting Streetwerks group work to clean up and remove graffiti in corridor between SE Washington bridge on Cedar to 94 bridge on their regular 7 week rotation. Bob seconded, **motion approved**.

8. Committee Reports/Items

A. **NRP Contract Closeout**

Laura stated the CRNRP and Lotts are working on a NRP reimbursement request for the WBCC. Smith Partners has submitted an invoice to the WBCC and there are currently not enough funds in the WBCC NRP checking account. As we don't have funds, one option would be to extend the contract with NRP so that we could receive additional funds to pay the invoice. Doris requested to see the report on the work Smith Partners performed. Laura confirmed that the report has not been delivered to the WBCC, and as far as she knows it has not been delivered to the CRNRP. Todd confirmed that the report has

not been delivered to the CRNRP HEDI workgroup. Todd offered to call Louis Smith and ask him to just bill the NRP instead in order to avoid the contract extension. All agreed to Todd's offer.

**B. LUC**

- a. City of Minneapolis Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grant event – 5/17 & 18  
Tree planting event occurred last weekend, about 20 people attended. Thank you to Doris, Rachel, Lauren, Abebe, Jennifer, Target Printing Services, and the City of Minneapolis
- b. Land Use Committee Report – 5/7
  - Augsburg master plan proposes to close 7<sup>th</sup> street and build a ramp on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, there was much negative feedback and concern about traffic safety.
  - U of M made presentation about Central Corridor LRT Northern Alignment.
- c. Upcoming LUC Meeting 5/28 re: Coyle Center Sale
  - Park Board and Pillsbury United will be there to discuss options.
  - Sherman Associates will make a presentation about their request for funds from the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
  - Scott Vreeland will make presentation about current Park Board activities.

**C. Safety**

- a. Humphrey Institute Student report. Mary Benasutti announced that both the student Safety Report project and Bluff Street Park Report project will be available online once they are finalized.
- b. Amina, U student and Coyle volunteer requested to speak about shootings – she was in the Coyle parking lot during a drive-by shooting yesterday. She has decided to do something about it and invited people to accompany her on May 26, 3-6pm door knocking and passing out flyers, and on May 31, 3-5pm for a meeting at Coyle Center gym. She is working with Hani, but Russom suggested she work with the Safety committee to pool resources. She will contact Jennifer Moates with any updates.
- c. Russom reported about shooting at West Bank grocery Monday 5/19 11pm and shooting at Coyle Tuesday 5/20 that could be retaliatory.
  - Good attendance at last meeting – Cam, police department were present. No arrests made yet from homicide last month.
  - There was a meeting between business owners in the 6<sup>th</sup> & Cedar area. Good talks are beginning.
  - Ben mentioned students feel perceived racial profiling by police in neighborhood and Student Somali association wants to get involved.
  - next meeting June 3, 7:00 Coyle library (first Tuesday each month).

**D. Bluff Street Task Force, Merrie Benasutti reporting**

- a. Humphrey Institute Student report presentation – 6/4 @ 5:45 pm, Humphrey, room 184  
Reports will be posted online once they are completed.

**9. Other Reports**

- A. **Dania Partners** – Jim reported he chaired a meeting at Dar-Al-Hijra two weeks ago. The WBCC has received stipend funds from the Dania Partners that is approximately equal to 50% of total annual funds that the WBCC received from the City.
- B. **Central Corridor CAC** – Tim Schwarz reported schematics are available to view at libraries along the corridor, CAC is seeking feedback on the schematics.
- C. **University District Partnership Alliance** – Laura resigned, Doris reported everything is still in progress.
- D. **Peace Rally** – Anne Gomez reported that she was impressed with the leadership by Somali youth leaders and recommended that the WBCC engage with them in the future.

**10. Adjournment (8:02)**

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Submitted by

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Date

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Approved by

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Date