



A non-profit community organization
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Westcott Neighborhood Association

Aug. 10, 2015

DRAFT monthly meeting minutes

NEXT MEETING: Date to be determined, 6:30, Westcott Community Center (WCC)

Persons registering as in attendance:

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

WNA members and guests: Jane Begley, Tony Gigliotti, Kate Hammer, Barbara Humphrey, Michael (and Lisa) Lehmann, David Michel (University Neighborhood Preservation Association (UNPA)), Susan Rainey

1. Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35; those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of July 13 monthly meeting minutes. Use of former logo notwithstanding, Starke Donnally moved and Reina Apraez seconded approval; passed unanimously. Raina asked for further clarification of the Morningside Cultural Trail which Damian provided. Discussion of how Website might use that information ensued.
3. Fiscal report: Starke Donnally reported he is awaiting the final \$2000 re-imburement (check needs to be re-issued) for year ending June 30. \$.05 dividend reported, with a balance of \$858.42.
4. SPD report: Official report deferred, since no one from SPD present. Reina raised concerns about recent car thefts, a stabbing, and solicitation of young boys by an unnamed individual.
5. Old Business:
 - a. WNA website migration update: Damian reported that the WENA nation site would be absorbed into the new site within the next couple weeks; the former site will continue until folks become used to the changes.
 - b. Streetlight audit: Participants passed their surveys to Damian who will forward them to Nader Maroun who will send them on to National Grid for resolution. Damian will tally the numbers and create a map on the Website (more than 40 lights are malfunctioning).
6. New Business:
 - a. Stickley House progress report: David Michel distributed a report dated July 13, 2015, outlining recent developments. UNPA will oversee the \$500,000 grant from the State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation and will apply for a \$300,000 Main street grant to be used to stabilize the structure (a new roof being a top priority). The Audis will transfer the property to UNPA for the first phase of exterior restoration. The first phase budget is over \$1 million. Ultimately the Onondaga Historical Association will assume ownership; they will open the 1st and 2nd floors to the public (to meet the conditions of the grant); the upper floor will be used for short-term residences (for SU, Syracuse Stage,

- etc.). Michael Lehmann, a real estate attorney, offered to be of assistance. David also provided an update on the Babcock-Shattuck House. Three units remain on the market; an open house will be held.
- b. Westcott Street Fair planning:
 - a. Table, chairs, and canopy are available
 - b. New banner is possible; buttons, stickers, a paper copy of the latest newsletter, and live demonstration of the Website to be available.
 - c. Discussion centered on how to pull people in, including listing accomplishments, giving folks a chance to answer questions about the neighborhood, its history, etc. online, asking current members for testimonials (why are you a member? What accomplishment are you most proud of?)
 - d. Membership: Fair is WNA's biggest outreach effort; mail, email, social media and in person contacts at the fair to be used.
7. Item reports
- a. Cookbook status: only 13 recipes received so far; folks asked to re-email Raina if they had submitted recipes. Possibility of deferring cookbook to the Winter Weekend and using the Fair and the WCC newsletter to solicit additional ones.
 - b. Communication Committee: WNA branding (proposed new logo to be presented at next meeting); updated newsletter to be posted.
 - c. Kate Hammer announced the arrival of students and the Taste of Westcott event to be held at Erwin Church on September 3. WNA has traditionally staffed a table at this event which led to discussions on rescheduling the September meeting—again. The Westcott Community Center was the agreed-upon venue, with the 8th, 9th, or 16th being possible dates. Final scheduling will be accomplished through email. Starke will let SU know of WNA participation in the event and will contact WCC to determine availability of their space.
8. Neighbor input
- a. Barbara Humphrey announced she was leaving the area and moving to Florida at the end of September and invited those present to a party at her home (834 Westcott) at 4 p.m., August 23.
 - b. Lynne asked about the “welcome to Westcott” neighborhood sign.
 - c. Reina has an art showing August 20, at Point of Contact Gallery in the Warehouse, downtown, and will also be showing at Pastabilities in September.
 - d. Alice Honig urged folks to attend the Shakespeare in the Park performances.
9. Upcoming events:
- a. Shakespeare in the Park (All's well that ends well), Aug. 14-16; 21-23, Thornden Park Amphitheatre
 - b. Barry Park Potluck, Thursday, August 27, 5:30 p.m., Barry Park