



P.O. Box 6817, Syracuse, N.Y. 13217  
A non-profit community organization

## *Westcott Neighborhood Association*

**July 13, 2015**

**DRAFT monthly meeting minutes**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 10, 2015, 6:30, Petit Library**

Persons registering as in attendance:

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

WNA members and guests: Sam Gruber, Don Hughes, Christine Kowoleski, Nader Maroun, Susan Rainey, Officer Dan Whittles,

1. Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30; those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of May 11 monthly meeting and the June 8 board meeting minutes: Pending correction in 5a of the monthly minutes, changing the amount of renovation funds from \$3 to \$19 million; and adding "s" to volunteer in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of 3c in the board minutes, motion made to approve. Alice Honig moved and Starke Donnally seconded approval. Passed unanimously.
3. Nader Maroun provided his personal email to be used in lieu of the city address due to the conflict with the mayor. His email: **naderpmaroun@gmail.com**
4. Fiscal report: Starke Donnally reported \$2000 re-imbusement and has asked for the final re-imbusement for the Web site and tours projects. \$.04 dividend reported, with a balance of \$853.37.
5. SPD report: Dan Whittles reported that the Westcott Theatre had purchased parking spaces for the recent bus parked there, making its presence legal and explained city policy concerning reserving parking spaces. Four break-ins involving student apartments were reported. Recent shootings during and around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July occurred in Thornden Park, on Greenwood, and Westmoreland. Lynne and Marilyn reiterated problems with illegal parking on Harvard and Cambridge. Lynne reported "drop-off" sales of drugs in the 100 block of Cambridge.
6. Old Business:
  - a. UNSAAC update: Monies have been rolled into the SU service contract with the city. Nader Maroun requested an update by fall concerning the UNSAAC future funding. \$11,875 (for FY 2015/2016) received toward building the bus stop / traffic barrier at Euclid and Westcott. Damian reported upcoming contact with design students to create the structure. Questions as to ownership and upkeep were raised (CENTRO will use, but not own the structure). Alice Honig moved and Starke Donnally seconded the motion to allow Grant and Damian to draft a letter in support of continuing UNSAAC funding. Passed unanimously.
  - b. Bulb project: Individuals wishing to order 50-bulb bags of daffodils or tulips must do so by July 15. Information available online and at the Westcott Community Center (WCC).
  - c. Morningside Cultural Trail: Grant passed around paper maps, printed from online. Trail connects Barry Park, Morningside Park, and Oakwood Cemetery.

7. New Business:
  - a. Solarize Syracuse: Don Hughes summarized the goals and benefits of the program. Installers have been identified and vetted, with goal of 300-400 installations. Both federal and state tax breaks for owners of system; also option to lease, but no tax benefit. Solar open house, July 16, 2015, at Hansen's Advisory; Kick-off workshop, July 21, 2015, City Hall Commons. Website: [www.SolarizeCNY.org](http://www.SolarizeCNY.org)
  - b. Westcott Neighborhood Website: has been launched. Includes business directory, tours, events calendar (anyone can post, but moderated to weed out the inappropriate). West talk blog still seeking volunteers to prepare articles capturing the range of experience in the neighborhood. Website: <http://westcottsyr.com/>
  - c. WNA branding/WNA website: goal to absorb old site into the new. Communications Committee to work on developing graphic design/identity. Alice Honig moved and Starke Donnelly seconded the committee's developing the new identity and reporting back to WNA at the August meeting. Plan to introduce the new identify at the September cultural fair.
  - d. Beer Belly Deli mural: Damian and Brendan Rose have developed design, approved by Norman Roth, and needs approval by city. Alice raised need for anti-graffiti coating to protect mural from defacement.
  - e. Streetlight audit: Damian will send email with various dates; many present expressed interest in participating.
8. Item reports
  - a. Cookbook status: \$149.00 + raised from Food Co-op's 1% Wednesday in June.
  - b. Communication Committee: earlier discussions produced tasks for them.
  - c. Grad Student Association: Grant and Kate Hammer met to discuss possibilities for grad student involvement with WNA. Joanne Waghorne can serve as Faculty liaison although no longer a board member.
9. Neighbor input
  - a. Lynne asked if neighborhood watch might be fostered on Website; idea of taking a survey at the Fair was also raised.
  - b. Alice raised re-instituting WNA's recognition for best neighbor, property improvement, etc.
  - c. Nader announced the July 29 \$25.00 fund raiser at Beer Belly for his upcoming campaign. This will be his last election; Norman Roth is underwriting costs of fund raiser.
10. Upcoming events:
  - a. Symphoria brass quintet: Sunday, July 19, 6 p.m., Thornden Park Amphitheatre
  - b. Barry Park Potluck, Thursday, July 23, 5:30 p.m., Barry Park
  - c. Thornden Park Discovery Camp: Monday, August 3, 3 p.m., Thornden Park.