



**Oct. 14, 2019, 6:30pm, ECOH
Board Retreat -- DRAFT**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Petit

Board members: JAE Evangelisti, Alice Honig, Grant Johnson, Kate Oja, Lynne Odell, Kate Palermo, Glenda Ranallo, Natalie Stetson, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

Three themes of discussion were set; topics overlapped and interrelated.

1. Officer terms and board recruitment:

By-laws call for a maximum of 3 consecutive 1-year terms for officers. All current officers exceed this. Due to other board obligations and job demands, Grant intends to step down. Damian expressed interest, conditionally, emphasizing his work on projects.. Natalie admitted to things she was unable to get to as treasurer, identifying the need for community outreach for both WNA members and board members.

JAE raised the issue of WNA's viability as an ongoing organization; might it be folded into TNT as a committee.

Discussion of the president's duties, in addition to convening and presiding over meetings ensued. Grant will prepare a job description at a more detailed level than what the by-laws specify.

2. Future initiatives/direction of WNA:

WNA needs to reach out to the neighborhood both to let people know what has been done and to give residents a venue to express needs and and problems. How to advertise and publicize accomplishments was discussed.

Does the group want to become a conduit for resident complaints which could be time-consuming?

Other than clean-up efforts, beautification has not been a consistent priority. All agreed that a beautification committee was needed to coordinate and focus activities.

Board members also agreed that a membership/outreach committee would help with both general and board recruitment. The upcoming outreach to the businesses would also be folded under this umbrella.

The idea of piggy-backing on communication channels (newsletters and the like) of other organizations, churches, etc. was raised.

3. Meeting decorum

Refashioning the agenda was raised, and discussions attempted to identify essential and non-essential items.

The tone and demeanor of participants and discussions was deemed important.

Welcoming new people, with introductions and some personal contact will be a responsibility of the membership committee.

Grant will invite various election officials, city and state, to meetings. The absence of Nader Maroun was noted and appreciated expressed for all his past help.

Keeping to the agenda, while allowing for spontaneous fruitful discussions, and how to balance the two was identified as an important part of making meetings more successful. Charles added secretary has a role here.

4. Next steps:

Grant will prepare a job description for the president and offer a revised meeting agenda.

Natalie will send out an email concerning the membership/outreach committee.