



**Dec. 13, 2021, 6:30 pm, virtual
Monthly meeting minutes**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m., virtual

WNA Board members: Sam Gruber, Lynne Odell, Natalie Stetson, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

WNA members and friends: Corey Driscoll Dunham (chief operating officer, City of Syracuse, presenter), Joseph Driscoll, Anthony Gigliotti, James Gorvette, Kate Hammer, Paul Harvey, Serena Hemmers, Alice Honig, Carol Johnson, Andy Leahy, Hqrry Lewis, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Carolyn Ostrander, Tim Rice, Sharon Sherman, Kerry Thurston, Benjamin Tupper, Sally White, Heather Williams

1. Welcome/introductions:
Damian called the meeting to order at 6:35. Those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:
Pending the correction of Galyn's first name, November meeting minutes were accepted. Sam Gruber moved; Lynne Odell seconded; passed unanimously.
3. Fiscal report: Natalie reported \$113.02 in checking; \$2396.57 (\$.06 interest) in savings.
4. Business, Old:
 - a. Special guest planning:
Damian suggested inviting guests on a regular basis, monthly or every other month. Possibilities include an OCRRA representative, Steve Harris, city arborist, to talk about 70,000 trees in 2 years initiative, Terry Ettiinger for gardening tips, representatives from Thornden Park Assn and SU to discuss university initiatives for the park,
 - b. Board recruitment:
Damian asked all present to be thinking of additional possibilities.
5. Business, New:
Guest: Corey Driscoll Dunham provided general background on the Syracuse Municipal Sidewalk program. The former system made property owners responsible both for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of sidewalks and for clearing snow from them. The system was complaint driven and there was no coordinated effort to enhance walkability. Under the new program, the city assumes responsibility for repair and replacement of sidewalks; the city has created an expanding network of major sidewalks plowed by the city. To facilitate plowing the city will target these major routes for maintenance and repair. The program will be funded by fees assessed to residences and businesses, regardless of the length of associated sidewalk. Residential fees will start next year at \$20, rising over the

next 5 years to \$100; Business fees will begin at \$60 and rise to \$300. The fee structure is being used to insure that all properties, not just those on the tax rolls will pay for the program. The program will allow coordination between city tree planting/maintenance efforts with mitigating damage caused to sidewalks by trees.

Except on major sidewalk routes included in the snow removal projects property owners are still responsible for snow removal. This led to discussions on how to connect those in need of hiring snow removal (the elderly, disabled etc.) with support. For streets covered by the city, 3 inches of snow will trigger plows being sent out. In the WNA area, parts of E. Genesee, Euclid, Westcott, Lancaster, and Columbus are among the sidewalks targeted for clearing. Coordinating street plowing, private driveway plowing and sidewalk plowing remains a challenge, with some folks blocking sidewalks with snow plowed from their property. How to handle those who just say no to shoveling their sidewalks remains a challenge. Sidewalk needs may be reported to Cityline, via phone or online. WNA was encouraged to do a sidewalk audit to coordinate reporting of problems.

Corey also provided a look ahead as the city plans to revamp and update its trash and recycle collection programs.

Adjournment: Damian adjourned the meeting at 7:45 before the remaining agenda items could be discussed.