



**Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 12, 2023**  
**(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)**

**Attending:** Michelle Hemingway Tatum (P), Pat Soulak (VP), Rob Ley (S), Patrick Barrett, Dembo Darboe, Mario Vargas (Executive Director).

**Guests:** Emily Koski (City of Minneapolis Council Member Ward 11) and Cole Mullins (Windom Community resident).

**Welcome/Call to Order:** Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

**City Council Ward 11 Updates, Councilmember Emily Koski**

- Key Highlights of Accomplishments at the City for 2022:
  - The City Council passed its new government structure ordinance, which was a major undertaking.
  - As the Budget Committee Chair, Councilmember Koski led the initiative to allocate the \$43 million of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Spending) Funding. In addition, Councilmember Koski contributed to the approval of the City's overall budget of \$1.66 billion.
  - Councilmember Koski supported the hiring of the new Commissioner of Community Safety, Dr. Cedric Alexander, and the new Chief of Police, Brian O'Hara.
  - Helped fund a payroll and bookkeeping pilot project for small businesses. Applications are open until **January 20<sup>th</sup>**.
  - Assisted in allocating funding for two additional vans for the City's behavioral response teams, and funding for a Public Safety Auditor that will provide oversight for the Office of Community Safety.
- **1. The Just Deeds Project:** An initiative that gives Minneapolis homeowners the opportunity to gain experience and discharge the racial covenants recorded on their property's title.
  - Applications are open to eliminate these covenants off of their property record.
  - These covenants banned homeowners from renting, selling and allowing access to people of certain races.
- **2. Minneapolis School Board** is holding a few listening sessions in their effort to hire a new Super Intendent.
  - Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm—Washburn in Windom area
- **3. Reminder to keep sidewalks clear of garbage, recycling, and anything that obstructs the walkway.**
  - Potential for one-sided parking in the city.
  - This could vary based on location.
- **4. Minneapolis animal shelters are over capacity. Is anyone looking to add a new member to your family? Please consider adopting.**
- **5. Those in need of housing mortgage assistance:**
  - Home Help MN through Minnesota Housing is offering financial assistance for those behind on their mortgage or other housing-related expenses due to the pandemic.
  - Offering up to \$50,000 in assistance.
  - Eligibility varies. View their website: <https://homehelpmn.org/>

**Council Business:**

**1. NCR Partnership & Collaboration/Shared Resources Fund—Discussion**



- WCC to conserve and share resources with internal and external stakeholders. Opportunities for more funding.
- Partnership Engagement Fund:
  - Opportunity for WCC to partner with a community-based organization i.e. The Urban League, Leonardo's Basement, or a Church.
  - Budget Requirements:
    - Request of \$20,000—Budget limit \$150,000
    - Request of \$50,000—Budget limit \$300,000
  - Process:
    - WCC brainstorms potential partners.
    - Initial Interest Form is due February 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - Deadline for grant: March 17<sup>th</sup>
- Collaboration Resources Fund:
  - Exclusive to neighborhood associations only.
  - 2 neighborhood associations collaborating have the protentional to acquire \$15,000.
  - 3+ neighborhood associations collaborating have the potential to acquire \$20,000.
  - Application available: End of January. Deadline: End of February.
  - WCC goal: to collaborate with one or more neighborhood associations on a collaborative project: outreach or an event. Other associations have examined merger options, WCC is not interested in merging; rather, its interest is in exploring collaborative options with other neighborhood associations.

## **2. WCC NRP Funding Update & Discussion**

- Potential of losing remaining NRP Funding
  - Preventative options:
    - Pre-contract outside vendors
    - Invest in real estate for the long-term health of WCC.
      - Purchase a building dedicated to WCC and its projects.
- WCC approval to explore other options:
  - Motion: Rob
  - Second: Dembo
  - All in favor: Unanimous
  - Motion approved: Michelle.

## **3. CPP Fund 2023 Rollover & Consultant Contract Discussion**

- Questions pertaining to Socios Contract—None.

## **4. SW Neighborhoods Associations Collaborative**

- See bullet point number 1.

## **Committee Updates:**

### **1. Finance Committee – Becky/Mario**

- Bookkeeper Contract Discussion & Vote
  - Becky and Mario interviewed two prospective bookkeepers.
  - Finalist: Christie Rock Hantge
  - The contract is identical to the previous bookkeeper.
  - Motion to approve contract: Rob.
  - Second: Pat



- All in favor: Unanimous
- Motion approved: Michelle.
- 2023 City Funding & Financials Update
  - Discussion in “**Council Business**” section.
- 2. Safety and Health Committee – Patrick**
  - Dembo: Issue of traffic safety on 58<sup>th</sup> Street. Petition to make 58<sup>th</sup> Street one-way to reduce traffic for the safety of the children.
  - Michelle: In an effort to support Windom School’s initiative to create a crossing guard program, Michelle discovered AAA’s program called AAA School Safety Patrol.
  - Resource: <https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/aaa-school-safety-patrol/>
- 3. Community Development – Dembo/Mario**
  - Home Improvement Loan Program Update
    - Remaining funds: \$56,000.
    - Projected timeline until funds are used-up: by summer of 2023.
- 4. Environment & Land Use – Becky/Mario**
  - The Parks & Recreation Board submitted a letter to purchase the land used for the Windom Community Garden.
  - Potential Sponsor: Propel Nonprofits— <https://www.propelnonprofits.org/>
- 5. Outreach & Engagement – Michelle/Mario**
  - Apartment Complex Door-Knocking Update
    - Will start door-knocking sometime this month.
    - Be ready to help! Be prepared for tenant issues to be brought up.
    - WCC may want to partner with tenant support nonprofit organization to provide advocacy for residents.

**December Meeting Minutes:**

- Motion: Patrick
- Second: Dembo
- All in favor: Unanimous
- Michelle: Motion approved.

*Special thank you to Cole and Trudy for joining our board meeting!*

**Meeting Adjourned** – Michelle at 8:23 pm.