



WNA Board Minutes, February 9th, 2026

Board Members Present: Chrissy Burd, Adam Felleman, Virginia Felleman, Sam Gruber, Carol Johnson, Heila Martin-Person, Kevin Montgomery, Marilyn Zaleon

Other Attendees: Maurice Brown, Nicole Fragnito, Judy Jerome, Andy Leahy, Lisa Lehmann, Suzy MacPherson, Jane Pusch, Andrew Roblee, Sarah Tietje-Mietz

Approval of Minutes: President Sam asked for a motion to approve December meeting minutes; Chrissy approved, and Carol seconded.

Financial and Membership Report: a \$10 membership fee; zoom annual payment of \$159.90 and end of month combined cash balance of \$3,430.57.

News from elected officials: Maurice Brown, County Legislator, shared that the County Legislature agreed to follow the condemnation of actions by Federal Law Enforcers, Border Patrol and ICE in accordance with the Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network (SIRDN).

Lisa Lehmann, Chair of the 17th Ward, noted that upcoming election petitions may have a place holder for the Syracuse City School Board because of an appeal in process.

Committee Reports: (1) Executive: Sam confirmed that the Annual Meeting will be held on March 8th at Munjed's from 2-4. The keynote speaker will be Deputy Mayor, Corey Driscoll Dunham. At that meeting new board members will be elected. On the ballot will be Chrissy and Ginny. A motion was made to allot \$300 for refreshments – Sam approved, and Chrissy seconded. There needs to be a committee formed to follow through on the details for the meeting; for example, the agenda, the ballot, and the banner. Carol, Chrissy,

Kevin and Ginny agreed to participate. Sam also announced that Galyn Murphy-Stanley has submitted her resignation after serving 4 years on the Board and that this will be his last meeting serving as President.

TNT meeting tomorrow night. To date, they have only received one grant proposal. Sam submitted a second one for \$4,500 to create a 32-page booklet on the history/architecture of the neighborhood. A suggestion was made that it might be useful to also include a page or appendix on local information links. CNY Art grant due in a few weeks. Grace grant from the city for \$1,000; festival grant for \$1,000.

(2) **Governance** – All board members were previously given a copy of the updated bylaws. Two suggestions were made at the meeting: Article V, strike letter “g”; and add the word “benefit” to the end of the paragraph of Article XI. Sam made a motion to accept these two recommendations; Chrissy seconded. An overview of final copy will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

(3) **Beautification** – Sarah Tietje-Mietz and Nicole Fragnito of PACNY, recognizing that the Westcott-Neighborhood designation as historic is the second largest in the State, want to reach out to the Pomeroy Foundation for funding to create a historic sign. PACNY would be responsible for the application, obtaining necessary approvals, and coordinating the installation. Nicole displayed an example of a historic sign. There was general approval for moving forward on further discussion regarding the ideal location, sign appearance, lettering, etc. One suggestion was that historic signage become a city-wide endeavor.

Suzy MacPherson, representing the city, explained that previous lighting funding was cut from the city’s budget but some funds were reallocated so that some trees on one side of Westcott received lighting that was tapped into the power owned by the city; another pole was owned by National Grid so there was no access to that power. To continue this project on the other side of Westcott, the City Arborist explained that WNA would have to give 4 weeks’ notice to the property owners. It was mentioned emphasizing the safety benefits of having more lighting during the evening. If

funding is secured, it is recommended the Michael Grimm Tree Services be hired to do any installations.

New Business: Andy Leahy reported that he has spent hours culling 800 homeowners who would qualify for both the historic tax break and the UNPA loan. The goal is to create a pamphlet allowing neighbors to be better informed that these benefits exist and how to apply for them. The pamphlet can then be disseminated by volunteers with addresses provided by Andy and/or mailed if the budget allows.

Submitted by: Virginia Felleman

