



**Windom Community Council Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 13, 2023**  
**(Meeting held via ZOOM videoconferencing)**

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

Absent: Rob Ley (S), Becky McIntosh (T)

**Guests:** Roger Worm (Southwest Business Association), Matt Crawford and Kris Mitchell (Windom South Park), Incha Krein (Windom Property Owner), Dave Krein (Windom Property Owner), and Cole Mullins (Windom Community resident).

**Welcome/Call to Order:** Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**City Hall Updates:** Mario provided a city hall update for Councilmember Koski. The update included:

- Mayor Frey and City Council's approval of a settlement with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights which lays out a roadmap for achieving non-discriminatory policing practices in Minneapolis.
- Reminder for residents to provide input into the reconstruction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct which can be done online.
- For more updates, Councilmember Koski encourages residents to subscribe to her weekly newsletter by going to the City's website and searching for Ward 11 on the site. Ward 11 residents can subscribe to the email newsletter there.

**Roger Worm (Southwest Business Association): Windom Business Façade Program**

- Roger presented on concluding the Windom Façade Matching Grant Program. The program was started in 2018 and concluded in late 2022. A total investment of \$20,000 in matching grants to local Windom area businesses for façade improvements related construction costs. The maximum per grant was \$2,000. 12 Windom businesses participated. Roger managed the program at no cost to the Windom Community Council. Overall, the Southwest Business Association assisted local small businesses in southwest Minneapolis access over 2 million dollars in façade improvement financing.

**Windom South Park Updates – Matt & Kris**

- Announcements: July 13<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Last year over \$500 Windom residents participated. WCC is invited to attend and or table the event.
- Park Programs: Flag Football is out this summer. Softball will be available. Planning will start to begin Senior Programs for 65+ age residents.
- Youth Programs: 10–17-year-olds. Drop-in programs include Cooking Night, Chess Club and Movie nights on Fridays. Summer field trips are planned this year including classes for students to learn to fish and swim. New youth initiatives include youth employment to help neighborhood youth get part-time jobs in retail and with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

**Windom PTO Spring Festival/Windom Reads Collaboration**

Windom PTO 2023 Spring Festival will be held Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Windom Reads will not be held at the Spring event. Windom Reads will be postponed to later in the year.

A discussion ensued surrounding a school crossing-guard program and the school's leadership and collaboration with the PTO. WCC has been informed by the school principal that the school will launch a program this spring in 2023.



## **Council Business:**

### **1. Metro Inn & Aqua City Sites Redevelopment & Sale**

- The Hennepin County public meeting PowerPoint Presentation that happened in March is on the website.
- Metro Inn: There are 25 property management companies interested in oversight into the new housing program operating out of the old Metro site. The art deco outdoor sign has been sold.
- Aqua City: Will be demolished due to structural damage that it endured over the winter.
- Neighbors should be aware of the changes happening surrounding both properties. Hennepin County is selling the Aqua City site and the Metro Inn will undergo new management.
- Michelle and Rob both sit on an advisory committee that meets monthly with Hennepin County representatives to share Windom community concerns and issues.
- Concerns include that the Metro Inn site would be used as a shelter which will bring about some old problems. Affordable housing may not be a good idea because property valuation is affected by possible crime that comes with this type of housing.

### **2. SW Neighborhoods Associations Collaborative Agreement**

- WCC is a part of an effort to launch a Southwest Minneapolis neighborhood association coalition.
- Six southwest Minneapolis neighborhoods including Windom, Kenny, Armatage, Lynnhurst, Fulton and Tangletown applied for a grant from the city to create a formal entity whose purpose will be to raise funds and collaborate on programming.
- The grant was approved by NCR and is now in the process of review and approval by the city council. It will then go to the mayor for signature.

### **3. Windom Public Safety Information Meeting**

- WCC is organizing a public information meeting set for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be a hybrid meeting. Jennifer Weisanen will attend as well as block leaders have been invited. Aileen Johnson will present on the new city safety walking club programs and possibly starting a club in Windom.
- This comes as a result of a significant increase in larceny crimes (package thefts, catalytic converter thefts) car thefts and car jackings happening in Windom in the areas of Wentworth, Blaisdell and Nicollet Avenues to the east and west as well as Diamond Lake to the north and 59<sup>th</sup> Street to the south.

### **4. 2023 Annual Meeting**

- May 11<sup>th</sup>. Hybrid Meeting. Motion needed to skip food catering.
  - Motion: Pat
  - Second: Patrick
  - All in favor: Unanimous
  - Michelle: Motion approved.
- Elections: Voting will be done electronically, and nominations will be taken on the day of elections. The e-ballot will be made available. Five seats are open for elected seats. Staff will begin the process to solicit nominations and elections this week.

**Committee Updates:** None

**March Meeting Minutes:** Motion made to accept one change to a date which will be sent to Mario.

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

**Meeting Adjourned** – Michelle at 8:30 pm.