



AI Zoom generated minutes of  
Westcott Neighborhood Association Meeting

February 10, 2025

Attended: Alex Marion- Guest Speaker; Judy Jerome, Kevin Montgomery, Carol Johnson, Michael Stanton, Sam Gruber, Jessica Fennell, Andy Leahy, Kathy Downing, Galyn Murphy Stanley, Adam Felleman, Lisa Lehmann, Alex Lawson, Corey Williams, Kim McCoy,

Via ZOOM, Katy Lawson, Virginia Felleman, Matthew Krush, Michael Messina- Yauchzy, Selena Hemmers

The Agenda:

1. Welcome/introductions (3mins)
2. Approve January meeting Minutes (2 mins)
3. Financial Report (2 mins)
4. Old Business / Committees (13 mins total)
  - a. Executive (3 min)
  - b. Beautification (3 mins)
  - c. Events (Westcott Word & Music updates) (5 mins)
  - d. Cleanups, Artbox, Kiosk, etc. (2 mins)
5. Old Business con't (10 mins total)

Arrangements for March 9 Annual meeting

6. New Business (60 minutes)

Bicycle infrastructure with special guest City Auditor Alex Marion

7. Adjournment

## **AI Meeting summary for WNA February 2025 Monthly Meeting (02/10/2025)**

### **Quick recap**

WNA discussed the upcoming annual meeting, the featured speaker, Pam Hunter, and various neighborhood events, including the Halloween Dog Parade and the Westcott Remembers event. They also discussed the state of housing and code enforcement in the neighborhood, the need for better bike infrastructure, and the importance of advocacy and

lobbying for more funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Lastly, they discussed the city's bike infrastructure plan, the need for better bike storage, and the importance of reaching out to elected officials to express community needs.

### **Next steps**

- Alex Marion to provide his contact information to the Artrage Gallery representative to discuss installing a bike rack.
- Alex Marion to follow up with the city's transportation planners about potentially installing a bike rack near Artrage Gallery.
- Alex Marion to work with Councilor Williams on passing a new ordinance to cover city rights of way and hold contractors more accountable for restoring bike lanes after construction.
- Alex Marion to continue working with the Council to pass a new violation in the traffic code for blocking bike lanes.
- WNA members should contact their elected officials to advocate for more funding and resources for bike infrastructure.
- WNA members to provide feedback to city officials about priority areas for bike infrastructure improvements, particularly the stretch between Euclid and Westcott.
- Alex Marion to explore the possibility of implementing flex posts or other low-cost protective measures for bike lanes.
- City officials to work on improving signage uniformity for bike lanes and parking areas.
- WNA to consider organizing or participating in efforts to advocate for bike infrastructure improvements in the East Side, particularly on Westcott Street.

### **Summary**

#### **Annual Meeting, Events, and Coordination**

WNA discussed the upcoming annual meeting, scheduled for March 9th, and the featured speaker, Pam Hunter. They also discussed the menu for the event, with a budget of \$200, and the possibility of bringing their own drinks. WNA mentioned that they have a contract for the Westcott Words and Music from CmY Arts for \$900, which will go to the dog parade. They also discussed the Tnt application, which has not yet shown up, and the importance of voting for their project. WNA also mentioned the Halloween Dog Parade, which will be on October 26th, and the Westcott Remembers event at the library on May 31st. They discussed the need for a cutoff date for accepting memorials for the Westcott Remembers event and the importance of reaching out to family members and friends of those memorialized. Lastly, they discussed the Earth Day event on April 26th and the need for coordination with other neighborhood groups.

### **Improving Syracuse's Bike Infrastructure**

WNA discussed the state of bike infrastructure in Syracuse, noting that only 11% of the projects from the 2012 bike plan have been completed, with 73% not even started. WNA emphasized the need for better bike infrastructure, particularly protected bike lanes, and called for a comprehensive snow removal plan for bike lanes. WNA also discussed the need for more bike storage and the importance of holding contractors accountable for their work on city streets. Additionally, WNA mentioned ongoing efforts to update the contract with Wheel scooters and to pass a new ordinance to cover city rights of way and hold contractors more accountable. WNA also highlighted the need to make blocking a bike lane a violation of the city's traffic code.

### **Bike Registration and Public Education**

WNA discussed the low compliance rate of bike registration in Syracuse and the need for better public education on cyclists. WNA also mentioned the increase in bicycle thefts and the importance of registering bikes with the police department to facilitate recovery. The conversation also touched on the issue of electric bikes, with WNA explaining that they are not allowed on city sidewalks and must be parked in designated areas. WNA also mentioned the need for more docking stations in higher traffic areas and the introduction of an AI parking component to reduce the number of bikes parked in the wrong places. WNA concluded by stating that the city has the authority to terminate contracts after one year if necessary.

### **Improving Non-Vehicular Transportation Safety**

WNA discussed the need for better management of non-vehicular transportation, suggesting that parking spots on the street could be converted into bike lanes. WNA also expressed concerns about the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, emphasizing the need for protected bike lanes and better signage. Michael raised the issue of cars turning from bike lanes, to which WNA responded that the focus should be on making roads safer for cyclists. Katy, a frequent cyclist, highlighted the need for safer streets for all forms of transportation, as many people choose sidewalks due to perceived danger on roads. The conversation ended without a clear answer to why these improvements hadn't been implemented.

### **City Bike Infrastructure and Funding**

WNA discussed the city's bike infrastructure plan, noting that while some projects from the 2012 plan were not implemented, the city has been working on different bike projects. WNA suggested that a new comprehensive bike plan should be developed and adhered to. The city has recently approved \$800,000 for the upcoming construction season for bike lane and pedestrian infrastructure. WNA also mentioned that the city has not

received any money from the Veo scooter operation, but will receive a 15 cents per ride fee. The discussion also touched on the need for more bike racks and the importance of bike accessibility infrastructure. WNA emphasized the need for advocacy and lobbying to secure more funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The possibility of New York State adopting Eastside projects was also discussed.

### **Improving Bike Infrastructure in Syracuse**

WNA discussed the need for better bike infrastructure in Syracuse, highlighting the importance of consistency in signage and the need for a unified vision for bike plans. WNA also emphasized the importance of reaching out to elected officials to express community needs. Katy (Katie Lawson via Zoom) shared her concerns about the safety of biking on Westcott Street, suggesting the implementation of green paint and flex posts to improve safety. WNA agreed with Katy's suggestions and encouraged everyone to share their needs and concerns with city officials.

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