



**April 5, 2017, 6 pm, 317 Allen Street
Annual Board Retreat minutes -- DRAFT**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 8, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Petit Library

Board members in attendance:

1. Administrative:

Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m., thanked Alice Honig for again hosting the retreat, and welcomed the 2 new board members able to attend (D.J. Hellerman; Jake Younts).

- Election of officers: In lieu of serious challengers, current officers were unanimously elected for 2017/2018: Grant Johnson (president); Damian Vallelonga (vice president); Charles Tremper (secretary); Natalie Steson (treasurer)
- Natalie will send out an updated board contact list.
- D.J. Hellerman and Jake Younts were asked if they had questions about their new positions or about WNA in general. Board member expectations were reviewed (as outlined in by-laws)
- Financials/membership: Natalie began her presentation by saying that WNA was doing well financially, with more money (\$650 +) from dues than anticipated. So far \$200 has been raised from cookbook sales, with more to be printed for the fair. Other expenses included: \$40 for marketing \$168 for annual meeting; \$120 for memorial bricks. \$1,000 is available to fund planters for this year. \$250 remains to be spent on sponsorships. Natalie will send out a draft budget for FY 2017/2018.
- Volunteers were identified for:
 - Picking up mail at WCC (Jake Younts)
 - TNT representative (Kathy Downing)
 - WLR representative (Marilyn Zaleon; Damian Vallelonga, alternate)

2. Projects:

- Planters: Grant announced that hoses would be procured and used to water the planters; he will secure permissions from property owners whose water would be used. Four planters are covered by WCC and Ben Tupper, leaving 6 in need. Lynne offered to do the one near the E. Genesee/Westcott corner. Kathy, Charles, Damian, and Grant volunteered to be available; Damian will send monthly reminders (planters need to be watered monthly between May and October)

- UNSAAC 2017 – street amenities. Damian and Brendan coordinated the first phase of the current 2-year grant which will fund the 3 neighborhood signs. The goal is to broaden both input and participation in the second phase, to determine how to best spend the remaining \$7,500. Brendan, Damian, D.J., and Zoe (if she agrees) will form a working group to survey residents, identify additional designers and fabricators, and determine feasibility. Once the ground work has been done, a coordinator will be hired (Kate Hammer).
 - UNSAAC 2018 and beyond : see below.
 - Levy School: Grant met with Zoe who is committed to having the building become community spaces of various sorts, once the city no longer needs it as a swing space for schools undergoing repairs. How to begin a neighborhood process on this and involve neighbors when nothing will happen in 5-9 years was discussed. Also unknown is what the city is planning to do once they no longer need it as a school. A starting point will be to meet with new city officials and counselors after the election.
3. The future—possibilities and capabilities.
- Discussion at this point was wide ranging as members identified myriad possibilities, including both new initiatives and resuming things formerly done.
- 187 steps (to rehabilitate and beautify the steps connecting Euclid with Westminster Park)
 - Holidays lights along the Westcott business district (Damian volunteered to continue efforts at contacting someone in city government)
 - Neighbor recognition for landscape improvements, general beautification, and for being a good neighbor.
 - Walkways in Thornden Park (efforts are underway, but costly, as Marilyn reported)
 - Garden and planting maintenance in business district.
 - General clean-up activities, both in conjunction with Earth Day and more general.
 - Street light audit, yearly before students return.