



**Aug. 10, 2020, 6:30 pm, virtual
Monthly meeting minutes -- DRAFT**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m., virtual?

WNA Board members: Grant Johnson, Melissa Montgomery, Kate Palermo, Glenda Ranallo, Natalie Stetson, Charles Tremper (on mute) Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

WNA members and friends: Starke Donnelly, Linda Ervin (county legislator), Tony Gigliotti, Sam Gruber, Zoe Gruber, Alice Honig, Carol Johnson (Petit Library), Harry Lewis (joined late), Susan Rainey,

1. Welcome/introductions:

Damian called the meeting to order at 6:30. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

July 13 minutes need correction to bike racks; pending that, Grant Johnson moved; Marilyn Zaleon seconded; passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal report:

Natalie reported \$5.00 in checking, no money in the Planter account which will be closed out, \$3,640.20 in savings, including the last reimbursement from the city, with the bike racks still to be paid for.

5. Business, Old:

UNSAAC 2018-2020 project update: \$27,000 2-year project to install 13 new trash cans and 7 additional bike racks. The trash cans will be installed by the end of August and were designed to avoid the problems encountered with those along the connective corridor. The bike racks will be installed near the florist and others further north toward Harvard and Dell. Damian will propose precise locations to DPW.

6. Business, New:

a. SU fall semester:

In advance of students returning to campus in late August, SU sent a letter to the neighborhood explaining policy for off campus students, including the responsibilities of the police and SU's DPS (Dept. of Public Safety) in monitoring student behaviors. Residents are encouraged to report problems as needed, involving illegal gatherings and other COVID violations. SU will provide testing and establish a "pod" system to limit the extent of student interactions. There will be increased patrols, with DPS officers distributing masks as necessary. Residents should call 911 for police and (315) 443-2224 for DPS. Later in the meeting, Harry

Lewis announced using 711@syr.edu as another contact for the city police. Sam pointed out that not all students are from SU.

b. COVID outreach”

Discussion turned to a possible role for WNA in coordinating the response of the neighborhood businesses to the return of the students and ensuring safe behaviors on the part of everyone. Alice mentioned signs, of an informational rather than a threatening sort; Grant mentioned a role for the common councilors. Concerns were expressed about behaviors in bars and other gathering places. The downtown businesses have done a lot and may be willing to share ideas. Linda Ervin suggested reaching out to Paul Driscoll and to the Health Dept. for posters and other information. Damian will do so, with posting something at the Westcott/Euclid bus shelter.

c. Yeti donations:

Owner Chris Norcross will set aside a percentage of August Saturday sales as donations to WNA. So indulge your sweet tooth for a good cause.

7. Committee/item reports.

- a. Beautification committee: Plans call for scheduling a clean-up day before the end of August, with goal of both clean-up and attracting additional interested people to the projects. Using paper flyers and notices and urging businesses to post online were suggested. Sam Gruber brought up Next Door and mentioned the connection with WNA was not strong.
- b. Membership: Natalie will create a membership list (30 to 50 members) in advance of the September meeting, with the goal of collecting dues and expanding the numbers.

8. Updates from members:

- a. Tony raised a problem with the new streetlights on Hurlburt. An entire block has been out for some time.
- b. Carol Johnson mentioned Petit is open for pick up, but no word on when it will open fully for business. Half of the Library staff has been laid off.
- c. Sam Gruber proposed various ways to keep in touch during the time of social distancing. He was written a primer on the neighborhood which will be posted. Sam has expressed interest in joining the Board, but procedures for effecting this are unclear.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.