



MEETING MINUTES

Windom Park Citizens in Action

Neighborhood Meeting – March 19th, 2022 (via Zoom)

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Attendees

Robert Lodge, Andy E, Tara S, Joe D, Andy M, Julie A, Councilor Elliot Payne, Jane E, Larry E, Representative Sydney J, Tim B. Alex S, Radu, Martin M (and 4 phone #s)

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Board President Robert Lodge at 7:05pm

Introduction

Board members introduced themselves to the neighborhood.

Meeting Presentation Slides

Robert Lodge provided [slides](#) for the meeting.

Program Updates

Robert Lodge provided an update on the programs offered by WPCIA: Security Rebate, Residential Home Improvement Loans, Commercial Loans, Energy Audits, etc.

Land Use Updates

- Sale proposal on vacant lot at 959 24th Ave NE.
 - Andy E – Wondering what the City's larger plan is for this area and if this fits within such plans.

Guest Speakers & New Staff

- Robert introduced Thomas as the new administrator for WPCIA. Thomas spoke about his background and hopes for assisting the organization.
- City Councilor Elliot Payne (Ward 1)
 - Fast start to job, little time to relax
 - [Bus Rapid Transit](#) (BRT) - Keeping up on plans for H Line (Como Ave) and F Line (Central Ave)
 - Teacher Union Strike – City has no direct oversight but helping issue where possible. Providing more resources to school-based learning programs to help with students needing activities/oversight while school is canceled.
 - Large focus now on Hiawatha Campus Water Expansion Project (combining 3 public works facilities into 1 new facility on Longfellow

and E 28th in Phillips neighborhood), which appears to be moving forward.

- Elliot is working with Mayor Frey and Mpls Police Department (MPD) on a proposal for a new Department of Public Safety that would not defund nor replace the existing MPD. Efforts being made for greater community involvement as this has been a frequent point of feedback with the 2021 ballot measure to remove/replace the MPD. Elliot is to announce proposal and seek its referral to committee. Has spoken to several MPD officers/ reps that appreciate the effort to offer additional help to policing/assistance efforts.
- Tara S observed that police are no longer required to live in the community they serve. Rep Sydney Jordan answered by saying this is the State's fault/responsibility and that it should be reinstated.
- State Representative Sydney Jordan
 - Discussed committee involvement
 - Focused on education, environment and mental health
 - School's need more funding to provide adequate resources to teachers/aids and school deterioration due to effects from inflation.
 - Student mental health is a priority, working toward more school-based mental health clinics and a Universal Meals bill to provide all kids free meals/snacks at school throughout MN.
 - Efforts to fund lead pipe lines from city connection, pursuing state/fed funding
 - Effort to support Ukraine by divesting from Russian products/services
- Metro Blooms' Jen Ehlert (presentation slides [here](#))
 - Rain Garden design and installation have been happening for many years now.
 - Residents pay \$50 + cost of plants/mulch/etc. Usually around \$250 total cost to resident
 - Program will start in June and end in August/Sept
 - Sign up for consultation on website