



March 10, 2019, 1 pm, Munjed's Annual meeting minutes -- DRAFT

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Petit Library

President Grant Johnson welcomed attendees and called the annual meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

He then provided an overview of the neighborhood quality of life issues WNA had accomplished during 2018.

- Street light audit prior to students' return in August: identify and report non- and mal-functioning lights. Fewer discovered than in early years.
- Neighborhood signage completed with the installation of the "W" at the intersection of Westcott and Harvard. Community painting day had been a success.
- Bench constructed at the intersection of Westcott and S. Beech.
- 10 planters along Westcott between E. Genesee and Euclid successfully maintained (Thanks to Grant and other board members) during the summer.
- 2019 project will focus on new, and hopefully improved trash cans/recycling stations to replace current mismatched and battered ones.

Sharon Sherman raised 2 issues: preparation for the Westcott Street Cultural Fair and the installation of chess tables (one handicapped accessible) at the Westcott Community Center. For those lacking chess sets, one may be signed out from Petit Library.

Grant Johnson introduced speakers: Mayor Ben Walsh to be followed by Sam Gruber and Bruce Harvey speaking on the historic district nomination for the larger Westcott neighborhood.

Mayor Walsh highlighted a number of initiatives, including the planned city purchase of streetlights and their replacement by smart lights using LED bulbs which will save money and allow for monitoring of street light functioning and conditions on nearby streets/sidewalks. This means ultimately WNA street light audit will be rendered unnecessary. Sidewalk snow removal pilot project, street repairs and pothole repairs, and larger parking issues also highlighted. The mayor then fielded questions/comments from attendees.

Bruce Harvey began the presentations on the historic district nomination with a discussion, illustrated with maps, of the historic background (1840s-1941, the demise of the streetcar lines). He emphasized the need to make the case for the designation, focused on the area's development and significance (most houses are extant, if in altered states). The oldest houses are along S. Beech, one of the first roads through the neighborhood. The neighborhood developed out of a series of independent tracts, most of which were developed for people of modest means, working rather than professional classes. Lots were 40 feet leading to densely built up streets.

Sam Gruber continued with a focus on the evolving architectural styles, ranging from 19th century Greek revival and farmhouses to Italianate Victorian to arts and crafts and colonial revival styles at the turn of the 20th century. Both single family and duplexes are represented, with a few larger structures.

Elections:

Three current board members had their terms extended (D.J. Hellerman, Natalie Stetson, Lynne Odell. Kate Oja was elected as a new board member. All votes were unanimous.