



**May 10, 2021, 6:00-8:00 p.m, in person at Echo
Board retreat meeting minutes -- DRAFT**

NEXT MEETING: Monthly meeting, 6 p.m.; virtual

WNA Board members: Sam Gruber, Kate Palermo, Glenda Ranallo, Natalie Stetson, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

1. Welcome

Damian called the meeting to order at 6:10.

2. Approval of agenda/minutes:

February meeting minutes to be approved at June meeting.

3. General discussion:

In lieu of having SPD officers attend in person, WNA receives crime reports from which it is difficult to extract relevant information about the neighborhood. Discussions focused on the usefulness of taking meeting time every month to digest this material. There was general agreement of the need to have occasional reports, but also the desire to expand the range of topics and presenters from the city, SU, and agencies that would cover more than just crime statistics and would provide a broader picture of life in the neighborhood.

Attendees developed four broad issues when asked to consider WNA and its purpose: fostering a sense of community, serving as a resource for the community, representing the community in dealings with city, university and other agencies, and improving the quality of life. Damian mentioned the need to update material online about the neighborhood, providing up to date links to relevant material, to make WNA's online presence more useful. The need for handouts and other print materials was also mentioned.

4. Specific issues:

Mailbox: The Westcott Community Center no longer wants to provide a pick-up location for WNA mail. Renting a post office box is out of the question due to cost; Sam offered to check in with the post office to see if WNA could be added to his personal mail box and reported via email that he can add another group at no extra cost. Decision will be made..

Geographic boundaries: For purposes of attendance at meetings WNA has traditionally been non-restrictive. Issues of whether board members or a majority thereof should live in the core (13210 zip code) area have been discussed. Initially WNA centered on the business district, but in recent years has branched out both north and south. Areas north of Genesee are sort of orphaned, but some blocks were included in the street light audits. These areas have larger numbers of student renters and still have large numbers of poorer, non white renters.,

UNSAAC: Money will likely become available and WNA needs to develop a proposal.

Suggestions ranged from better path repair and plowing in Thornden to other improvements for

pedestrian and bike travel in the neighborhood, adding more trash cans and bus shelters to supporting other beautification efforts even hiring someone to do some of the work.

Syracuse adopt a block initiative: Discussion ranged around whether or not WNA might participate in this with consensus that there was sufficient interest in doing so. The idea of combining the work with some socializing—ice cream or coffee—afterwards was endorsed; Kate, Glenda, Natalie and Sam offered to be point people/hosts. Plans remain to be fleshed out.

Membership concerns: both members and board members are needed; Sam offered suggestions and all were urged to talk up WNA with neighbors and friends.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.