

Westside Coalition

Minutes of September 24th, 2024 Westside Coalition Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes Taken By: Jake Erickson – Board Member

Location: NeighborWorks Community Mtg Room 622 W 500 N SLC **Online:** Zoom Meeting

Time: Started 5:34 pm Ended 7:31pm Wi-Fi Password: Nswfl\$1234

Board Members Present (#)	Izumi Okamura, Jason Wessel, Dan Potts, Bill Watts, David Osokow, Daniel Strong, Jake Erickson, Kevin Parke, Turner Bitton, Charlotte Fife-Jepperson, CJ Hellige, Billy Palmer
Board Members Excused or Absent (#)	Terrance Marasco, Chilton Hawk
Others Present:	Maria Garciaz, Emily Hamilton
Item 1	July WSC Minutes Approval
Motion to Approve August 27th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes	<p>1. August Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dan Potts motions to approve the August 27th, 2024 WSC Board Meeting minutes. ii. Kevin Parke seconds. iii. The motion passes unanimously with all board members present in favor of approving the August 27th, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes.
Item 2	Treasury Report
Report by the WSC Treasurer on the Organization's Finances	<p>1. Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Izumi Okamura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. From our existing budget of \$20,000, \$11,572 has been spent, with most of that money going to food.
Item 3	Glendale High School Proposal
Proposing a Westside High School	<p>1. Board Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Charlotte summarizes the Westview Media's conflict of interest form

that was adopted into its bylaws to argue that the WSC should adopt it as its own policy. This conflict of interest statement was taken from a non-profit source online. There are eight sections, with the first being a conflict of interest policy to protect tax exempt organizations from entering into fiscally beneficial relationships and avoid the appearance of excess benefit transactions. Definitions are also provided in the document.

ii. One possible definition of a financial interest might be if a person has directly, or indirectly, a form of ownership or investment in any entity (i.e. if they own a business and are benefitting from it). Charlotte is proposing we adopt this policy, which includes the aforementioned definition, and then sign a conflict of interest policy every year.

iii. There are also conflict of interest avoidance procedures with an annual statement in which we'd receive a copy of the policy and then agree to apply.

b. Maria Garciaz

i. Neighborworks will provide its 3 page form. Remember however that there will always be conflicts because the WSC is involved in the community. So, you need to acknowledge it and the board needs to be made aware of the potential for it.

c. Daniel Strong

i. Please read and sign the board member expectations form that Charlotte sent out.

2. Legal Concerns

a. David Osokow

i. Back in 2023, the City Council removed indemnifications for all community organizations as part of its text ordinance. This is a city wide policy that opens those very same organizations up to potential for lawsuits. Any kind of land-use position that we come out against or for might expose us to legal liabilities. I would like to push the city to help fund some legal insurance.

b. Maria Garciaz

i. Directors' and Officers' Insurance would be a good idea, and would probably cost the WSC \$1000 per year. The cost to Neighborworks is \$2500 per year. That particular insurance is to protect individual members.

ii. Maria will ask Neighborworks' pro-bono attorney whether this is a

project they might like to take on.

c. Jason Wessel

- i. If it gets to the point where we need to get our own liability insurance, we should look into getting this as a form of insurance for the Westside community councils too.

d. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

- i. We can be a fiscal umbrella organization for the community councils, which might be a great service we can give to our community councils.

e. Kevin Parke

- i. Amy Hawkins had a powerpoint on it, and she did send out a survey to all of the community council chairs asking if we knew about it. They are now putting a plan together on how to respond.

f. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

- i. Did the Westside community councils know that they needed insurance?

g. Daniel Strong

- i. Directors' insurance seems like a good idea (i.e. shedding the interest form).
- ii. Ask your respective community councils if they want to engage with tricky power players, and instruct them to use the Westside Coalition if needed.
- iii. We're on strong ground to advocate on behalf of our communities. You could get into trouble if you lie or defame someone however, or engage in lobbying and/or partisan activity.
- iv. Daniel Strong will look into the various insurance options.

h. Turner Bitton

- i. Nonprofits insurance from the Utah Nonprofits Association may be an option to offer resources.
- ii. The membership benefits of UNP includes discounted legal services.

i. David Osokow

- i. Is this something we have some wiggle room in our budget for if we want to absorb the cost?

j. Izumi Okamura

- i. We still have to figure out how to receive funds on a continuous basis.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k. CJ Hellige <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. CJ will take on the role of asking the UNA how to join.
Item 4	Candidate Forum Update
<p>Last Minute Logistics Over the WSC’s Candidate Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Candidate Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Candidate Forum takes place next week Monday. Rose Park, Poplar Grove, and Fairpark have all sent out fliers. We will be setting up at 5:30pm or earlier, and we may need volunteer assistance. The League of Women Voters will bring cookies, while candidates will have drinks. b. Kevin Parke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Kevin will bring coolers and his drink dispensers. c. CJ Hellige <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. CJ will handle drinks. d. Izumi Okamura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Izumi will help with ice and cup reimbursements. e. Billy Palmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Billy is able to MC the event. f. Jake Erickson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Jake will send out an email to community councils to table and provide the fliers to those organizations to distribute.
Item 5	Assessing WSC’s Public Safety Work
<p>The WSC Discussion on Public Safety in Westside Neighborhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Safety Issue Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bill Watts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We’re in a position with public safety where it’s being implemented as we speak with areas like 800 west being emphasized. The one concern that I have is that we might be complacent and that the crime will flow somewhere else. So, if you see something, say something. Liberty park is getting hit pretty badly with plenty of drug use. There is also plenty of petty crime to strip out metals, steal tires from cars, etc. b. Jason Wessel

i. Day Riverside Library has noticed a large increase in the number of people coming up the trail. The crackdown on drug dealing is pushing populations into the neighborhoods with an increasing presence in the neighborhoods.

