

WSCO Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 28, 2025

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

MISSION STATEMENT: WSCO sustains the people of the West Side to **build community power** and to advance a more **just and equitable community**.

Board Members: Raniya Abawari, Santino Franco, Sebastian Ellefson, Nate Giles, Sebastian Gonzalez Navarro, Jessica Klimisch, Lawrence A. Lucio, Yasmin Muridi, Nancy Negrette, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Mandy Otis, Jeannine Pohl

Red ^: indicates to follow up

Attendance in person

Jannine, Esbation

Online attendance

6:00 Introductions and welcome (Jess, 5 min)

6:05 Guest recognition (Jess, 5 min)

6:10 Consent agenda (Jess, 5 mins) - **Vote**

- Last month's minutes
- This month's agenda
- Financials

6:15 State of WSCO (Monica, 30 mins)

- Proposed letter for Robert Street - **Vote**

Individual door

Notes: retaining services , increased capacity, on slide 1, visual story telling,

^ Slides will be updated and linked here

Linda Vang resigned, working virtually month of august.

Contracted accounting finance looking at some options how to possibly merge those roles,

Larry: interested in Beginning to develop west side youth leadership

Raniya: has been working with miguel on west side youth west side future trying to find a mission statement, we know we

Mandy: has helped youth get jobs and would help if it was organized by someone specific (as a business owner wears many hats)

Jeanine: conversation with a client, could we have a form to direct them to, when the convo comes up, there is a collection of people ^ **(maybe a google doc?) then we have a link to send them**

Coco- Planning a 3 day staff retreat in september. Projecting what's coming up in 2026. (day only retreat)

Joy robert street update on the bike both and peace builders update

[eace builders phone update with ED.

MONica Robert street update

Municipal consent hearing August 13

- Folks will be there from WSCO staff leadership, rotating, 2 residents nominated
- Raniya nominated
- Staffed by coco, monica, miguel and other wsco staff
- Land use also involved
- See robert Street updates slides for more information
- UNiversity of minnesota also on the task force
- City and other orgs will also be there

The board did not make a decision about the bike lanes, looked at robert street in the areas where folks wanted to the cafe model, there was enough room on the sidewalks to have bike lanes and larger sidewalks, some of the businesses will still have street parking. Co-creation will continue in phase 2, there was a number of design options that the design center put out, We've done a ton of data surveys with the neighborhood, cinco de mayo, football fiesta, majority of our community ambivalent about the cafe model, it is our role to represent what we hear from community, bike lane and sidewalk cafe is what they are proposing that can happen together.

2 things to know is that we don't have the political will to deter a bike lane, we would like to see it written down formally.

Business mitigation is a goal of the task force

Larry : highway 61 issue doesn't want to happen again

Monica: Sebastian started an amendment so that municipal consent is contingent upon stakeholder group,

^ Mandy: interested in seeing an anti displacement agreement from this task force.

Coco depends on how detailed to make this letter, what are the things this task force will have eyes on.

Task force cannot pick the general contractor see the language for the contractor time overage issue for example, consequence for going out of bounds,

Larry : should we know ahead of time who is in contention for it, what kind of DEI concerns

Monica: we might be able to get that, on the track record of score card,

Joy: can we assert RFP requests from the task force to be put in there

Coco we might need to know when they are soliciting bids

Joy: state legislative opportunities, DEI goals for next year, dollars, we heard a lot at the last business displacement meeting other places got a lot of money like 45 million for grand avenue.

CBDG might not be good money for this.

Community wasn't intentionall supportive of sidewalk, but community does want placemaking, a place to be together Joy reframing.

(RESOLVED)?^ What are we going to do to see more about the specifics, how soon the designs can be made.

(RESOLVED) ^ Monica can get our opinion and will get letter to board by end of the week so we can vote on it.

^ SLIDE ADD ONLY Monica will be future meetings on project and campaign updates slide would like participation, Santiago might share also. There might be targeted door knocking, analyzing and validating the data

6:45 Ralph history book presentation (Ralph, 20 mins)

Ralph: Ralph and Judy sharing about the book 2 years. Put together about WSCO's greatest hits, met at another mOnic's house, but history doesn't tell us about the orgniazaiont , ther was pressure on us to work on the history and at first declined but now have done it.

Book is done. This has consumed a lot of our time, spent time at the ramsey county, mn history center, going through all the documentation we could find. Could start sending out different parts of our history, please send corrections they both asked and incorporate their perspectives into what we had. Sent out many versions. People who were getting into contact with us also contributed their materials, stacks under closets and beds. This might be the only copy left in existence. Donate it to ramsey county if you don't need it.

