



**Westcott Neighborhood Association
October 12, 2015, 6:30pm, Petit Library
Meeting minutes**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 9, 2015

Persons registering in attendance:

WNA board members: Jesse Daino, Starke Donnally, Kathy Downing, Alice Honig, Grant Johnson, Lynne Odell, Natalie Stetson, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon,

WNA neighbors and friends: Officer Dan Whittles

1. Welcome / Introductions:

Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes / Agenda:

Natalie Stetson moved and Damian Vallelonga seconded the approval of the September 14th meeting minutes. Passed unanimously with the exception of Kathy Downing who abstained (she had missed the meeting)

3. Fiscal Report:

Starke Donnally reported \$674.37 in the account, with a \$.03 dividend and that the UNSAAC reimbursement check had been received. The check from the food co-op is expected soon.

4. Neighborhood SPD Report:

Officer Whittles reported some 17 burglaries in the neighborhood, all the result of unlocked doors. He also reminded people to be careful who they let in, citing an incident on October 7 when access was gained and a car stolen. The Westcott Theater has purchased a permit for spaces in front of the theatre for an upcoming event which will be monitored. No significant issues were reported in conjunction with the street fair. Tickets have recently been issued because of excessive noise. In response to a question from Alice, he reiterated not to let in unknown people when selling items, etc.

5. Business: Old

a. Stickley House:

Charles reported that UNPA (University Neighborhood Preservation Association) would temporarily take possession of the house once the Aldi family makes the donation and that ultimately the Onondaga Historical Association would take ownership (following stabilization of the structure and repairs) and run the property as a house museum, with community meeting spaces becoming available on the upper floors. In addition, there will be a for profit aspect, with rental suites being offered. Mrs. Aldi said there would be interest from the Arts and Crafts community in staying at the house. One state grant (about \$500,000) is still available; an application will be submitted for additional funds. The

application will stress both the historic importance of the house as well as how the house could be a focus for community development.

b. Street Fair summary:

All agreed the fair was a success, with approximately 8,000 attendees.

Discussion focused on finding a better location, since WNA was somewhat off to the side and may have been overlooked by some. Two new memberships and 10-15 sign-ups were recorded.

6. Business: New

a. Ben Tupper project:

Mr. Tupper's organization, Lively-hood, has offered \$5,000 for a public arts project along Euclid between SU and Westcott Street as well as a project centered on the business district. He approached WNA with the offer and it presents a unique opportunity for WNA to partner with one of the larger landlords on community improvement efforts.

Discussion moved on to UNSAAC's future which remains uncertain. However, it is the time of the year to prepare and submit proposals. Brandon Rose and Damian have met with Kate Hammer from SU to discuss a possible project focused on the Westminster stairs which are a city park, in need of repairs, better lighting, landscaping, etc. Lynne raised another possible grant focused on spiffier trash cans. Grant will contact Kate.

b. Street Corner Safety Project:

Damian reported that 3 SU design students are conducting an independent study to determine the best solution to the "Grabby's" traffic / parking problems. Two public meetings will be held to solicit neighborhood input, the first on Oct 15th at Westcott Community Center; the second on Nov. 19th at Erwin Church which will have initial design proposals available. Damian and Brendan will coordinate with the city which has offered new curbing and other changes to enhance the designs.

c. Euclid Bike Lanes:

The city is committed to improving safety for cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians along Euclid. An independent study has proposed eliminating all parking. Damian proposed the WNA go on record supporting enhancing safety. Drafting a document all can support will be done via email and at the November meeting.

d. Winter Weekend:

Scheduled for November 28th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. WNA will focus on outreach to the businesses in hopes of getting them to offer discounts and special deals that day.

7. Item Reports

a. Membership:

WNA currently has 31 members in good standing, with Marilyn renewing at the meeting.

b. Cookbook:

Reina Apraez has resigned from the board; recipes so far collected were passed along to Grant and Damian. Discussion elicited that the cookbook is above all a neighborhood project with recipes coming from area residents.

8. Neighbor Input: none

9. Upcoming Events

a. Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m. – Eastside TNT, Nottingham High School

b. Thursday, October 15, 6:00pm-7:00pm – Street Corner Safety Public Meeting – Westcott Community Center

- c. Tuesday, October 20, 7 np.m. – Lyme disease, ticks, and deer management, Nottingham High School.