



**Westcott Neighborhood Association  
November 9, 2015, 6:30pm, Petit Library  
Meeting minutes -- DRAFT**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 14, 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:** Matthew Broderick, Tyler Dattmore, Tony Gigliotti, Sue Goettel, Kate Hammer, Nader Maroun, Joseph Norten, Susan Rainey, Keith Weil, Officer Dan Whittles

1. Welcome / Introductions:

Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes / Agenda:

Pending corrections to item 4, Neighborhood police report (removing the final 3 words) and correcting Brandon to Brendon in item 6a, Alice Honig moved and Natalie Stetson seconded approval of the October 12 minutes; passed unanimously.

3. Fiscal Report:

Starke Donnally reported \$1,204.43 in the account, with a \$.06 dividend and that the UNSAAC reimbursement check had been received. The check from the food co-op is still being expected "soon."

4. Neighborhood SPD Report:

Officer Whittles reported some 15 burglaries in the neighborhood, all the result of unlocked doors; about 50% of the residents were home at the time. The person stealing watches on Greenwood was identified. 5 robberies were reported, with 4 matching the same description. Thefts from cars continue, the result of valuable items being visible. Halloween saw a number of incidents on Westcott Street focused on the theatre (fights, disorderly conduct, interfering with a police officer) and resulting in arrests. One property owner has begun booting illegally-parked cars in his lot, without no advance warning. Discussion ensued, with Officer Whittles emphasizing that the property owner was acting within his rights. Concerns were raised about the effect on the businesses. Grant asked about the sexual assault on Euclid; no one has yet been caught. Syracuse Police and SU's Dept. of Public Safety officers have both increased patrols in the area.

5. Business: Old

- a. Euclid/Westcott Street corner safety project:

The first public meeting has been held, with the second scheduled for November 19 at Erwin Church. Three SU students are conducting research and soliciting community feedback.

- b. UNSAAC:  
Kate Hammer reported no new information, but that SU and the city continue to meet. Nader added that something would likely be known by the time the city budget is due in February.
- c. Euclid bike lanes:  
Grant read the statement adding WNA's support for a solution that supports the safety needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, and cars. Alice Honig moved accepting the proposal and sending it to the mayor; Lynne Odell added sending it to Melissa Fierke's bicyclist group as well; motion passed unanimously with Lynne's addition.
- d. Winter weekend:  
WNA took the lead in contacting the businesses to see if they would be willing to participate by offering discounts or other specials in conjunction with this; so far 9 have accepted, with the hope that Picasso's and Alto's will shortly accept it. Promotion of the event (to be held November 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving) will begin this week.

#### 6. Business: New

- a. TNT:  
Sharon Sherman has suggested that WNA routinely send a representative to TNT meetings. Grant and Starke will attend tomorrow; in the future board members will be solicited to see who can attend.
- b. Holiday lighting:  
Munjed's owner has asked about this, expressing a willingness to support the effort. The city no longer sponsors holiday lighting in the neighborhoods, so it falls to them to sponsor lighting if they desire. Eastwood currently does so. Neighborhoods need to coordinate with DPW because of insurance and other concerns. Nader will contact Pete O'Connor about the illuminated snowflakes that used to line Westcott. Damian will contact Nader about this.

#### 7. Item reports:

- a. Website:  
Damian reported that Ben Tupper has created a foundation to support public art in the neighborhood. Damian is seeking venues to advertise the Web site, especially to students, such as Jerk magazine and other such publications.
- b. Membership: currently 5 new members on the way to the goal of 25. Efforts will focus on business owners, with a follow-up after Winter Weekend.
- c. Cookbook:  
Discussions focused on the need to assess recipes that have been received and whether a smaller, more focused cookbook might be possible. Discussions then segued into how WNA might raise money and how money might be used. Supporting other groups, distributing flyers, etc., and beautification were raised as possibilities. Planting and maintaining plantings were discussed and how to engage businesses and community members in these projects were all raised, as was the need to protect landscape from damage from theater and other crowds. The bulb project has apparently been cancelled.

#### 8. Upcoming Events

- a. Tuesday, November 10, 7 p.m. – Eastside TNT, Nottingham High School

- b. Saturday, November 14, 1-2 p.m., Neighborhood clean-up; meet at 623 Allen Street
- c. Thursday, November 19, 6-7:30 p.m., Street Corner Safety public meeting, Erwin Methodist Church.
- d. Saturday, November 28, Winter weekend.