Started to get varying answers on the same questions but did their best.

Have done a lot of research work and professional writing to complete this. Spent well over \$2000 dollars of their own money. View that time as our gift to the community, also want it to be a gift to the community. Important to us to now view as a history book to buy in the story, this is the people's history, they should be able to get it for free. Community deserves nothing less than to get this book for free. We think it turned out better than we thought it would. Who knew. Getting feedback from them. Also have people submitting the book for book awards. We gave a presentation on the book to historians, it went over well. Some professors want to use the book in the classroom. As far as we can tell, we have checked with community groups, they have histories of their origins, and case studies, haven't found longitudinal studies that focus on org. Amazing.

Since the text is done, what we've done is decide about graphic designer, negotiating the best possible options, saint paul based printers, everything has been proofed, it's ready to go, we've spent a little over \$2,000 of our own dollars.

Happy about the most is creating a book and tool. How does this help to build the organization, always the question to ask. This book is a tool and only valuable used as a tool. Going to be a great marketing and branding tool that WSCO could have. It could help a lot with that, there needs to be a marketing committee of sorts. Our sense is that we could get a copy online, has limited valuable in building the organization. Given as gifts can go a long way in building the organization. We have looked into the cost of books, the best prices smallest amount you can buy is \$1000 copies (best pricing). Printed at 11 dollars per copy or 11 dollars total, 250 pages well priced.

It was some months back we asked to fund budget to do this, was told it was available for the project, \$11,000. So here we are again, we are proposing that we go through the WSCO accounts and look for loose change, any funds that could be pulled into this project. ONE thing we want to stress is that we want to have this wrapped up in early september, one of the big reasons was firm bids in hand from publishers, going beyond that prices go up. A lot of them thought the book was coming out earlier, biggest reason for a deadline is that things tend to get pushed aside for many good reasons, asking you to do what you can to find the monica, we tried looking with Monica at the star grant but wouldn't work out.

Excited for the tool created we could put to use. Our sense was that the tool put to use could help them become more aware about WSCO, finally there are people who know about WSCO but not actively involved in the organization. Have other people join in the movement. Participate with us, talking time and work this is where we are at.

Larry asked to tell history: Ralph came here may of 1970 when larry cut the ribbon for neighborhood house original found, got involved with a number of things. Humboldt high school, (humboldt got the old chairs from highland back then and it was worth fighting for - digging in same thing for the flats). The voice newspaper started to fight for humboldt and WSCO, Ralph wen't back to pennsylvania and got married and had a great place to live sounded like west side story but felt like a small town, because of being on bluff.

Ralph lived with the seminarians on summit avenue then volunteered on the west side and ended up getting married and having 5 kids.

Everyone must report to the principals office,

Jessica: asking how did the project start

2023 annual meeting asked Ralph and Judy to begin.

Joy: could this be revenue producing.

Jessica: how did you make sure you researched with all the communities,

Ralph: started with the riverview times, that as a starting point, gave us names of who was involved. For a number of years minutes were maintained, not as much as would like, reached out to everyone that we could.

(resolved not needed) ^: proposal from Sebastian to create a subcommittee to review the book.

Coco: bringing up precedent setting, who on the current staff was interviewed and how far up does the timeline go.

Mandy: audio option?

Jeanine: audio option

Joy: wondered if board or staff decision:

Monica: was a member who brought to the board

Jeaninie: go fund me's could help.

Over \$25000 has to come to board.

7:15 Road safety (Mandy, 5 mins)

Talked to her about the bump out curve Rebecca Noecker. Temporary roundabout?

Grandma of the boy kevin who lost his life.

Go fund me: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-honor-the-young-life-of-big-kevo-kevin-reitmeir>

There have been discussions that it was a moped not a lime scooter that killed the student.

MONica will report back about future meetings

7:20 Board seat terms (Monica, 10 mins) more likely be four seats available (raniya would have to run) jessica, every is supposed to have 3 year terms, networking within our people, there will be open seats, Let them know as soon as possible if you can't do the 3 years.

7:30 Open discussion (Jess, 20 mins)

Sebastian: Thanks to monica for kickstarting parent coop, it all looks good, limiting it to 12 students, will see how things go. Number 2, going to check in, months ago (may) brought up as a topic to have a summer circle voice, happening in august? On august 14th oakdale at the new joseph's shop. Evening.

Resolved ^ Voices August 14th follow up to make sure on the website.

Fininedh ^ Block studios part 11:30 to 2:30 on Sunday party grill out 10 year

7:50 Annual meeting update (Jess, 5 mins)

7:55 Wrap Up/Next Steps/Spreadsheet (Jess, 5 mins)

8:00 Adjourn