



**Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 10, 2023**  
**(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)**

**Attending:** Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Becky McIntosh (T), Dembo Darboe, Mary Peterson, Mario Vargas (Executive Director).

**Absent:** Incha Krein, Jamie Lieser, Melissa Wallingford, George Hall

**Guests:** Jennifer Weisanen (Minneapolis Police Department {MPD} Crime Prevention Specialist 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct), Christie Nelson (MPD 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Inspector).

**Welcome/Call to Order:** Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime& Safety:**

- Christie Nelson is our new precinct inspector. She comes to the role replacing Katie Blackwell who was promoted to assistant chief of police by new MPD Chief O'Hara. Inspector Nelson has over 26 years on the MPD force where she's worked on various taskforces including investigations (Northside), gangs, narcotics (Northside), patrol (3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct), property crimes and was promoted to lieutenant where she primarily did patrol. Inspector Nelson has management control over the day-to-day operations of the precinct. This includes any goals that she sees need to be met.
- Christie updated WCC on the latest MPD leadership-level appointments. Chief Brian O'Hara appointed two police officers to assistant chief roles. Katie Blackwell will oversee the day-to-day operations including patrol and investigations. Chris Gaiters will oversee internal affairs, recruitment and implementation of the city's new Consent Decree which came as a result of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights' lawsuit. They added three new chiefs of police to head up other MPD areas. This new structure allows for more accountability from supervisor to their subordinates below them.
  - With regards to new police officer recruitment, 12 new officers graduated. This is a priority and is ongoing. Minneapolis is still down with about 200 officers.
- Jennifer presented the latest crime statistics in Windom from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In this period, there have been 39 reported crimes. Most of these are auto thefts, and home burglaries, specifically garage burglaries (bicycles). In July there was a successful arrest of a man who was involved in several burglaries that day. There were some mental health issues with this individual. Also, a car thief was also arrested. Having neighbors calling 911 suspicious activity and suspicious individuals is working. Out of all of the auto thefts reported incidents six were attempt-only.
  - This means that the burglars were scared off by residents who interrupted them. While it is not recommended for residents to intercept burglars, showing a presence, and acting vigilantly helps deter people with bad intentions. There was a serious robbery on July 1<sup>st</sup> where a person's cellphone was taken. In June there were two assaults in Windom. Domestic assaults are not included in the reports.
  - The new behavioral crisis team is working very well. There is a new 'embedded' social worker that was onboarded to provide additional support to the team and individuals directly. Every precinct has an embedded social worker.

**Council Business**

- **Grievances & Birken Law Responses**
  - Discussion around the two filed grievances and responses that were crafted with Birken Law's guidance. The responses were hand delivered to the individuals who made the grievances. Copies of the grievances were given to the members who were present.
- **WCC Board Member Recruitment**
  - There are a total of 11 seats on the WCC Board of Directors. Currently, eight are filled and there are a remaining three. The goal is to have as many recruited of the three so that they can participate in the upcoming Board retreat. We would like to recruit individuals from the Latino and Somali community who are currently not represented on the Board but who represent significant areas of the Windom neighborhood.



- **League of Women Voters Ward 11 Candidate Forum Co-Sponsorship**
  - A motion was introduced for WCC to co-sponsor along with the League of Women Voters, Tangletown Neighborhood Association, Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association, and the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group, the 2023 Ward 11 candidate forum to be held Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm -8:30 pm at Mayflower Church in Minneapolis. There are currently two individuals running for the seat including incumbent Emily Koski and Gabrielle M. Prosser.
  - Without Board attendance quorum this motion to provide co-sponsorship and interpreting cost support is tabled to the August meeting.
- **WCC Annual Board Retreat**
  - Due to the short timing, some Board members not being able to attend at the last minute, and with no location secured, the August Board retreat is postponed to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The retreat hours remain the same 9 am – 3-4 pm. The retreat is not a community event or to benefit the public directly. Rather the retreat is only for Board members. The purpose of the retreat is for the Council to regroup, reenergize, and plan for the upcoming year. It is an important strategic and bonding event. Those Board members present recommended that the retreat be moved ahead. More information will be shared.
- **Minneapolis Neighborhoods Collaborative (SW) Update**
  - The Collaborative's contract with the city has been signed and executed. The Collaborative will now move to begin implementing the grant deliverables starting with moving hiring the independent contractor, the DeYoung Consulting Services contract. The Collaborative grantees are Fulton, Lynnhurst, Armatage, Kenny and Windom. Tangletown is a member but not paid through the contract.
  - Michelle is the lead WCC representative on the Collaborative board. Becky is serving as a back-up.

#### Committee Updates

- Finance Committee: Becky has been out of the country and only returned from an out-of-country trip. Reports will be made available at the Board retreat. Discussion was around approvals for the invoicing which falls under the responsibility of the Executive Director.
- Safety & Health Committee: Safety Walking Club. The safety club has been launched successfully. There are currently about ten active walkers. The Windom Neighborhood Safety Club walks every Monday from 7 pm – 8:30 pm every week. Traffic Calming. Four applications were sent for traffic calming, and none were accepted. Councilmember Koski is reviewing these rejected applications. Nicollet Avenue Reconstruction. WCC has been in communication with CM Koski about the poor communication to Windom residents and businesses.
- Community Development: Patrick Regan land sale. No sale of the Patrick Regan parcels yet. More information will be available. Windom Home Improvement Loan. About \$15,000 remains in the program. After this is spent, the account will be at zero. CEE, the loan management organization, and Stacy Sorenson, at the city, are asking the program income that has been generated from the loan program and whether WCC will be putting that income into a new home improvement loan program or used for other community programs.
- Environment & Land Use: Hennepin County has a new composting program.
- Outreach & Engagement: Board approval for a new initiative with City Limits is needed, as it will take considerable resources (staff time) from WCC to implement this project.. Without Board quorum this partnership will need to be put on hold. A meeting is set for tomorrow and those present agreed to move forward with the meeting. In the last few weeks, WCC has met with City Limits' new management. They are interested in a partnership. The partnership will involve a youth program component and the opening of the south gate for City Limits residents to access Cub Foods. City Limits is interested in back-to-school supplies event for City Limits residents. More information will be coming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM