



Westcott Neighborhood Association

May 11, 2015

Monthly meeting minutes

NEXT MEETING: Board only meeting, June 8, 6 p.m., at Alice Honig's home, 317 Allen St.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, July 13, 2015, 6:30, Petit Library

Persons registering as in attendance:

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

WNA members and guests: Drucilla Adams, Phil Bassart, Jane Begley, Barbara Humphrey, Nader Maroun, Jasmine Pryor, Captain Joe Sweeney (SPD), Keith Weil.

1. Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30; those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of April 13 meeting minutes: Pending correcting Berry to Barry, Alice Honig moved and Kathy Downing seconded approval. Passed unanimously.
3. Fiscal report: Starke Donnally reported \$913.29 in WNA account; \$.04 interest received; awaiting \$2000 UNSAAC reimbursement.
4. SPD report: Captain Sweeney reported that a suspect had been arrested in the recent robbery at the Credit Union on Westcott and an increase in the number of parking tickets being issued on Harvard and surrounding streets. On the whole, the area has been relatively peaceful in terms of crime, but he cautioned that with the students having left, neighbors need to be watchful of the empty houses. Vehicular break-ins remain common. In response to a question, Captain Sweeney gave the standard office hours for Dan Whittles in the storefront: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Go chix has gone for the summer.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Ed Smith Renovations update: Save Barry Park group has been active. Nader Maroun reported that the State Comptroller has not yet signed off on the \$3 million renovation funds..
 - b. WNA house keeping: Starke reported the goal remains to digitize WNA documents deemed worth retaining. Nader raised potential importance to writing history of the neighborhood. To be discussed further at the Board retreat.
 - c. UNSAAC future: Damian reported voucher sent to city; once reimbursement made, Sam Gruber can be fully paid for his revision of the text for the tours for the Website. Rebecca Manion (?) is pulling UNSAAC information together for the city. Nader said discussions between SU and the city being held to determine future of the program will occur during coming year. Program set to end June 30, 2016.
 - d. Earth Day Clean Up recap: hope to be better organized for next year. Kathy Downing recognized for her contributions this year. Nader added that residents should contact him if piles of trash remain or to report potholes.

6. New Business:
 - a. Street furniture: Landlord Ben Tupper has offered to provide, at his expense, benches for the business district, similar to those he's installed on Euclid. To be discussed further at retreat.
 - b. Street lights: Nader encouraged residents to report non-functioning lights directly to him. His email: nmaroun@syr.gov.net
 - c. Special lighting districts: Nader reported city had taken no action on the proposal and that further public discussions are needed due to the complexity surrounding ownership of special lighting etc . Switching to LED lights could save money. Nader continued that he supports a proposal that would lump together lighting repairs, sidewalk repairs and snow removal, street slurring in a single charge for property owners based on frontage.
 - d. Board retreat: June 8 in lieu of monthly meeting at Alice Honig's home, 317 Allen; Alice offered to supply food. Grant will draft agenda and send out to board members for comments. Barbara raised ADA issues and Alto's blocking of sidewalks with tables and benches.

7. Item reports
 - a. Grad student association: To be added to Board retreat agenda. Faculty advisor and grad student volunteers needed. Hope to balance WNA project needs with student educational needs.
 - b. Cookbook: Damian submitted application for Food Co-op's 1% Wednesday program, whereby WNA could obtain funding for the cookbook, with the goal of having the cookbook ready to sell by the time of the September street fair.
 - c. Communication Committee: will meet in June
 - d. Community Website: launch before the end of June, with a press release to announce it. Hope to make the Website the key to learning about the area and events.

8. Neighbor input
 - a. Alice Honig responded to Peter Wirth's request for photos of bulbs planted as part of project's goal of neighborhood beautification.
 - b. Barbara asked that crosswalk painting be brought up at TNT; Nader Maroun will take issue forward.

9. Upcoming events:
 - a. TNT: Nottingham H.S. cafeteria, Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m.
 - b. Barry Park Fun Run, Sunday, May 17, 10:30 a.m. registration.
 - c. Alice Honig lecture, Thursday, May 21, Peck Hall, E. Genesee St.
 - d. Westcott Art Trail, Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday June 7. 12 noon-5 p.m.
 - e. Huckster Hill Celebration, Sunday, June 14, 2 p.m. (rain date, June 21)