

**WSCO Board of Directors Meeting Notes**  
**Monday, October 9th**  
**6:30-8:30 pm 209 Page St. W**

## Agenda

- Welcome and Public Comments
- Consent Agenda
- Guest Presentation
  - \$15 Now to discuss St. Paul Campaign
- Position and actions on Hunt-Weidner Development on the Flats
- Position on St Paul Police and Police Civilian Affairs Review Commission's Professional Development Institute
- Workshop: Storytelling
- Meeting reflection and adjourn

## Meeting Notes:

- Krysten calls to order 6:40pm -- no public present to address the board
- Financial updates
  - About 3 months of operating budget
  - Currently expect around \$8k from Met and preparing a \$20k to be sent to them.
  - Still working on getting better access to reporting from the bank -- staff has done some quickbooks training that will greatly improve the weekly/monthly reporting
  - As of this month, we are leasing 76 Baker to the school district in lieu of our rent
- Consent agenda -- Nick Johnson moves to approve, Tianna Reyes seconds -- unanimously approved
- \$15 Now Initiative in St. Paul
  - A few city council members support, most are ambivalent or against
  - Three of the top mayoral candidates support this move
  - St Paul has more of a need than Minneapolis which has already passed this
  - Poverty in St. Paul is a racial justice issues
  - 4 years to phase in for businesses with over 100, 6 years for those that are smaller
  - This is in line with what other cities have done
  - In Seattle, New York, Los Angeles this has worked out well for small business as people have more to spend
  - Most economists agree at this point that the evidence is in and this seems to be working out well for workers and businesses
  - There haven't been mass layoffs
  - Looking for a mirror ordinance to what passed in mpls with the exception of having no carve outs for youth

- Some concern from the Board about youth public sector employment and how many youth could be employed
- In other cities, when these policies have passed, they have spilled over into the suburbs -- \$15 Now would look to make this statewide by 2019
- Concern voiced that it would increase prices
- Miguel Brito puts forth a motion to support the \$15 Now movement that was written about by West Side Strong, Nicholas Novacek Bundt seconds
- Vote: all in favor except Louis Garcia and Chue Change against
- Hunt Weidner Development on West Side Flats
  - RDLU put forth a letter to all members of the city council and the HRA
  - Many concerns but a small sample is: only 1-2 bedroom so not good for family, rents of \$1800 and no affordable units, will only meet the city requirements for union labor, has been no involvement with the community in planning
  - City staffers applied for the clean up grants for Hunt Weidner but it isn't counted as City funding so there is no requirement for affordable housing
  - City is saying that in this and previous plan for the Flats, we wanted a greenway park which could absorb a 500 year flood but how is this an amenity for the West Side if none of us can afford to live there
  - There is a sub-grantee/development agreement that needs to be made by 10/25 -- it is unclear if this vote includes the land swap
  - Last Friday about 35 people went to hand deliver the letter to HRA Board
  - HRA Board will meet the 11th at 2pm and have time for public comment
  - Places with concentrations of poverty are the most vulnerable to gentrification and therefore need affordable housing
  - WSCO is asking for
    - 20-30% affordable units
    - Affordable commercial spaces facing Robert
    - Some 3 bedroom units
    - Using unionized labor for construction
  - Motion to oppose current Hunt Weidner Development -- Nicholas Novacek Bundt motions, Chue Chang seconds
    - Some further discussion around mandating retail space -- don't want to increase empty spots
    - It shouldn't be difficult for Hunt Weidner to build affordable units because they are self-financed
    - The community did not agree to trade the greenway for affordable units
    - St Paul had a goal to build around 2000 units of affordable housing in a decade -- we are almost done with that decade and only 132 units have been built so far
  - Motion amended to include the bullets being asked for above -- unanimously approved
- Position on St Paul Police and Police Civilian Affairs Review Commissions Professional Development

- Last November, we supported removing officers from PCARC
- We would be the first District Council to bring this ordinance forward but we are doing it with a few other Councils
- This ordinance would be in line with the recommendation from the U of MN Report
- This would support training for PCARC and Officers and should be in alignment with the Department of Human Rights and put forth by the U of MN report focusing on de-escalation techniques, recognizing implicit bias and working with special groups including mental illness, people with disabilities, youth and how to respond to domestic abuse
- We may want to add in bullets around restorative justice and look at who is hired
- Request to put this in front of Communities United Against Police Brutality and see if they have updates to wording
- Motion to support this language plus recommendations from CUAPB by Nick Johnson and seconded by Tianna Reyes
  - Request from council to see updates from CUAPB
  - Unanimously approved
- Louis Garcia motions to adjourn, Tianna Reyes seconds -- unanimously approved

## Attendees:

- Monica Bryand
- Nicholas Novacek Bundt
- Louis Garcia
- Krysten Ryba-Tures
- Derek Johnson
- Jen Crea
- Tianna Reyes
- Chue Chang
- Miguel Brito
- Kerry Matthews
- Craig Willford
- Nick Johnson
- Alicia Lucio