



July 12, 2021, 6:30 pm, virtual Monthly meeting minutes -- DRAFT

NEXT MEETING: Monday, Aug, 9, 6:30 p.m., place, format TBA

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

WNA members and friends: Joe Driscoll, city council , Ben Murray, Emily Winiecki,

1. Welcome/introductions:
Damian called the meeting to order at 6:30. Those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:
Retreat minutes: approval to be completed via email; June meeting minutes: pending correction, Sam Gruber moved; Glenda Ranallo seconded; approved with 1 abstention.
3. Fiscal report: Natalie will submit.
4. Business, Old:
 - a. WNA mailing address: Westcott Neighborhood Association
Petit Library
105 Victoria Place
Syracuse, NY 13210
Damian will contact Natalie about the change,
 - b. Westcott remembers:
Sam presented a draft inscription for JAE's brick: JAE Evangelisti, neighborhood builder. After discussion it was agreed to defer a final decision until Sam checks the text with Peg Chestnut; other comments, proposals are welcome.
 - c. Good neighbor awards:
There are two categories of award, one for general contributions to the neighborhood and one for improvements and beautification of individual yards and properties. Sam proposed realtor Andrew Besemer for the first in recognition of his successive rehabbing of houses and his work to prevent landlords from buying properties for student rental. Those present were asked to look for properties improved in some way as nominees for the second category.
5. Business, New:
 - a. July clean-up:
In response to query from property owners Damian suggested that the July clean-up include weeding the tree pits along Westcott and proposed July 24 as the date. After

discussions on the role of property owners to do this, the group agreed that would be one focus. Sam proposed meeting at Petit where weeding is also needed. Petit will be the gathering spot, with Lynne as coordinator. Damian will send information out via email and facebook.

b. Planning for special guests

It was decided to defer the first guest until the September meeting when it is assumed we will be meeting at Petit and in person. Sam has sent some possibilities and such issues as recycling, schools, city services, food insecurity were identified as a focus for potential guests. Kate Palermo mentioned reaching out to other similar neighborhood groups. This will be discussed further and invitation(s) sent out after the August meeting.

6. Committee/item reports:

- a. Beautification committee: Lynne provided updates on efforts at the Westcott/Fayette and Westcott/Lexington intersections to bring these areas under the umbrella of WNA clean-up efforts. She spoke with a homeowner and plans to contact the church. Damian will put Lynne in touch with Susannah Park.
- b. Membership: No report.

7. Additional input

- a. Marilyn reported that Petit's hours were expanding to include Monday evenings and Saturdays and announced the Tai Chi program, Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
- b. Joe Driscoll announced that County Executive Ryan McMahon was planning a series of meetings to discuss spending the covid relief monies; no meeting will be held in the city; the eastern meeting will be held in Manlius
- c. Ben Murray introduced himself as the owner of a soon to be opened (in September) yoga studio at the corner of Cambridge and E. Genesee, across from the firehouse. He asked about publicity, yard signs, etc. Those present suggested kiosk by Mom's and other Westcott locations

8. Upcoming meetings/events:

- a. WNA Neighborhood clean-up, Saturday, 7/24, 9 a.m.-12 noon (meet at Petit; supplies and refreshments to be provided)
- b. Eastside TNT: no July meeting.