

WNA Meeting

Monday, February 12, 2018

Petit Library

WNA board members: Kathy Downing, D.J. Hellerman, Alice Honig, Grant Johnson, Zoe Meaghan, Lynn O'Dell, Natalie Stetson, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

WNA board members absent: Charles Tremper,

WNA members and friends: JAE Evangelisti, Samuel Gruber, Diana Jaramillio, Jane Kalkbrenner, Kate Palermo, Glenda Ronallo,

1. Welcome and introductions:

Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30; those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the January 8th meeting minutes:

Natalie Stetson moved; Kathy Downing seconded approval; passed unanimously.

3. Fiscal report: Natalie Stetson reported: \$5 in checking; \$2342.03 in savings, and \$1146.47 in planter account. Fiscal \$4,500 awards to artists given out.

JAE Evangelisti asked about old post cards. These have been given away over years. A new card announcing the annual meeting needs to be printed and sent.

4. Neighborhood SPD report:

Officer Bresett gave a report: There were 3 robberies on a Sunday night, one at Ostrom Ave. near the park; a second one on Westcott, and a 3rd on Kensington. Victims were approached from behind, and a handgun was seen. They all took place within an hour and police patrols were stepped up. Suspects were two guys in light colored SUV. Two detectives were assigned and CID working on this

There had been burglaries in December and a suspect has been arrested.

Emails sent from Columbus Ave (by Charles Tremper and others) about possible drug deals led to no results. Lynne O'Dell said she called number [which number] and the phone just rings and rings. Officer Bresett gave out his work cell phone number as a preferred way to contact police.

Lynne said she called about parking on a Sunday in January about a car parked the wrong way in front of the Liquor store on Harvard. Double parked, with headlights shining, blocking traffic. This led to a big discussion – mostly by JAW – about the long history of police failure to addressing local parking issues.

Zoe Meaghan mentioned an Amazon package opened and stolen from her front porch on Westmoreland.

JAE mentioned Westcott Theater band bus parked on the single family driveway on South Beech next to the DayHab lot. It is paved like it is part of the big lot, but it is not zoned for commercial/bus parking.

Officer Bresett was notified that the stor front phone will not be fixed. He again gave out his cell phone number, which is also on the [police?] website.

5. Street Amenities update:

Clean up green space in front of Michael Moody mural ..

Architect Diana Jaramillo offered a new version of the bench design for the space in front of the Michael Moody mural across at Westcott and South Beech. Damian reported that he had talked to city arborist Steve Harris about keeping the trees but removing bushes. There is a new DPW commissioner so the ideas need to be represented to make sure site is being used properly. Three trees are not to be disturbed, so the bench needs to stay clear of root systems etc. Steve Harris suggested not removing every shrub.

Board members had questions about the new design – a long two-sided bench closer to the Westcott side of the green space. Concerns included people sleeping on benches; problems with the longevity of the wood; and the possibility of leaves and trash accumulating in the bench. These will be addressed.

6. The Annual meeting is set for Sunday March 1 . the Agenda was reviewed and approved. The Mayor is unavailable, but the new common councilors in 4th and 5th district will attend and speak briefly. Candidates were announced for new terms. Alice said she will run if she is alive (ha!).

Sam Gruber and JAE Evangelist presented a list of honorees for home improvement awards. There was discussion that some awards recognized projects that were now several years old, but because there have been no awards for many years it was decided to allow these retroactive awards this year. These were approved.

Sam and JAE suggested a garden award be presented later – perhaps the day of the garden Tour. They also proposed that nomination begin for a “good neighbor: honoree at the Annual Meeting and be announced at the Fair in September.

Zoe motioned to approve awards and accept the proposal. Alice seconded, and the motion arried unanimously.

7. New business:

Damian (?) mentioned a call for potential projects for UNSAAC funding. The application process will be opening soon. Mention was made of many of past projects funded, including murals, amenities, website, walking tours, bus shelter, signage, and bike racks. A call for proposals can be made at the annual Meeting.

8. TNT: Kathy Downing gave a report of the last TNT meeting. That meeting consisted entirely of a presentation by Beth Crawford on the Stickley house restoration phase one, which is on-going. Funds

were received from the Preservation League of NY State for an Historic Structures Report, which will begin to prepare for the interior restoration.

9. Announcements. The Thornden Park Chili Fest is March 4

10. Newsletter. The communications committee will meet to prepare a newsletter for the annual meeting, and mention upcoming awards.

11. Farewell. The Board and all present bade farewell to Kathy Downing who is moving from the neighborhood to be closer to her grandchildren in the Valley. But all hope to continue to see her at events. Kathy was thanked for her service to WNA.

Minutes submitted by Sam Gruber, sitting in for Charles Tremper