

**Westside Community Center Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**Members Present:** Justin Trudeau, Tena Jelinek, Kathy Perry, Susan Baldwin, Mary Tauras, Ann Petit, Nancy Bernard

**Member Absent:** Judy McKay-Harbert

**Alternates Present:** Margie Valin

**Alternates Absent:** Sarah Grant

**Parks Board Liaisons Present:** Greg Thornton

**Staff Present:** Mark Snow, Jamie Bequette, Felicia Barnhart, Anna Bingman, Kim King

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Committee Chair Justin Trudeau brought the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**Agenda Preview**

Committee Chair Justin Trudeau provided a preview of the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements at this time.

**Citizen Discussion**

There was no citizen discussion at this time.

**Approval of Minutes**

**February 2024 meeting minutes.**

**Motion – To approve the February 15, 2024 meeting minutes.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Bernard, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Justin Trudeau, Approved, Unanimously.

**Committee Announcements**

There were no Committee announcements at this time.

**Action Items**

**Proposals for Leased Space**

*United Hearts Community School – Michelle Carroll*

Michelle Carroll, Owner and Director for United Hearts Community School, provided a brief background on the proposed lease and why it would be a suitable fit for implementation at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the United Hearts Community School proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Tena Jelinek, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Bernard, Approved, Unanimously.

### **Proposals for Programs/Services**

#### *Chess Wizards – Glandeth Leitigio*

Glandeth Leitigio, Program Manager for Chess Wizards, provided a brief background on the proposed program and why it would be a suitable fit for implementation at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Chess Wizards proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Bernard, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Susan Baldwin, Approved, 7 to 1.

#### *Girl With Grit – Blythe Zemel*

Blythe Zemel, Found of Girl with Grit, provided a brief background on the proposed program and why it would be a suitable fit for implementation at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Girl With Grit proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Tena Jelinek, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Bernard, Approved, Unanimously.

#### *Dramalab – Funky Little Theater Company*

In the absence of a representative of the Funky Little Theater Company, Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided a brief background on the proposed program and why it would be a suitable fit for implementation at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Dramalab proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Bernard, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Greg Thornton, Approved, Unanimously.

#### *Storytime – Funky Little Theater Company*

In the absence of a representative of the Funky Little Theater Company, Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided a brief background on the proposed program and why it would be a suitable fit for implementation at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Storytime proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Bernard, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tena Jelinek, Approved, Unanimously.

## **Committee Business**

### **Communications Discussion**

Committee member Tena Jelinek and Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided the following updates about the Communications Subcommittee:

- Tena is working on door hangers to advertise the “Saleabration” event in June, and deciding how many will need to be printed. Jamie will provide more information about the event after the next planning meeting, after which Tena can work on the layout of the hanger.
- Committee member Susan Baldwin said she had been posting about programming and other happenings at the Center on multiple online bulletin boards.

### **2024 Event Update – “Westside Community Saleabration Block Party”**

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided the following updates on the “Westside Community Saleabration Block Party” Event:

- Jamie has a design for the banners completed. One of the Banners will be at Bancroft Park, with a potential for two more banners on 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Jamie is having a dozen yard signs printed, and asked Committee members if they would like one for their yards or businesses.
- The next planning meeting will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Center or on Teams.
- Committee member Ann Petit has 8 or 9 interested food trucks for the event and is making sure at least one truck has vegetarian options.
- At the next planning meeting, the layout of the event will be discussed.

### **Community Garden Bed/Working Committee Adoption of Beds along Bijou**

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided the following updates on the Community Garden and adoption of beds:

- Committee Vice Chair Liz Lopez Vaughan had planned to be at the meeting confirm commitments on bed sponsorship and to collect money, but since she was not present in-person, that will be handled at another time.
- Jamie had made a flyer to advertise the beds. Liz had always said she would help with marketing.
- All money from bed adoption goes to the general garden fund.
- 38 beds are still available for adoption.

### **Working Committee Listening Session**

Committee Chair Just Trudeau asked if fellow members felt like the Committee should host another listening session or meet and greet event. The consensus of the Committee was that they could potentially have a table or booth at the “Saleabration.””

### **Staff Updates**

#### **Westside Community Center – Facility Operations; Community Garden; Signage on Campus; Programs; OCCA Mixer on May 14; Annual Report Follow-Up**

Mark Snow, Community Recreation Manager, Felicia Barnhart, Park Operations Administrator, and Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, provided the following updates:

- Felicia announced that there is a quote for the outdoor signage, which will be individual letters. It is a little bit expensive, but half of the funding will be general funds, with the other half from the gift trust. The signs will be on both sides of the building, and a forest green color.
- Jamie thanked everyone who volunteered with the Funky Little Theater Company during their production of 12 Angry Men, as it really helped staff and save seasonal money. She reminded the Committee to record their volunteer hours for both these efforts, and the “Saleabration” planning time.
- Jamie provided an update on current programming at the Center.
- All of the leased spaces are currently filled!
- On May 14, the Old Colorado City Association will be hosting its monthly mixer at the Center from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Light h’orderves will be served and there will be a campus tour. Jamie wants to show the OCCA that someone doesn’t have to be a business to lease space or provide programming at the Center. Additionally, tenants and Committee members are invited to join and can RSVP with Jamie.

- Jamie announced that two new facility enhancements had been left out of the annual report: the new PikeRide station and the new outdoor bulletin sign. These have been added to the report.

### **Colorado Springs Boards and Commissions Appreciation Night**

Anna Bingman, Staff Assistant, reminded the Committee that they had been invited to attend the annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation event on April 18<sup>th</sup> at City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. This even honors volunteers on the various City Board, Committees, and Commissions.

### **Presentation Items**

#### **Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers**

The representative of the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers was unable to attend the meeting. Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, is working on scheduling the presentation for a future meeting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion – Move to adjourn the Westside Community Center Working Committee meeting at 3:51 p.m.**

1<sup>st</sup> –Justin Trudeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Bernard, Approved, Unanimously.