



**Jan. 11, 2021, 6:30 pm, virtual
Monthly meeting minutes -- DRAFT**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, Feb, 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m., virtual

WNA Board members: Grant Johnson, Lynne Odell, Kate Palermo, Glenda Ranallo, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

WNA members and friends: Laura Cueva (Interior Innovations), Joe Driscoll (common council), Tony Gigliotti, Sam Gruber, Alice Honig, Christine Kowalski, Melissa Montgomery, Susan Rainey, Anthony Rojas (in-Architects), Sharon Sherman, Kerry Thurston, Emily Winiecke (SU)

1. Welcome/introductions:
Damian called the meeting to order at 6:35. Those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:
Dec. 14 meeting minutes: Marilyn Zaleon moved; Glenda Renallo seconded approval; passed unanimously.
3. Fiscal report: Natalie sent the following via email:
\$98.24 (checking); \$2,395.91 (savings, with \$.06 interest in each of the last two months)
4. Business, Old:
 - a. Westmoreland/E. Fayette bus shelter:
Verbal approval on moving a shelter here from a less used stop has been made; not yet installed. Joe Driscoll will contact Centro.
 - b. WCC van fund raiser:
\$9,000 of \$40,000 has been raised. Glenda distributed flyers in the neighborhood. Those present were urged to contribute. Van used to transport people and deliver food during covid times.
5. Business, New:
 - a. Richmark Building project;
Laura Cueva introduced herself as building owner and her business, Interior Innovations, which will occupy the East Genesee side of the building with showroom and warehouse space. There will be commercial space for 2 additional businesses and for six apartments, one of which she will occupy. Anthony Rojas discussed the renovations which restore/replace historic aspects of the building, opening currently blocked windows, as well as adding a new entrance lobby and facilities. The complex comprises buildings from 3 eras, 1919, 1938, with additions dating from the 1950s. and also fronts on Cherry and E. Fayette Streets. There is parking at the corner of E. Genesee and

Cherry as well as facing E. Fayette, additional basement parking, with storage and loading docks for the businesses. The apartments will have outdoor terraces created by the roofs of the lower buildings. It is hoped to begin project work by June. Sharon Sherman asked about the mural facing the parking lot which will be removed. The mural was funded by public money; documentation about the artist and original funding is available. Concerns were raised about documenting it fully. Additional discussions of this will be held.

b. Website migration:

Damian reported that WNA had been paying too much for hosting and oversaw the migration which will save WNA money. Jonathan Durand did the work and contributed his services gratis. Thank you, Jonathan.

c. SU update:

Emily Winiecke reported SU had delayed opening for spring semester to Feb. 8. Students will be tested as during the fall and have to show a negative test before being allowed on campus. Testing will continue and vaccines will be available to faculty and staff; vaccinations will be overseen by the county.

d. SPD report:

Damian repeated that an SPD officer would no longer be available to attend WNA meetings and reported that he had received the first area report, covering Oct-Dec. 2020. Interpretation of the report and how to share the information clearly will be worked out.

e. Board recruitment:

It was agreed that WNA would virtually host an annual meeting this year in March. Damian asked any visitors present who are not board members to consider joining. Sam and Melissa have. All were asked to recommend or ask others.

f. Annual meeting planning:

The board will finalize an agenda via email. Suggestions were offered at the meeting. Sharon Sherman proposed a focus on the Westcott businesses in the post-Covid era: how they are faring, who has closed, etc. Suggested guests include Michael Collins, commissioner of business and neighborhood development Rachael May, NYS senator who lives in the neighborhood.

7. Committee/item reports.

a. Beautification committee:

No report; planning for spring clean-up could begin.

b. Membership: No report.

8. Upcoming meetings/events:

Eastside TNT (virtual): Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6:30 via Zoom.