

MWCDC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Sept 6, 2018

Present: Talia DePasquale, Mike Grande, Jean Novak, Tom Tighe, Terry Moss, Curt Conrad, Gordon Davidson, Alaina Davis, Darla D'Anna, Kevin Kerr, Joe Rewis, John Norbut, Justin Walbert

Excused: Josiah Gilliam,

Absent: Greg Panza, Chris Kail

Visitors: Perry Ninness, Corey Diehorn, Maria, Nybria

Quorum: A quorum was present for this meeting.

1. Call to order

- Call to order – Mike Grande 6:32pm

2. Approval of minutes

Gordon called the board's attention to two issues he found with the minutes. First, the second to last bullet point under Section 5 should read, "The MWCDC shall be governed by a Board of Directors that shall consist of fifteen (15) members unless vacancies arise, in which case vacancies shall be filled so that the Board consists of no less than thirteen (13) members."

Secondly, Section 6, under Development, should read, "...banners will be made of metal laminate."

****Motion to approve with two changes by Tom Tighe. Talia second. Curt abstains. Motion passes.****

3. Board Candidate Presentations

Curt mentioned that there were seven responses to the CDCs request for applicants. They are as follows: Howard Wiley, Corey Diehorn, Gale Schwartz, Josiah Gilliam, Perry Ninness, Stephen Gates, and Bill Athanas.

Only Corey, Gale, Perry, and Bill responded to emails to set up interviews. After they were interviewed by the Nominating committee, the Committee unanimously agreed to submit their names to the board.

Two Candidates were able to speak at the board meeting: Corey Diehorn and Perry Ninness.

Current board members, Joe and Terry, will be rerunning for their seats.

****Motion to put four candidates on the ballot by Kevin. Alaina second. Passes unanimously****

4. Discussion/Tellers Committee

A Tellers Committee must be organized for the Election and must be impartial. The Committee must be made up of nonmembers and members.

Mike asked Board to get names between now and the next board meeting. Those names will be approved at next board meeting.

5. Executive Directors Report

Status Update:

a) CORO fellows were tasked with making a presentation to the board
Maria – tasked with two major things: inventory of vacant properties and businesses. Identify affordable housing locators. Learning the property reserve and city disposition process.

Nybia- Tasked with create a comprehensive cur appeal program. Familiarized herself with NPP and NAP funding programs. Working with the curb appeal program (business, residents, neighborhoods, nano neighborhoods) to identify opportunities. Also creating a resource guide of assistance programs. She is also conducting research on vacant lot programs and management.

b) NPP follow up

The new NPP application will now be geared toward economic development, not parks. This reflects the changes in the MWCDC since the last round of applications. A Corporate Sponsor still needs to be identified, but MWCDC has 30 days.

c) COT, NSR Recap, Foundations upcoming proposals

New Sun Rising submission was turned in, but MWCDC did not get accepted. Foundations – created templates to tailor for each application, but a Foundation search has been completed.

d) FDPP/Fine Finish Coatings Contract

Contract for Front Door program has been drafted. Agreeing to work together to reduce legal liabilities. This could be a model for future partnerships.

e) Keep America Beautiful and Newsletter Volunteers

Gordon has a meeting with an agency next week to discuss this project further.

f) Office Purchases

g) Civic Leadership Academy

Gordon has been attending the Academy to learn about City departments and functions

h) Allegheny County Master Watershed Steward Program Certification

This suggestion was made by New Sun Rising. Gordon suggests making a program for certification programs. Terry is willing to look into the process and draft documents.

New Projects/Initiatives:

a) Redaction of Minutes policy

Gordon will work to draft these policies

b) Non-employees handbook

Created for Coro fellows, but can be translated for other positions (like general interns).

c) CDBG Special Grant

Mike and Gordon are working on a proposal for the curb appeal program.

6. Finance Committee Update

No significant changes

Mike signed check for the rest of the audit payment and Coro fellows but that will show up next month in expenses. Both are coming out of NPP.

Placeholder for \$25,000 is still in the financials for properties that may come out of the Property Reserve.

5 properties in process of being under agreement with Hilltop Alliance. Gordon will check to determine when Agreements are closed.

NPP – MWDCD needs to find a sponsor. Alaina is pursuing People's, John has approached Highmark, and Justin is reaching out to an individual to approach Allegheny Health Network.

Mike and Talia are meeting with Councilwoman Kail-Smith and VisitPittsburgh for other sources of funding.

Mike has met with Erin Molchany to discuss State funding sources.

DCED, multimodal funding

Mike and Aaron Sukenik are meeting with the CEO of the Port Authority to discuss South Hills Junction and bringing T service back through the hilltop.

7. Committee Updates

Block Party Committee – PARTY IS SEPTEMBER 22

Alaina- would like to have a board member at every entrance and every board member present. Estimated cost to run event is \$12k but right now we have \$16k in sponsorship, this includes marketing and promotions, Copies on Carson is doing printed materials for free, hire Zero Waste to handle all garbage collection, DJs for all 6 hours on the pod across from the library, kids entertainment, ax throwing, photobooth, circus acts, local businesses are selling mixed drinks, 12 food vendors.

All Mt Washington residents will receive a discount using the promo code "15211" at ticket purchase. Tickets can be purchased at all Mt Washington business that are participating.

Biggest expense is powering the event.

Mike suggests a restricted line item of funding for next year. This will help with the upfront costs organizing the event.

Advocacy Committee

Talia- still formulating plan with visitor center. Mike and Talia will follow up after their meeting with VisitPittsburgh. They will communicate back to the board.

Development Committee

Tom- has had preliminary meetings with some developers. Tom can deliver more updates once the plans start.

EVP Committee

Terry- The next meeting will be at Bigby park Wednesday Sept 12 at 5:30 at the gazebo
Terry has table clothes with MWDCDC logo that can be used for the Block Party. If the board likes them, she can order more.

8. Announcements

Alaina- Would like to thank Talia and Jean for bringing in \$500 in sponsorships through their employers.

9. Adjournment

****Motion to adjourn by Jean, Second Darla at 8:10pm– passes unanimously****

Next Meeting: October 4, 2018

Electronically signed by: Curt Conrad

Dated: September 9, 2018