

**West Bank Community Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
January 18, 2012
6:00 – 8:00 pm, Brian Coyle Community Center**

Call to order – 6:05 pm by WBCB President Osman Ahmed.

Directors present at 6:05 pm: Mohamed Abdullahi, Dr. Osman Ahmed, Osman Ahmed, Brandon Baumbach, Janet Curiel, Fartun Diriye, Abdisamad Ibrahim, Mohamed Jama, Abubakar “AJ” Jeylani, Dahir Jibreel, Bill Palmquist, Tsegaye Shibeshi, Russom Solomon

Announcements

Peg Wolff (University of Minnesota) – announced grant deadline for Good Neighbor Fund; this year’s theme is “world at your doorstep.”

Dan Pfeifer – Central Corridor LRT Construction update. Most construction work completed for the winter, with minimal work continuing on Washington Ave. bridge and West Bank LRT station.

Approval of agenda

Russom motioned to add to the agenda the consideration of a resolution regarding the Safety Center at Riverside Plaza.

Brandon seconded.

Call for discussion. None.

All in favor.

Brandon Motioned to approve agenda.

Abdisamad seconded.

No discussion.

All in favor.

Approval of November minutes

Brandon motioned to approve.

AJ seconded.

Call for discussion. None.

All in favor; no abstentions.

Approval of WBCB Annual Meeting election results

Executive Director Michael Schmitz read off the results, approved by the League of Women Voters (see appendix).

AJ Motioned to approve.

Brandon seconded.

Call for discussion. None.

All in favor; no abstentions.

Officer and Committee Reports

President

Osman noted that there is a current conflict between residents at Riverside Plaza and the building management, and asked Riverside Plaza Tenants Association Executive Director Abdulkadir Warsame to speak about it.

Abdulkadir noted that tenants complain about the customer service of Sherman Associates [owner of Riverside Plaza] management team, noting in particular accusations of discrimination. Tenants contend that people are indiscriminately being taken off of the waiting list for apartments and told that no units are available when in fact there are available units. Abdulkadir noted that Sherman Associates is going to have a one-on-one meeting with him. Elders from Riverside Plaza have put together a petition to demand that any discriminatory practices be stopped.

Treasurer

No update

Secretary

Brandon noted that the new neighborhood relations committee is going to begin work on outreach events soon.

Safety

Russom noted that for the year, crime continues to trend downward. The relationship with the police is great and there were no major incidents in the summer.

Janet noted that there have been some safety programs in the neighborhood the focus on women.

Russom asked the board to consider a resolution from the WBCC board asking Sherman Associates to fulfill its obligations towards building a safety center as outlined in the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding.

The board discussed the resolution and agreed that Russom would meet with Sherman Associates management on Friday, January 20, and then send a resolution to the board for voting by email with a response by 5PM on Monday.

The sense of the resolution would be to hold Sherman Associates accountable for their commitments in the MOU.

Voting on 2012 WBCC Board Officers

Osman explained that the board will vote on 2012 officers, and noted the different positions (i.e., President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary).

Dahir nominated Osman Ahmed for President.

Dr. Osman Ahmed [no relation] seconded the nomination.

Tsegaye nominated Bill for president; Bill declined.

Call for discussion; none.

All in favor, none opposed.

AJ nominated Mohamed Jama for Vice President.

Brandon Seconded.

Call for discussion; none.

All in favor, none opposed.

Osman nominated Russom for treasurer.

Dahir seconded.

Call for discussion, none.

All in favor, none opposed.

Tsegaye nominated Brandon for secretary.

Mohamed Abdullahi seconded.

Call for discussion: Brandon noted that he might be moving after graduating this spring.

All in favor, none opposed.

Executive Director Update

Approval of 2012 Budget

Executive Director Michael Schmitz presented a 2012 budget for the board to approve (see appendix).

Board discussed size of budget for past five years; how city looks at fundraising; what the costs for "development" are; how funds are "rolled over" (board asked for follow-up clarification).

Russom motioned to approve the budget as presented.

Abdisamad seconded.

Call for discussion; none.

All in favor, none opposed.

Approval of 2011 Annual Report

Michael presented the report (same as available from Annual Meeting with additional note regarding Riverside Plaza renovation MOU).

Brandon motioned to approve.

Tsegaye seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Neighborhood Priority Planning Update

Michael explained planning process and work with Cedar-Riverside NRP and University of Minnesota CHANCE group.

Board discussed focus groups, specifically looking at who should be involved and how their feedback would inform priority plans.

Board also discussed how this planning process was different than past processes and how the information gathered would be used.

CR-NRP and WBCC “agreement”

Osman brought up a previous agreement between the CR-NRP and WBCC, which expired in spring 2011.

The board discussed the nature of the agreement and why it would be necessary.

Russom motioned to continue discussion with CR-NRP of the agreement with the intent of renewing it.

Tsegaye seconded the motion.

Call for discussion.

Board members asked to hear more about the agreement.

Russom motioned to form a committee to investigate the agreement.

Tsegaye seconded.

All approve, none opposed.

Tsegaye nominated Osman, Russom, and Brandon. AJ seconded.

Russom nominated Tsegaye. Dahir seconded.

Call for discussion. Mohamed Jama asked that no decisions be made until the board hears about it.

All approve, none opposed.

Notice of Public Hearing

Michael noted that on January 17, the City Council’s Community Development Committee approved up to \$27,000,000 in bonds for the financing of an apartment on 15th Ave. across the street from Curry Park. The apartments would be developed by Fine Associates.

The board inquired about the possibility of pursuing a community benefit agreement. The board discussed.

Dahir motioned to create a committee to investigate the possibility of a community benefits agreement for this development.

? seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Osman nominated Bill.

Janet nominated Mohamed Jama.

Tsegaye nominated himself.

Osman nominated AJ and Dahir.

Brandon motions to approve.

Russom seconded.

No discussion.

All in favor, none opposed.

Council Member Cam Gordon Update

Gordon discussed:

- The City’s plan for basic sidewalk replacement on Cedar Avenue.
- CPED planning initiative – hiring a consultant to look at development of public properties around West Bank LRT station.
- Notified community of upcoming RFP for manager of Lot A.
- Notified community of upcoming meeting with Sherman Associates regarding Riverside Plaza renovation. No date set at that point.
- City budget cuts: funding for public housing community organizers was cut, but hopes to keep positions for one more year; neighborhood clinics (including People’s Center) lost some funding.

The board asked about the delay in proposed 90 minute parking restrictions. Gordon took note.

Gordon also indicated that the City will look for input on RFP for Lot A. The parking committee of the West Bank Business Association is already looking at it; he will try to get input from WBCC as well.

Other announcements

Bill announced that the Hunger Initiative aims to pack 1 million meals for a refugee camp in Kenya suffering from the drought in Somalia. Volunteers can pack meals on February 25 and can find information at www.thehungerinitiative.org

Adjourned – 8:00 PM