



**Mar. 8, 2021, 6:30 pm, virtual  
Annual meeting minutes -- DRAFT**

**NEXT MEETING: To be determined, board retreat, or regular monthly meeting in April, virtual**

**WNA Board members:** Grant Johnson, Lynne Odell, Kate Palermo, Glenda Ranallo, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

**WNA members and friends:** Maribel Arce, Andrea Buckvold, Michael Collins (commissioner of neighborhood and business development), Joe Driscoll (common council), Linda Ervin, Anthony Gigliotti, Sam Gruber, Paul Harvey (WCC), Alice Honig, Susan LaPlaca (Helio Health), Elizabeth Metcalf, Carolyn Ostrander, Timothy Rice, Heather Schroeder, Sharon Sherman, Jared Stafford-Hill, Emily Winiacki

1. Welcome/introductions:  
Damian called the meeting to order at 6:30.
2. Election of board members:  
Damian introduced board members present and presented names of 3 members up for re-election: Lynne Odell, Natalie Stetson, and himself; and presented Sam Gruber as a new, but experienced, member. At the close of the meeting, Damian announced all 4 had been unanimously elected.
3. Damian reminded those present that memberships, as low as \$10.00, could be renewed and dues paid through the Web site.
4. Damian introduced Susan LaPlaca from Helio Health.  
Susan discussed the increase of opioid overdoses on the East side. Helio will sponsor a narcan training session via zoom on Mar. 31. Attendees will learn how to spot overdoses and administer narcan. Registration via Helio.
5. Review of 2020:  
Damian reviewed WNA's installation of 13 new trash cans along Westcott, from Euclid to Hawthorne, and on Westmoreland. As of now, the future of the UNSAAC program is unknown
6. Presentation: Michael Collins.  
Michael introduced himself as born and living in the Westcott area, and outlined projects planned and currently underway:
  - a. Parks Dept.: upgrades to Thornden Park amphitheatre, including ADA accessible restrooms; repairs to the brick stairs leading from Euclid up to Westmoreland.
  - b. Small business support from SEDCO?, and Cares act, \$1.4 million
  - c. Economic recovery group, one of first in NYS; the lieutenant governor joined in

- d. Loans to business: some have been paid back; current round focusing on minority and women-owned businesses; created video on how to apply
- e. Housing assistance: both tenants and landlords in need; landlords surveyed, with 10% response.
- f. UNSAAC negotiations between city and SU; program likely to continue.
- g. homeless: outreach to try to restore support services.

Discussion ensued:

- a. Sharon Sherman praised Westcott community center and successful fundraising efforts for new van. Announced Westcott Street Cultural Fair would take place Sept. 26.
- b. Sam Gruber asked about Rezone Syracuse; will likely be completed by summer or fall.
- c. Thornden Park Assn asked to be in the loop on amphetheatre planning.
- d. Damian reminded WNA board and members to be thinking of possible projects for expected UNSAAC funding.
- e. Paul Harvey thanked group for its role in fundraising and for generous contributions.
- f. Sam provided updates on his upcoming virtual Ward Wellington Ward presentation and fund raising for next phase of Stickley house renovations.

7. Upcoming meetings/events:

Eastside TNT (virtual): Tuesday, Mar. 9, 6:30 via Zoom.