



**Westcott Neighborhood Association  
February 8, 2016, 6:30pm, Petit Library  
Meeting minutes -- DRAFT**

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, March 13, 2016@ 3pm, Munjed's – WNA ANNUAL MEETING!**

**Persons registering in attendance:**

**WNA board members:** Jesse Daino, Kathy Downing, Alice Honig, Grant Johnson, Lynne Odell, Charles Tremper, Damian Vallelonga, Marilyn Zaleon.

**WNA neighbors and friends:** Matthew Broderick, Tom Cici?, Tony Gigliotti, Alex Lynch, Susan Rainey.

1. Welcome / Introductions:

Grant Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes / Agenda:

Pending the correction of the annual meeting date to March 13, Alice Honig moved and Damian Vallelonga seconded the approval of the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes; passed unanimously. An update on the Stickley House will be added to Item reports.

3. Fiscal Report:

Starke Donnall reported via email and Grant reported \$2,858.18 in the account, with a \$.11 dividend. The UNSAAC check has been received and ECO reimbursed.

4. Neighborhood SPD Report:

Officer Whittles emailed a report to Grant, who reported 14 burglaries in the SU area and 12 car break-ins; all but 2 of the burglaries resulted from doors or windows being left unlocked and cars had visible valuables in them.

5. Business: Old

**Parking at Papa John's lot:** The booting of cars will continue. Improvements to clarify signage and additional directional signs to the Community lot await decisions by the Common Council. Other ideas were suggested to improve the situation, such as increasing the grace period, designating one or 2 short term parking spaces, but Papa John's remains firm on its parking needs and the landlord will continue to meet them. Availability of spaces in the S. Beech Street lot is also being discussed.

**Street corner safety project:** Progress has been made on the design and a report will be given at the Annual meeting. A proposed lay-out has been sent to DPW, calling for re-curbings, green space and a tree, and benches; DPW has not yet responded.

**Annual meeting:** The group decided to ask Sam Gruber to speak; Sam has provided an update on the Stickley House to be posted once it is approved. In addition to the speaker, the agenda includes a welcome and summary of 2015's accomplishments, an overview of plans for 2016, including the Westcott/Euclid safety project, and the fielding of questions from those present. It is hoped that elected officials will attend and be available for questions, but not speeches. Damian designed the invitation (all agreed it looked great) and the budget for food was discussed.

6. Business: New

**Neighborhood safety:** Alex Lynch, guest from SU, reported the results of a safety survey. 82% of students living in the area feel unsafe at night; SU reports 2 crimes per day, more than twice the national average. The survey is based on some 189 returns out of 1,000-1,500 sent out; those surveyed included both neighborhood student residents and campus students from all levels. Alex asked for input on possible improvements to the neighborhood, including better lighting overall (including encouraging property owners to keep outside lights on), trimming trees, installing cameras (to be monitored by SU police), increasing patrols by campus and city police; in addition such things as encouraging students to meet their neighbors and help keep property in good order, as well as student community ambassadors were discussed. Attendees were encourage to share ideas with Alex (email: [amlync01@syr.edu](mailto:amlync01@syr.edu))

**Flower planters:** Goal is to have large planters (similar to those in the Crouse/Marshall Street area) lining Westcott from Genesee to the Westcott Community center. Care, maintenance, and watering issues were discussed. Damian discussed creating a base for the planters and asking TNT for assistance. Grant will pursue details with Kate Hammer.

7. Item reports:

**Website:** No report.

**Stickley House:** Kate Auwaerter has asked Grant to serve on the board of the Stickley House Foundation.

8. Neighbor input:

- a. No update on UNSAAC.
- b. Kathy Downing volunteered to attend the February 9<sup>th</sup> TNT meeting.
- c. Tony Gigliotti spoke about the Consensus project and governmental consolidation, emphasizing the school issues were being deferred (a key issue for the city)

9. Upcoming Events

- a. Eastside TNT: Tuesday, February 9, 12, 7 p.m., Nottingham High School
- b. Thornden Park Chilli Fest: Saturday, March 5, 12 noon- 3 p.m., Thornden Park.
- c. WNA annual meeting, Sunday, March 13, 3 p.m., at Munjed's, Westcott Street.