



Westcott Neighborhood Association

April 13, 2015

Monthly meeting minutes

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 11, 2015, 6:30, Petit Library

Persons registering as in attendance:

WNA Board: Reina Apraez, Starke Donnally, Kathy Downing, Alice Honig, Lynne Odell, Doug Roth, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon.

WNA members and guests: Melissa Fierke, Tony Gigliotti, Geraldine Grieg, Miranda Hine, Jessica Montena, Annabel Otts, Linda Palmer, Rebecca Plank, Susan Rainey, Captain Sweeney (SPD), Scott Warren

1. Doug Roth called the meeting to order at 6:30; those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of March 16 annual meeting minutes: Damian Vallelonga moved; Lynne Odell seconded approval. Passed unanimously.
3. Agenda review: The TNT meeting date was corrected to Tuesday, Apr. 14. Tony proposed adding special lighting districts and Lynne raised the issues of parking on both sides of Harvard and nearby streets and panhandlers.
4. SPD report: Captain Sweeney reported a March 19 arson involving a garage on Clarendon and several break-ins involving student apartments and attempted break-ins, or at least rattling door knobs of locked doors. The common thread of the "successful" robberies is students leaving doors unlocked, or windows open giving burglars the opportunity to use trash cans or recycle bins to boost them through the windows. Both the Casa di Cuse and the Westcott Grocery were broken into. Arrests have been made in the Westcott grocery and one of the burglaries. Lynne asked about panhandlers and was told that the police could do nothing unless the panhandler physically restrained or made some other physical contact. Parking in front of the theatre is under control for the present time and residents should contact Officer Whittles if problems recur. Marilyn raised parking on both sides of Harvard and Cambridge.
5. Fiscal report:
 - Starke reported a balance of \$2924.63, with \$175 in dues having been collected at the annual meeting (costs included \$57 for refreshments and \$43 for the postcard mailings. UNSAAC reimbursements also received; one paid.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Neighbors and parents opposed to building a new school near Berry Park to replace the current Ed Smith presented their case, emphasizing that the monies promised can only be used for renovations, not new construction. Concerns about an empty building coupled with those about how a multi-unit building would affect the neighborhood were raised. The potential negative impact

on Berry Park and the loss of additional green space were also mentioned. Neighbors are divided in their opinions and a moderated discussion at Ed Smith School will be held later in the month.

- b. WNA house keeping: Starke and Doug went through several boxes of documents, weeding some and identifying others for scanning.
 - c. UNSAAC meeting with Mayor Miner: Damian reported the mayor wants to continue the program, but SU's stance is unknown. The group representing various neighborhood associations is planning to prepare a letter outlining for the mayor how UNSAAC funds have been spent and the effects on the neighborhood. Funding will cease in November unless the program is renewed.
7. New Business:
- a. Officer elections: President and vice president need to be chosen, with Starke continuing on as treasurer (assisted by Natalie Stetson) and Charles as secretary. Via email, Grant Johnson volunteered to stand for president; Damian Vallelonga for vice president. There being no other candidates, Alice Honig moved and Doug Roth seconded their election; passed unanimously.
 - b. Street furniture: Landlord Ben Tupper has offered to provide, at his expense, a bench for the business district, similar to those he's installed on Euclid in the front yards of houses he owns. Location and whether or not to accept will be decided once the details are known.
 - c. Earth Day: so far, nothing from SU who traditionally has supplied bags, gloves, etc. for workers as well as food. Starke will verify on the OCRA website and, if possible, register WNA. Members usually clear along Westcott from Euclid to E. Genesee.
 - d. Bike plan: Attendees were encouraged to share thoughts with DPW or Kallid Bey. There was no time for extended discussions. Earlier email exchanges among board members indicated a lack of consensus on whether to support the no parking on Euclid plan.
 - e. UNPA Race: WNA asked to support with a \$100 donation for which WNA logo would appear on the T-shirts. WNA finances do not support doing this. Alice Honig moved and nnnn seconded not donating; passed unanimously.
 - f. Special lighting districts: Tony reported that vigorous discussions were held about the issue. The city would like to assess all districts at a uniform level, creating fears that taxes would raise. He proposed contacting Nader Maroun for details. The plan has drawn much opposition and will be discussed at TNT tomorrow.
8. Item reports
- a. Grad student association: Defer.
 - b. Cookbook: Defer.
 - c. Neighborhood collaboration: No report
 - d. Community Website: Damian reported it is near completion; currently working on condensing Sam Gruber's walking tours and making available via phone for self-guided tours.
9. Neighbor input
- a. Westcott Community Center annual meeting and the chance to meet the new director: Apr. 27, at 7 p.m.
 - b. Lynne asked that a notice of Thursday night trivia be added to the WNA site.
 - c. Deer problem report and next steps to be shared with WNA and SEUNA.
 - d. Raina mentioned the Food Co-op's 1% Wednesdays under which the Co-op share 1% of the day's sales with an area non-profit organization. WNA is eligible to apply, but she and Natalie cannot make the application.
10. Upcoming events:
- a. TNT: Nottingham H.S. cafeteria, Tuesday, April 14, 7 p.m. (Lighting district discussion on agenda)
 - b. WCC annual meeting, Monday, April 27, 7 p.m., WCC.
 - c. Barry Park Fun Run, Saturday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.
 - d. Art Trail, Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, all day.