

WSCO Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2015

Present: Salina Amey, Matthew Bergeron, Lewis Dixon, Amelia Holcomb, Kathy Larson, Armando Luna, Alice Martin, Christine Shyne, Pam Welisevich, Mason Wells, Nicholas Bundt, Alicia Lucio.

Absent: Philip Espinoza Day, Dan Martinez, Benjamin Mike, Joe Gould, Ruth Lott, Krysten Ryba-Tures, Carol Swenson.

6:35pm – Called to order.

Consent Agenda

- March agenda, February minutes, February finance report, February fundraising report, February cashflow. Board reviewed documents and discussed this year's budget.
 - Motion to approve documents by Salina, second by Alicia.
 - Approved.

Strategic Plan Review – Proposal for New Process

- District council system received another grant for continuing work on projects and indicators within St. Paul districts. There would be presentation on community capital and work on defining indicators for the upcoming year. One other district has participated and highly recommend this opportunity. Proposing that WSCO participate in this process rather than doing a board retreat this year. Would likely take place the week of March 30th.
 - Nicholas motions that this serve as the WSCO retreat and be held the evening of March 30th, second by Alicia.
 - Approved.

Stryker Garden Request

- WSCO holds the lease for the community gardens and community members have managed the gardens and finances. Two lead gardeners asked for WSCO to possibly help manage finances or be a fiscal sponsor because Monica Bryand is stepping down from this role. WSCO would likely garnish 5% of funds for this service.
 - Motion that WSCO provide these accounting services for the Stryker Garden and will reevaluate in a year by Salina, second by Matthew.
 - Approved. Christine will draw up a contract that the board can see at the next meeting.

Board Mentorship Efforts Proposal

- The board can become more or less representative of the community it serves based on the changeover and this is an important factor for funders. Christine proposing that board members reach out to community members to mentor so that the board may become more representative with future elections. Alicia reports that there are community members that are interested in opportunities with the board. Several board members discussed the importance of maintaining diversity on the board and increasing the board's level of community engagement.
 - Motion to deliberately incorporate these goals into the strategic plan and ways WSCO leadership can be reflective and connected to the diverse community we serve by Matthew, second by Alicia.
 - Approved.

Youth Job Opportunities

- The deadline is on Friday for youth apprenticeship project opportunity through Right Track and YAP. The city partners with organizations to provide paid positions to the youth to facilitate networking, skill building, and constructive behavior. This announcement will be posted on the WSCO Facebook tonight so that more youth can learn about this opportunity.

76 Baker Property and Baker Rec Center Updates

- 76 Baker – vacant lot across from Humboldt. The city of St. Paul pulled this lot off of the auction list so WSCO can purchase. WSCO will be working with several organizations to do fundraising for purchase so that this can be an outdoor space for community events and gardening.
- Baker Rec Center – preliminary drawings have been made for the renovations that will be done by SPPS. WSCO is still meeting regularly with the district on 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1:30-3pm to keep communication open.

Task Force Updates/Committee Updates

- River Development and Land Use Committee – Discussed potential development on George and Stryker and are moving forward with exploring lots and opening community conversation. Seeking out economic opportunities in this area. Next meeting this Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30pm. Will be looking at this area and capital improvement budget proposals. Proposals include lighting on Oakdale, intersection of State and Cesar Chavez, and bike lanes on Wabasha.
- Crime and Safety Committee – Neighborhood has been relatively quiet because of winter. The dense crime around the Burger King area is on the city's radar. Thinking to place no trespassing signs so that police are able to act. Committee hoping to host potluck on May 28 at 76 Baker location. Next Crime and Safety meeting is in two months.
- Art on the Avenue – Working with WSP and businesses. Idea to possibly close Smith or get liquor license, but this is expensive and will likely be explored next year. Date is set for July 28th. Meetings are set for the first Mondays of the month.
- Sustainable Living Committee – Looking at project of giving out seed packets with seeds for pollinator plants. Spoke with Tree Advisory Panel about protecting trees.
- Growing West Side – Seeking participants in Beans on the Boulevard and more vendors for the West Side Farmer's Market.

Board 30-Second News Updates

- Two upcoming workshops: Leadership Development at Neighborhood House on March 28. May 9 workshop at Neighborhood House for using art as a community building tool.
- Meeting tomorrow (3/10) for Cinco de Mayo event planning. Many volunteers needed.

8:35pm – Motion to adjourn by Matthew, second by Lewis. Meeting adjourned.