

WSCO Board of Directors Meeting  
February 8, 2016

Present: Carol Swenson, Pam Welisevich, Amelia Holcomb, Krysten Ryba-Tures, Nick Novacek-Bundt, Graciela Mendez, Matt Bergeron, Lewis Dixon, Joanna Lowry, Derek Johnson, Craig Willford, Monica Bryand, Monica Bravo, Christine Shyne.

Absent: Tiffany Stewart, Analita Silva, Louis Garcia, Chris Carpovich, Alicia Lucio, Tawala Storay, Armando Luna, Diggit McLaughlin (alt.), Nancy Negrette (alt.).

6:30pm – Called to order.

Consent Agenda

- February agenda, January minutes, December/year end finance report, December-January Cashflow. Board reviewed documents.
  - Motion to amend agenda to include 'proposed resolution for a committee of the board' by Amelia H, second by Carol S.
    - Approved.
  - Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Carol S., second by Matt B.
    - Unanimously approved.

Board Assessments, Pledge Forms and Conflict of Interest Forms, Committee Commitments

- The board members turned in documents. There were no further questions.

Proposed Resolution for a Committee of the Board

- Resolution for Communications, Tools, and Strategy Committee reviewed by the board. Motion to adopt the resolution as amended following discussion by Nick N.B., second by Carol S.
  - Discussion from the board and unanimously approved.

Committee Updates

- RDLU (Meeting notes also available for more details)
  - Elections - Co-chairs: Hokan and Diggitt. Secretary: Craig Willford.
  - Discussion over construction project on Wabasha and possible lane or road closures.
  - Discussion of updates regarding 72 Baker lot.
  - Upcoming meeting on February 25 about George-Stryker Area Plan.
- EJ (Meeting notes also available for more details)
  - Guest (Leslie MacKenzie) came to present on possibly setting up a Transition Group.
  - Maureen from GWS discussed showing some movies about food.
  - Planning commission for a study of Southport. Working with PORT.
- Community Outreach and Safety (Meeting notes also available for more details)
  - Communication around community engagement with neighborhood groups and businesses. Possibly doing a St. Paul business expo of sorts.
  - Bimonthly meetings that discuss crime moreso with SPPD and the community. Possibly having presenters.
- Communications
  - Small group put together the resolution that the board approved.

- They discussed goals such as: Gathering together all channels of communication, creating a catalogue, and seeing what's most effective. Reviewing WSCO's goals and then fitting these tools to work more effectively with WSCO's goals.
- Executive Director Report (Text notes also available for more details)
  - Met with Vic Rosenthal who works with Jewish Community Action who wants to do some listening sessions with community members about responsible banking. A report will be shared with both Mpls and SP city councils that details community members statements as well as recommendations for policy reform.
  - Talking with a few people about who will take the place of the previous community organizer at certain meetings.
  - The new building doesn't have current phone lines. February 10th is when lines are going to be put in the building. Please email WSCO if you have questions to be addressed before the lines are set up.
  - Rebecca Noecker is looking at potential investments in the Stryker area. Feb 25 at 9am at council offices.
- Organizer Report
  - Feb 23 pilot meeting with neighbors and lining up meeting with council members.
  - Small business meeting coming up about how the larger St. Paul Business Expo can serve them better.
  - Talking with neighbors to see who is interested in creating stronger block clubs.
  - Furthering work on certain grant-based endeavors.

#### 2016 WSCO Annual Budget Proposal and Discussion

- Budget reviewed by the board. Motion by Lewis D. to adopt the budget following discussion, second by Matt B.
  - Matt B., treasurer, discussed that WSCO currently has a deficit budget projected for the upcoming year. The Executive Board has been discussing that a balanced budget would have meant cutting staff more drastically, which would take away from WSCO's community work. The board should focus this year, however, on connecting resources to WSCO that could lead to potential donors, grants, etc. Board members can also serve on the Finance and Fundraising Committee or participate in other efforts to raise funds so WSCO remains viable throughout the year. Beyond stabilizing WSCO's budget and moving forward, WSCO's goals will likely include growing the organization, including increasing staff in the future, which means that the budget expenses will likely grow in the future. WSCO will also begin reviewing annual budgets in November (prior to the beginning of the fiscal year) rather than at the start of the year.
  - The board also discussed some questions about WSCO's budget history, grant timelines, various line items, fundraising.
  - Motion unanimously approved.

#### 2016 City Work Plan Proposal and Discussion

- Motion to adopt the work plan as revised following discussion by Matt B., second by Craig W.
  - Christine overviewed the document which includes the following goals: increase the civic participation of residents and stakeholders; ensure a safe, healthy, natural and social environment for all west siders; influence the built environment to match community values; encourage economic development, support existing businesses, as well as bring new businesses to the west side, strengthen relationships between west side business owners, WSCO and the community.

- Board discussion regarding some of the changes that were made from last year's work plan, how WSCO's work is evolving especially considering the efforts of other community groups, how WSCO tells its story and if more specific goals should be set, how the work plan is evaluated.
- A few small revisions were made (Christine will update the work plan prior to finalizing it) and the motion unanimously approved.

#### Upcoming Training Opportunities and Events

- Discussion around the table about effective communication regarding various events and opportunities. E-mail works well for the board members that were present. If any absent members have concerns, let Christine or Krysten know.
- Krysten R.B. and Christine S. went over upcoming opportunities, will send an e-mail that has all of them listed.

#### Closed Session of the Board

- WSCO staff left the room. The board discussed a proposed process and work plan regarding WSCO Executive Director Evaluation. An annual evaluation of the Executive Director is common practice. The work plan as outlined includes 90-day timeframes that offer greater clarity regarding specific goals for the ED and board to focus on.
- The board discussed best practice, organizational development, whether these priorities align with WSCO's vision and goals, whether they are reasonable, how board members can offer support to staff, more effective use of staff time.
- Motion to approve the 90-day work plan and direct the executive committee to work with the ED on its implementation and evaluation by Matt B., second by Pam W.
  - Unanimously approved.

8:37 pm – Motion to adjourn by Nick N.B., second by Matt B. Meeting adjourned.