



Westcott Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2025

Board Members Present: Sam Gruber, Co-President; Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Co-President; Carol Johnson, Vice President; Kevin Montgomery, Treasurer; Adam Felleman, Virginia Felleman, Kim McCoy, Marilyn Zaleon.

On Zoom: Board Member Heila Martin-Person, Ben Lockwood, Andrea Latchem

Absent: Board Member Chrissy Burd who was traveling.

Other Attendees: Kate Auwaerter, Jack Brower, Mary Klucznik, Judy Jerome, Ashley Kennard, Andy Leahy, Lisa Lehmann, Corey Williams

Approval of the November Minutes - Kevin motioned, Gayln seconded; motion approved.

Financial Report – Kevin reported that t-shirts sales at the Westcott Scott Street Fair generated almost \$1,000 of net profit; Membership & Misc donations increased by \$565 over last year. Current cash balance is \$3,428.85 compared to beginning of the year balance of \$2,392.

WNA is contesting an additional \$545 that State Farm is charging on our original policy that State Farm had previously cancelled early. Board members voted to allow Kevin Montgomery to file against the State Farm agent in Small Claims Court for selling WNA an inappropriate policy.

Meanwhile we are insured for liability and board member coverage through CH Insurance broker for a year effective 10/23/2025 for a fee of \$888 of which half has been paid.

The CNY Arts grant of \$1,000 through WACC for the dog parade has been received.

Special Topics: Our Parks

First presentation by Kate Auwaerter, President of the Thornden Park Assoc. Updates: Amphitheater Improvements in Phase I (drainage to fix water problems) Creating some viewing platforms for people in wheel- chairs and improving walking paths from both field house and parking places (still awaiting Engineers' approval); Phase II remove the bunkers and start new phase for stage improvements. Longer term vision: a true performance stage that includes overhead coverage.

Rose Garden Project that includes removal of bricks and cobblestones in favor of pavers is a response to the Rose Garden Society concern about slippage. Concerns and changes to the historic character of the Rose Garden have been voiced.

Convert the swimming pool into Olympic size – will encourage competitions and generate income. Also, a splash pad for the babies. Projected to be a 2 year project necessitating closure of the pool beginning in 2026 (not out to bid yet).

In discussions with SU maintenance along Ostrom – Parks Commissioner will meet with SU to try and amp up other responsibilities like mowing, stump grinding, clearing overgrowth of basketball and tennis courts, etc.

Walking paths will be completed in the spring with trail markers and a public art project by a local artist.

Concluded with announcing Thornden Park Pop-Up event this Saturday to sell merchandise as a fund raiser.

Ashley Kennard, Barry Park Association – Reached out to the Syracuse Parks Conservancy to receive some help with funding. Met informally with the Parks Department regarding the need to do a major overhaul of the playground. Reaching out to both Magnarelli and May for directing some funds to Barry. They do have \$200,000 from Parks – the goal is \$500,000.

In support of the Ed Smith “Bike Bus”, Barry Park Association are endeavoring to get a bike repair station.

In June they will be in charge of the fun run which was formerly an UNPA event.

They hope to create a storage unit for the soccer teams, leaving more room in the field house. They successfully blocked off the parking lot exit by the walking path.

They have not made much progress on getting the bathrooms accessible from the outside door. In the meantime, there are outhouses.

Jack Brower – Comfort Tyler Park

Mostly active in summer months with popular splash pad. They take pride in the diversity of residents who enjoy the park. They do not have a particular association. They are considering approaching Rachel May about funding a capital project to create art in the park. Was suggested that he reach out for a greening grant from the Syracuse Parks Conservancy.

Jack briefly mentioned that Homer Wheaton Park near Mountainview Ave., has bathrooms and a pickleball and basketball court.

End of Presentations on Parks.

Ben Lockwood representing UNPA

Loan function now increased to \$25,000 with 1 percent interest. Have funds for about 20 families annually. Mentioned the historic tax credit for home improvements. Encouraged people to get involved in UNPA. Their annual meeting is Wednesday, December 17th at 6 PM at the Westcott Community Center. Andy Leahy will be the speaker. They are actively looking to increase their board members.

Sam shared with the group that he, Ginny and Kevin have been working on updating the bylaws. The recommended changes will be sent to all Board Members for their input.

Event dates: Poetry – summer date TBD-funding?

Westcott Remembrance Event set for Saturday, June 6

Dog Parade on Halloween, October 31st-CNY Arts funding.

Annual Meeting – either March 8, or 15; place TBD

Meeting Adjourned