



Minutes  
August 11, 2025

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Board members attending: Sam Gruber (co-president), Galyn Murphy-Stanley (co-president), Carol Johnson (vice-president), Kevin Montgomery (treasurer), Kim McCoy, Marilyn Zaleon, Adam Felleman (on Zoom)  
Others attending: Mo Brown, Dan Deschamps, Matthew Button, Emily Freeman, Shelly Stevens, (representing the newly established Salt Springs Neighborhood Association), Jason Thomas, Judy Jerome, Chrissy Burd, Charlie Sam, Jane Pusch, Andy Leahy.  
On-line attendees: Doug Spangenberg of Westcott Barber & Salon (representing the Westcott Business District) and Jasper Kirby

***Summary: The meeting began with a review of previous minutes and discussion of upcoming events, including the Westcott Street Cultural Fair and various neighborhood projects including the kiosk installation). Financial matters were addressed, including memberships with conversation about creating a WNA t-shirt. Community engagement activities were discussed, inclusive of larger conversation about the Westcott Street Cultural Fair and the October Dog Parade. The meeting included updates on city budget issues, property tax assessments, Police reports, sum of applicants who have successfully moved through the University Neighborhood Historic Tax Credit application and announcements of upcoming community events with an urging to contact Rasheada Caldwell of Syracuse Common Council encouraging action on the Westminster Stairs***

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for June meeting were approved..

**Financial Update:** Kevin Montgomery, the treasurer, reported that the organization normally maintains a balance of \$2,300-2,400 between checking and savings accounts, with memberships covering administrative costs and grants offsetting their related expenses. The organization has obtained liability insurance through State Farm for \$425 to meet the requirements of their TNT grant but were recently notified that State Farm is cancelling the policy due to a lack of a prior insurer's 3-year loss history report. A refund will be provided, which will impact the final report and grant fund request with TNT.

**New Board Member:** Chrissy Burd was elected to the board by unanimous assent from the board members.

**WNA T-Shirt Design Planning:** The board discussed creating WNA swag, particularly T-shirts, to sell at the upcoming fair in September. Charlie offered to facilitate T-shirt production, suggesting they feature artwork rather than just the organization name, while Jasper proposed incorporating local mural designs. The group agreed on a \$20 selling price with a small profit margin, primarily for promotion rather than fundraising, and formed a committee including Chrissy Burd, Adam Felleman & Charlie to move the project forward. There's some debate about whether to use the existing WNA logo or commission original artwork for the design.

**Beautification:** Sam reported that the renovation of the Harvard Place "kiosk" which has a completed sidewalk side, the street side remains incomplete due to lack of funding. Sam issued an ongoing ask to all Board members to keep an eye on the bulletin board to make sure it was kept neat and up-to-date.

Andy Leahy and Adam Feldman reported that the next neighborhood clean-up day will be Saturday, August 16 & another, larger effort will be needed before the Westcott Street Cultural fair scheduled for Sunday, September 28. Sam and Dan Deschamps completed an extensive clean up of the garden under the Moody mural beside the South wall of Yeti cafe.

A reminder was offered that Syracuse's "City Line" can be contacted to report encroaching vegetation onto neighborhood sidewalks. A photo of the problem is requested by the portal: [SYRCityline](https://www.syracuse.gov/cityline). Please log requests ongoingly to keep sidewalks passable.

**Events:** Kim reported on the ongoing efforts and logistics of the Halloween Dog Parade (October 25). Need of permit discussed. Need to inform the police. Summit FCU will supply physical support, food and drinks.

\*Plans were confirmed for setting up a table at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair. WNA has paid for a table spot. It was decided that interested individuals would join together in creating a (WNA/Westcott) t-shirt in WNA colors that would be sold at the Westcott Street Cultural Fair. This 1st attempt would be created in a small batch and might increase fundraising & membership efforts. Further conversations and design determinations will continue through email (Charlie, Adam and Chrissy).

Scheduling of volunteers at WNA table during Westcott fair to be determined at September meeting.

\*August 27, Sam and Carol will attend a WNA tabling event at SU Student Day being held in the Women's Gym field.

\*August 29, Emmanuel Carter-poet will wrap up the poetry reading series at Mom's Diner 1-3pm. Aspiring poets are encouraged to present.

\*September 13, "Bare Roots" band will perform at the Throndren Park Amphitheater ?time.

\*Skip report from the Communications Committee as Heila is absent.

**New Business:** \*The 560 Art Collective has received a CNYArt grant. The collective plans to offer Art/drawing workshops free to the public on Saturdays at noon to any proficiency of artist. Focus of model will be on queer and diverse body shapes. Classes will be offered at the 560 Allen St. collective.

The Collective is working toward the resolution and installation of the Harvard St. Art Box.

There was a request for the collective to reinstall their Little Library with a proper glass front.

\*Judy Jerome requests that WNA supports CNY Solidarity.

\*Sam urges efforts and mindfulness be put toward new (WNA) Board building (as many will roll off their board position shortly) and enhanced Committee building.

\*TNT requests 1 facilitator that organizes speakers or runs the meetings. TNT meetings happen the 2nd Tuesday of each month on Zoom. Topic ideas are also suggested.

\*Doug Spangenberg of Westcott Salon & Barber speaks on the emergence of a new (Westcott) business district group. This is a union of Westcott merchants and Suzy McPherson-Business Corridor Manager of the City of Syracuse.

**EXTRA** Thanks was offered by Maurice Brown for the mulched trail around the Meadowbrook/Barry pond.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.