



March 10th, 2024, 4-6pm, hybrid hosted at Erwin Methodist Church
Annual meeting minutes

NEXT MEETING: Monthly Meeting April 8th, 2024

WNA Board members attending: Andrea Buckvold, Kevin Montgomery, Marilyn Zaleon, Carol Johnson, Sam Gruber, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Charles Tremper, Susannah Park, Kimberly McCoy, Adam Felleman

Attendees: Heila Martin-Person, Judy Jerome, Andy Leahy, Lisa Warnecke, Abby Case, Mark Feldman, Chris Riley, Pete Ensminger, Maria Bell, Howard Walsdorf, Chris Tzetzis, Reed Martin, Dorcas Rodriguez, Janice Hammerle, George Stanley, Diane Murphy (on zoom) Harriet Brown, Michael Messina-Yauchzy

Guests/Speakers: Alex Marion, Maurice (Mo) Brown, Corey Williams

1. Welcome/Introduction
2. Election/reinstate/retire WNA Board members: Marilyn Zaleon, Charles Tremper, Andrea Buckvold will retire or move off the WNA board. Thank you for your time, attention and energy. All have been invited to remain with the group, attend monthly meetings and for Marilyn to continue her work maintaining the WNA calendar. Sam Gruber, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Carol Johnson, Kevin Montgomery, Susannah Park, Kimberly McCoy and Adam Felleman to remain as they are.
We welcome-sheila Martin-Person and Jackie Fennel as new board members
“Elections” were held by show of hands/all in favor
3. Announcement of upcoming events which will be added to the WNA calendar
-Spoken Word events, Westcott Remembers (Georgia Popoff events at Mom’s diner) both supported by the CNY Arts award, fall Dog Parade 3rd annual and Pop up concerts
 - i. CNY Arts events will happen June- December 2024 (when \$ arrives)
 - ii. an additional activity: rebuilding the bulletin board/kiosk at corner of Westcott and Harvard Streets will happen this year due to an awarded TNT grant. Assistance will be provided by Zeke Leonard and ...
 - iii. Westcott Remembers, Petit, June 8th
4. Annual Meeting begins with introductions of Alex Marion (City Auditor), Maurice Brown (Onondaga Co. Legislator) and Corey Williams (3rd District Common Councilor). The 3 gathered at the front of the room and answered questions on housing, promised money for neighborhood projects (specifically, Westminster stairs, Thornden Park stage, Levy School and Petit expansion). These projects had money promised/earmarked but no action/renovation. As well as single family homes, rentals, Airbnb.
 - i. Corey stated costs for repairs: 1.1 million total
Thornden Stage: 500k
Westminster stairs: 600k

the 1.1 million covers the face lift on the stairs, but not problems to the infrastructure of the stairs themselves so projects are stopped to learn the structural repairs needed from city engineers. No money is coming from Syracuse City for this project. Mo states this is a priority project.

Alex noted some inefficiency in the parks system and how projects are addressed. There will be a launch to rework the parking ticket system in the city with the goal of securing more funds to assist in completion of above projects.

Mo suggested that possibly the county can help with the Library renovation but suspects that the county has not replaced retired board members so there is not quorum in Co. Library leadership. The county needs to replace 4 board members. Mo recommended that WNA and Syracuse community reach out to the County Executive re: the lack of progress on the Petit Library renovation via letter writing campaign and phone calls to the County Executive office. Thornden Park not only needs stage renovation but, ADA compliance access to “green room” under stage, bathrooms (ADA compliant and physically more bathrooms). This project should move forward this spring (2024).

Alex stated that Federal COVID relief \$ was utilized to fill holes in city budget. By the end of 2024 that money must be committed to a project(s).

Barry Park detention basin is a “football” (Mo Brown) between city and county parks.

Parking in all parks is a problem. This is noticed in Thornden Park especially by the Rose Garden and club house for SU overflow parking.

Question: 3 priorities while in office

Mo Brown- Housing, Transportation, Poverty

Alex Marion- Code enforcement, money for city, securing aid from NYstate for local efforts

Corey Williams-Establishment of fiscal responsibility, investing in modernization of city systems, housing

all agree on constituency responsibility

Closing remarks and thanks by Sam Gruber

Move to adjourn