



Westcott Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026

Board Members Present: Chrissy Burd, Co-President, Carol Johnson, Co-President, Adam Felleman, Vice President, Virginia Felleman, Sam Gruber, Kim McCoy, Kevin Montgomery, Marilyn Zaleon.

Others Present: Jo Bennett, Maurice Brown, Dan Deschamps, Annie Honis, Judy Jerome, Andy Leahy, Quinn McHugh, Jane Puch, Corey Williams

Online Participant: Sharon Sherman

Welcome/Introductions

All present introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Kevin motioned, Adam seconded, all in favor

Financial Report

Kevin reported a current cash position of \$4,431 with \$1,500 restricted for the dog parade and \$2,931 as unrestricted funds. Half the insurance cost in the amount of \$503 was paid, and we received a check from Summit of \$200 for the dog parade.

Guests' Presentations

Councilor Corey Williams discussed concerns related to the number of trees being removed in the neighborhood. While acknowledging that new infrastructure work is necessary, quality of life is impacted when the mature tree canopy is removed. The city arborist explained that the trees that were originally planted were not the best choice. Parks and Rec Commissioner, Syeisha Byrd, will be meeting with the mayor about this issue. DPW and National Grid need to be involved in these meetings.

Williams reported that Councilor Jimmy Monto delayed a vote regarding the Westcott Theater to allow a community forum that will include the mayor's compelling argument that needs to go to the public. The equity fairness treatment towards all people was also raised regarding a racial component. There will be more information regarding this issue on Monday. The Council vote is black and white: permit or no permit. Currently permits are tied to the owner of the building and not management.

County Legislator Maurice Brown said the County budget will be announced tomorrow. The expectation is that the emphasis will be on infrastructure vs. human capital. There is continuing concern related to Micron's use of Forever chemicals (PFAS). The AG's office will be working with the DEC to set up rules and consequences related to the environmental impact. There is also concern related to local hiring for their buildings now being constructed, particularly where On Ramp graduates are not being considered.

Term limits will be on the ballot – the choice for the County Executive and Auditor will be a limit of 12 or 16 years.

The Petit Library urgent request for expansion has been relegated to the Capital Improvement Program. Maurice urges that we keep the pressure on the legislature to provide the necessary funding.

Sharon Sherman, representing the Westcott Street Cultural Fair, expressed her appreciation that WNA's Mailchimp included the need to raise funds for the fair's main stage that brought in a lot of contributions. She also mentioned the real need for fair volunteers, particularly for the cleanup from 5:30 – 7:30. To relieve the congested parking issues there will be free shuttle buses at two different locations and traffic cones provided by SU at a cost on no parking sides of 10 surrounding streets.

Old Business

a. Westcott Street Cultural Fair, September 27

- i. Table sign up – sheet was available for volunteers to sign up to work at the WNA table. Sam volunteered to bring folding chairs. WNA information and membership forms will be at the table along with T-shirts for sale.
- ii. Parade – several members agreed to walk in the parade and carry the banner
- iii. Sharon will be available early Sunday morning for Carol to bring the banner to Sharon for placement on the main stage.
- iv. T-shirt design. Chrissy will complete the design and arrange for the printing.

b. Library Community Room Project

WNA received confirmation from the County Executive that this issue is on their agenda, and they want it to happen

c. Events

- i. Sam will lead three walks on consecutive Wednesdays in September focusing on the Westcott area that will include some history, architecture, etc., for WNA members and for nonmembers, who would pay a \$10 fee which would include a yearly WNA membership. The walks will begin at 5 and end at 6:15.

- ii. Dog Parade: a check list has been created listing tasks that need to be completed. Kim brought posters to be distributed at various community locations. Volunteers will be recruited for help with refreshments if necessary.
- iii. Historic District Tax Credit Publicity – Carol displayed the updated Web site covering this issue. The next step will be the post cards which members will distribute to 800 households and Heila is working on that.
- iv. Pomeroy Foundation Historic Signage for Westcott area – Ginny and Sam met with Jamilah Damiani and Sarah Tietje-Meitz both board members of PACNY to follow up on their offer to apply for a Pomeroy grant for signage to commemorate the historic designation for this area. Sam expressed concern regarding the size of the proposed sign that would limit the information that could be included. We also discussed the need for more than one sign which may involve applying for additional funding sources. To move the project forward, it was suggested that, with board approval, we move forward with a sign on Huckster Hill located in the business district with future plans for a larger and more interactive sign at the corner of Wescott and Euclid. They will bring our expressed concerns back to Pomeroy for reconsideration.
- v. Westminster Stair Project – Sam shared that there will be a public meeting scheduled in October with Parks and Rec and designers. Documents would be put out to bid this fall. Westminster neighbors would like to have a seat at the table and form a mini–Westminster Neighborhood Association. Also, ideas are being floated for the park on top of the stairs by Friends of Westminster Park for gatherings, music events, etc.
- vi. Website Issues – Lisa Goodlin volunteered to address the problems related to updating the site. It involved deleting 140 gigabytes of files! She also provided a list of recommended updates for future considerations but presently the site is up and running.

New Business

Westcott Theater Hearing - Sam shared that the hearing was poorly attended by community members. The subject of our WNA involvement was brought up again. The board had previously addressed the issue and voted to maintain its role of sharing information regarding any public forums on this issue for community members to attend.

Meeting Adjourned at 7 :55. Submitted by Virginia Felleman.