



## ***Westcott Neighborhood Association***

**September 9, 2015**

### **Monthly meeting minutes**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday October 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m., at Petit Library**

Persons registering as in attendance:

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

WNA members and guests: Barbara Humphrey, Nader Maroun, Annabel Otts, Deanna Sheward, Dan Whittles (SPD)

1. Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:40; those present introduced themselves.
2. Approval of August 10 monthly meeting minutes. Alice Honig moved; Marilyn Zaleon second approval. Natalie abstained from joining other members in approval, having missed the August meeting.
3. Fiscal report: Starke Donnally reported he is still awaiting the final \$2000 re-imbusement check for year ending June 30. \$.04 dividend reported, with a balance of \$848.45.
4. SPD report: Officer Whittles reported 21 burglaries in the area, 3 on SU property and all the result of doors being left unlocked. In addition 16 larcenies involving automobiles with computers and other electronic devices being left in view. SU has informed the community about the issue and those present raised questions about how much safely information was included as part of student orientations. Officer Whittles said everything was in place for the Fair. Questions were also raised about the recently arrested individual allegedly out to molest young boys: had he said he intended to kill his victims? The extent of charges will be made clear when he is indicted. Lynne raised the issue of noise from student houses on Cambridge; both Officer Whittles and Nader Maroun offered to follow up on this.
5. Old Business:
  - a. UNSAAC update: Contracts for the current year have been signed and notarized and will be turned in tomorrow; discussions on the future of UNSAAC will be held during September.
  - b. Echo mural update: Mural is currently being worked on, to be completed before the Fair.
  - c. Streetlight audit: National Grid has begun repairing the lights reported and many are now functioning. The missing light at Clarke and Allen will be dealt with; it is a special decorative light. Nader urged a cooperative approach when dealing with National Grid. The project yielded news coverage and publicity for WNA; Grant reported being questioned about whether there was animus against the company as part of his interview. Appreciation was expressed for Grant's efforts on this.

6. New Business:
  - a. Petit Library tree planting plan: 12 trees (arbor vitae) to be planted at side of library in front of the garage wall currently covered in graffiti. Volunteers were solicited for this to help dig holes and plant the trees. Grant volunteered.
  - b. Westcott Street Fair planning:
    - a. Table, chairs, and canopy are available
    - b. New banner has been created; buttons and stickers featuring the new brand, a paper copy of the latest newsletter, and live demonstration of the Website to be available, as will cookbook promotion and a map of the streetlight audit.
    - c. Memberships: Lynne offered a metal box for cash or checks paying for membership; Paypal connection for credit cards will also be offered.
    - d. Volunteers were sought for the parade and for 2-hour stints at the table.
  - c. WNA brand presentation: Damian reported using the WSCT design as the basis for the new WNA identity and distributed the variants to be used as appropriate. Alice Honig moved and Lynne Odell seconded their adoption; passed unanimously.
  - d. Membership: A concerted drive for at least 25 new members will be launched in September and continue through the October bulb give-away. Email, the newsletter, the Website, and targeted mailings will be used, in addition to efforts at the Fair. Those present were asked to suggest people to contact.
  
7. Item reports
  - a. WNA website migration update: new site, with redirection from the former site will go live in a few days.
  - b. Communication Committee: newsletter to be posted and available at the Fair.
  - c. Taste of Westcott: successful outreach to students, with some demonstrating real engagement.
  
8. Neighbor input
  - a. Barbara Humphrey announced 3 upcoming events: a garage sale to benefit the Peace Council to be held Saturday, September 12, at 401 Scottholm; an opening at ArtRage gallery also on Saturday; and the resumption of Trivia nights at Munjed's beginning September 24. Barbara also shared her new Florida address: 929 Myrtle St., Sarasota, FL 34234
  
9. Upcoming events:
  - a. Seed and perennial exchange: Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Petit Library
  - b. Westcott Street Cultural Fair: Sunday, September 20, 12 noon-6 p.m.