



## September 11, 2017, 6:30pm, Petit Library Meeting minutes -- DRAFT

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at Petit Library**

**WNA board members:** Kathy Downing, Alice Honig, Grant Johnson, Zoe Meighan, Lynne Odell, Natalie Stetson, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon

**WNA members and friends:** Frank Cetera, Caly Doran, JAE Evangelisti, Jane Kalkbrenner, Nader Maroun, Kate Palermo, Captain Joseph Sweeney (SPD)

1. Welcome and introductions:  
Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30; those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes: Damian Vallelonga moved; Zoe Meighan seconded approval; passed unanimously.
3. Fiscal report: Natalie Stetson reported: \$5 in checking; \$3,376.39 in savings includes \$500 for Idea prize; \$1,446.20 in planter fund (after money for WNA stickers expended, including \$1,000 to care for planters over winter and to install next spring).
4. Neighborhood SPD report:  
Captain Sweeney responded to a query about the recent shooting on East Genesee by putting the incident into the context of shootings with uncooperative victims and incidents that happen in Syracuse, but are reported from another jurisdiction. No information on this. Burglaries in student area result from unlocked doors and windows; items stolen from cars being left in view; no personal robberies reported. JAE reported bee-bee shots at 131 Harvard which had broken glass, but not presented a danger to inhabitants. He had not reported this until well after the fact; attendees were reminded to report all incidents. Captain Sweeney announced that retirements and reassignments within the SPD had affected coverage at the Westcott Street police front, with no one person being assigned. Residents may contact Community Policing at 448-8650 which is staffed during the day.
5. Announcement:  
Grant announced that Brendan Rose and Jesse Daino have resigned from the board. Brendan is moving to Providence, R.I., but will be available to wrap up projects.
6. Business: Old
  - UNSAAC 2016/2017 signage project update:

The installation of the large green "W" at Westcott and Harvard has been delayed until it can be coordinated with DPW; Nader Maroun offered to speak to Pete O'Connor.

- UNSAAC 2017/2018 street amenities update:  
Plans finalized for Ideas competition to solicit community input. The RFP (request for proposal) is nearly completed, with a handout available at the WNA table at the Cultural Fair. Kate Hammer will serve as coordinator and oversee promotion. \$500 will be awarded to the winner, with submissions due in October, decision to be made in November, and planning to begin in December, with project completion by June 2018. In addition to handouts, communication will be done via the Website, email messages. Zoe offered to work through her contacts at SU.
- JAE raised problems with snow being plowed onto the Huckster Hill Part from the Boom Babies storage facility. Nader Maroun said he would look into this.
- Taste of Westcott summary:  
Damian reported successfully engaging students about WNA at the event, adding emails of interested folks to the list. The event was busy, with students having to talk with local organizations in order to qualify for the free food.

## 7. Business: New

- Westcott Street Cultural Fair planning:
  - Grant and Natalie will carry the banner in the parade (JAE offered to provide a suitable pole for the banner)
  - Shifts: Zoe volunteered for the 104 p.m. slot.
  - Checklist:
    - Tent (Lynne)
    - Banner (Damian)
    - Pole for banner (JAE)
    - Cookbook (Damian) reprinted and available for \$10.
    - Newsletter still uncertain.
    - Membership information (Natalie)
    - Publicity for Idea competition; map of the streetlight audit; promotion of bus shelter, cash, card reader will all be available.
  - Location this year less desirable than last year; discussion focused on how to insure better location next year.

## 8. Item reports:

- Circular planter decals, recognizing sponsors, WNA, have been installed.
- Stickley House: exterior construction underway, to be completed by December 1; fund raising seminar to be held September 23 at OHA, featuring speakers and presentations; 30 registrants so far, with registration limited 30 50 slots at \$125.
- Communications Committee Update:  
Status of newsletter for fair uncertain; some suggestions for possible stories were discussed.

- TNT strategic Planning Committee report now available: Frank Cetera presented a brief overview of the report, which includes 15 goals, discusses funding, and represents agreement from participants. In response to a question about goals, Frank mentioned a desire for more diverse membership and participants, stating that immigrants and others were hesitant to become involved because of language and other issues.

9. Neighbor input:

- Zoe reported on the Rezone Syracuse meet and greet. A form is available online to request changes. For example, Levy School is not zoned for senior housing.
- JAE raised several issues: overgrown plants at corner of S. Beech and Judson which diminish visibility; the lack of screening along the street for the parking lot on S. Beech, whose paving extends behind the one-family house next door and is used for dumpsters and other storage; problems with sidewalks being installed at the Harvard parking lot entrance, and the array of negative impacts from the Westcott Theatre. Nader will pursue these, but admitted that nothing would be done about the theatre by the current administration.
- Marilyn mentioned a possible outdoor movie showing on Beech.
- Nader Maroun reported that National Grid would install and maintain LED lights along the rebuilt parts of 690, hoping this would become a model for future installations. The city retains responsibility of re-installing lights if they are damaged by a vehicle.
- Frank Cetera reported immigration lawyers would be offering pro bono assistance to immigrants concerned about their status, at a downtown location.

10. Upcoming events:

- Westcott Street Cultural Fair, Sunday, September 17, noon to 6 p.m.
- Gustav Stickley House : reflections on a legacy, preservation for the future, Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Onondage Historical Association, \$125.
- Neighborhood Website events: <http://westcottsyr.com/events/>
- Westcott community Center calendar: <https://westcottcc.org/calendar/>