c. David Osokow

i. As a board, we need to put pressure on the mayor's administration. Victoria Petro and Alejandro Puy are increasing the pressure. Districts 1 and 2 are going up in violent crime. Our neighbors aren't great at communicating to the city however. They aren't speaking out as much for instance on how bad the Jordan River's conditions have been. There's also a language barrier that worries me.

d. Bill Watts

i. No matter how much we push to get people to call in during city council meetings, very few actually do. The call log rolls every 18 hours, and there were three calls in an 18 hour period. Empowering people to advocate for themselves would be our best asset.

e. Jason Wessel

i. It's not widely known that unless a case number gets generated, it doesn't get recorded as a crime. What strategies can we engage in to spotlight this issue? Let's use the school board superintendent community event as a model and set up a meet and greet with the new commander.

f. Jake Erickson

i. Let's get more of a grassroots training effort initiated where we get the public informed on how to lobby.

g. Billy Palmer

i. One thing to remember is that police reports are used to staff police departments. In communities where there's higher staffing (university neighborhoods for instance), the amount of times that the police are asked to assist corresponds with the higher number of reports. Often the higher crime areas are underreported. Take Back Your Neighborhood could be a useful program to highlight. Let's ask police more specific questions, like whether you patrol the river, or what do you see on patrol? What deterrents are you practicing? Let's get police officers to take this seriously. We're looking at an increase in drug deals, and this problem isn't going away. Even the people who are trying to stay clean are also dealing with this problem.

h. Jason Wessel

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Jason is well-acquainted with the police commander, who says that we are essentially in direct competition with other precincts. Folks are campaigning for their commands to get the lion’s share of resources. The problem is going to get pulled from us and go to Liberty Park. i. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Daniel endorses the idea of a meet and greet with Commander Andy Clough. j. Dan Potts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The biggest change is that now we’re not dealing with individuals, but rather organized groups, which move as a whole community. k. David Osokow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We need to have a conversation with the mayor to ensure we are lobbying effectively on this topic. l. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We have already decided to write to the city council and mayor that there’s a crisis, and they are stepping up enforcement. In the city’s budget, they added 11 new police officers. We can certainly ask them to get involved, and the city might say we hear you and you’re getting resources. m. Bill Watts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. As a society we failed on this, and we should’ve done something rather than look the other way. We need to be better prepared for the huge wave that will inevitably return. n. Billy Palmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Most of these people aren’t originally from Salt Lake City. This isn’t solvable. We need higher wages, more shelters, and access to education. ii. Let’s find more safety in our neighborhood. Drug dealing is going to happen, but does it need to happen on the trail? The least powerful person on unsheltered issues, the least influential person on homelessness, is the mayor. The city mostly spends a chunk of their time asking for the funding to provide services, and the city is locked in with county money and state money. The trade off is abatement. There are political realities here we need to consider.
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Item 6	Fairpark Development District Update
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<p>Staffing Update on the Fairpark Development District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Inland Port Board Chair, Benn Buys, was given the role of executive director over the Development District. Many people applied; the board leadership reviewed the applications and narrowed it down to a number of people who they proceeded to interview. Dan can't share the names of those who were interviewed. Neither candidate in the final round of the interview process was a Westside person which was a concern to Dan. The board wanted to focus on someone who understood how tax increment structures work, and Benn has a proven track record of success with the Inland Port. b. David Osokow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There will be a refinement in this next legislative session. If there were to be an MLB stadium, what would that situation look like with the refinement? I'm worried because we'll be paying more on sales taxes. c. Daniel Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There is a rental car tax and a tax increment which is money that will go back into the district. The hotel tax was taken out. I think it is fair to say that there are many powerful groups in this room, and the state is the strongest voice here.
<p>Item 7</p>	<p>Report on Issue Areas</p>
<p>Summary of Recent Issue Area Processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issue Area Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jason Wessel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We had our second issue area meeting where we covered ongoing business. The only thing to report back is that we decided to move forward with a letter of support for the Friends of Fisher Mansion, and to refrain from fully supporting the Rio Grande Plan as it is, but to stay in the loop with David Osokow taking a role in reporting back to the WSC on Rio Grande. b. Billy Palmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Billy would like to continue working on transportation with regards to the Rio Grande Plan. c. Maria Garcia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Please talk with Lexi Tuddenham from HEAL Utah about air quality with regards to the expansion of I-15. d. Bill Watts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bill is staying on top of any news regarding the destruction of trees on north temple.
Item 8	Public Comment
Public Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNP Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Emily Hamilton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. University Neighborhood Partners (UNP) is looking for more people to join and partner with them. They have five meetings per year, and Emily will send out information to Jason Wessel. 2. Housing Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maria Garciaz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Maria has been getting calls from Comunidades Unidas about surveying the community on gentrification in relation to Big League Utah. Some of the residents are frustrated that Comunidades Unidas is equating the baseball district with the ballpark. ii. On a separate note, UDOT did try to buy one of our homes from one of our families in relation to the expansion of I-15, but what they found is that they needed a release from Neighborworks on the title, so they sent us to HUD but had to withdraw their offer.
Item 9	Meeting Adjournment
<p>Adjourning the September 24th, 2024 WSC Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion to Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dan Potts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dan Potts motions to adjourn. ii. Kevin Parke seconds. iii. All board members present vote in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourns.
	Next Meeting: October 22nd, 2024 5:30pm – 7:30pm