

Approved Minutes
WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION
Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, July 16, 2008
6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Community Center

1. Call to Order (6:00) as committee of the whole
Present: Ben, Laura, Doris, Jim, Jen, Jean Lawrence. Board convened to approve minutes with addition of Robert and Todd.
Absent: Russom (excused), Anne
2. Approve Agenda approved with amendments
3. Approve May Minutes – 6/18/08 Board of Directors meeting minutes (sign June Board of Directors meeting minutes)
4. Officer Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - a. No July Executive Committee Meeting
 - b. Ongoing BOD vacancies – 2 Renter Seats, both terms through the 2008 Annual Elections
 - c. New BOD vacancies - 1 Business Seat and 1 Renter Seat, both terms through the 2009 Annual Elections
 - d. BOD nominations: Mohamed Abdullahi was nominated by Jim Ruiz on 7/11/08
 - e. Abdifatah Samatar sent a letter of resignation on 6/18/08
 - f. WBCC is seeking a representative to the DCC board
 - g. WBCC is seeking a representative to the Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation
 - h. Restorative Justice Community Action Somali Community/West Bank Systems Change/Outreach Plan – for comment
 - B. Vice President's Report (open seat)
 - C. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Financial Statements
 - D. Secretary's Report (no report)
5. New Business
 - A. Appointment of Mohamed Abdullahi
Introduced himself. Works in youth education at Somali American Education Program and lives in Cedar/Riverside.
Motion to appoint Mohamed Abdullahi to renter's seat by Robert, seconded by Ben. **Motion passed.**
 - B. Gera Pobuda – Bohemian Flats Day announcement/volunteer recruitment
Asked for volunteers to interview with Comcast (see flyer).
Doris said she will represent WBCC and will be there to sign up people for the Climate Change Grant.
 - C. Ona Keller - Strong Schools Strong City Referendum campaign
\$60 million referendum for class size reduction, teacher pay, basic education materials, textbooks and technology. Funds raised via \$17/month homeowners tax. Has an independent oversight committee.
 - D. Ben Marcy – eDemocracy Project
Met with Steve Clift, who asked Ben to be part-time neighborhood forum leader. Laura said she's received feedback that people prefer oral communication. The board agreed that it is a great idea but the computer access for immigrants is an issue.
6. Cam Gordon Report
 - 5th street sidewalk issue didn't make the definite list for funding, but still a possibility.
 - No suspects found or updates on the two recent homicides.
 - T3 vehicles could be applied for within 5 months. December is next budget time.Cam's son announced "speech over!"
7. Committee Reports/Items
 - A. NRP Contract Closeout – working down the balances.
Todd – Smith Partners initial meeting set for July 28, 10am at Augsburg. Offered to be our representative, but is not yet formally. Todd will go to first meeting and report what it involves. Laura requested Todd have Lewis send invite to Jen to forward to board.
 - B. LUC
 - Resurfacing of 20th Ave was discussed at last meeting. It will take 1 day to grind up surface, 1 day to re-apply surface asphalt. No specific date given. Property assessments were discussed.
 - Next meeting will be Aug. 13th, Coyle Center. Traffic patterns, development issues in central corridor LRT station will be discussed, Hennepin County, State of MN, Jessica Hill will be there, U of M, City of Mpls. (possibly Augsburg). Focus will be coordination of all groups from past feedback.
 - Riverside Park Task Force looking at park restoration and different funding sources.
 - C. Safety
 - a. Brian Coyle Youth Council Mural Project
 - b. National Night Out – Ben Marcy
Committee was considering Dania site, but discomfort with alcohol establishments nearby led to Currie Park location

choice. Park Board approved use of location..

Safety patrols – Ben said they’ve done 6 walks Tues and Fridays in last month and have recruited 20 people along the way. Asked that board members do it 1 hour/wk. Brian Coyle & Bedlam got grant \$ to do mural project each year. Aiming for graffiti hotspots. Want adults and kids to participate in “Painting a New Community” Thurs, 7-24 6:30 will take place August-September. Possible locations for murals are: Keefer Court Bakery wall, Cedar Cultural Center wall, African Mall facing LRT station.

- D. Bluff Street Task Force – see emails
- E. Neighborhood Relations (no one present to report)

8. Other Reports

A. Dania Partners

Jim reported he attended Leadership meeting last Thursday. Agreed on criteria for outreach plan and staff will research models to use for outreach and research demographics further.

B. Central Corridor CAC – Tim unable to attend 7/17 CAC meeting

Jessica Hill reported on SDEIS. August 7, 5pm Open House at Brian Coyle to ask engineers questions. 6pm formal hearing where the community can give testimony.

Special session on Thursday 7-31, 7pm on station design at Goodwill at Fairview & University.

Mall on Washington Ave Community meeting mid-August, details to be announced.

C. University District Partnership Alliance – Gateway Project

Peg Wolff reported Vision Committee is working on marketing materials to get more info to community and more involvement, and other committees are very busy. Doris attended preservation group. Cam reported there is a \$10,000 forgivable loan option – about 15 available for home ownership incentive.

Laura requested more information on Gateway Project to keep the community informed.

D. CURA Grant

Standing item – on hold. Additional outreach meetings at larger mosques in neighborhood planned. Meet your Muslim neighbors community building workshops with Adbi sal’am at aj-alhidra planned. But his is out of country for 2 months, so updates in future.

E. Capacity Building / Vision work group meeting

Ben reported they worked on defining capacity building, building upon May meeting. Ben is forming vision statement for July 30 meeting. Members will contact consultants. Todd suggested we go ahead with Jay Clark.

Ben spoke with Jay and said first meeting is about recruiting, next 4 are based on what groups decide they want to work on. Doris stated her opinion that Jay is a good cheerleader, but not necessarily going to help with our fundraising goals.

F. WBCC-CRNRP-Cam Gordon meetings

a. Next meeting 7/21, Jim and Laura will not be in attendance.

b. Draft WBCC capacity proposal in process

Doris handed out Concept Plan for Cedar Riverside NRP Scope of Service. \$40,000 available for developable space.

Robert moves we move plan to workgroup, Jim seconded. Ben abstained. **Motion passed.**

Desiree from CHANCE spoke about how their group affects community. Humphrey replacing the 40 computers in their labs PSAS (Public Affairs Student Org) trying to donate to community. Looking for nonprofits who would like these. Trinity and Riverside Plaza Tower resource center have already been designated by their group. Needs letter of intent of how it would be used and how it would help your organization run better.

9. Adjournment (8:02)

Submitted by

Date

Approved by

Date