

April minutes WNCA Neighborhood meeting
April 19, 2021

Officers in Attendance: Brandon, Greg, Cindy, Ryan, Kelly, Al, Andrew, Tyler, Ben, Connie
25 neighbors @1902 Call to meeting 1904

Call for new neighbor's to stand and introduce.

How best to communicate with our neighbors. When is the best time to send an E-mail out about the meeting? Earlier around mid-week was established.

Reprise calendar of events: Thursday's meeting for the home and garden tour had a weak turnout. We (the board) would like to see more people, neighbors attend.

T.V. and tire day was canceled. We have moved to combine with neighborhood clean-up. Brandon and board to walk area 5 to see problem areas.

Secretary's report: Minutes from March to post online and approve at the next meeting.

Treasurer's report: Greg brought a report: we are solvent.

We are gaining sponsors/sponsorships, 4 since the last meeting for the neighborhood membership. The amount slated for projects looks big but nothing has gone out for projects yet, but requests are coming in.

Michelle Chambers, City Council:

Joined to bring us up to speed on trash pick-up issues, we are not unique happening all over the city. The trash advisory board had 2nd meeting with lots of tension. Michelle has given her personal E-mail so all complaints that come in are recorded, and these will be entered by hand by her secretary. Tom Cain brought up you can only report one address not that a whole block or area. If this happens write Michelle and make a note that a block or area that needs to be picked up. The reason why Ft. Wayne is having these issues is Red Rock is understaffed. Ft. Wayne is contracted for two more years. The city could opt out early but it would be a contractual nightmare.

LHD Expansion: Broadway to College and Broadway to Jefferson, 2 blocks and 26 houses. The date and time have been held for now for zoom meeting with all parties for the public meeting. We need more than 50% for this. We currently have 7 votes more than halfway there. With the LHD Protection in place, it will help with wholesale on demo or large-scale business.

Home and Garden Tour: A call to help with the meeting on Thursday at Welches Ale House.

Moody Park: WCNA pushed back Moody park public meeting to get more from Electric works about buildings and roads in that area. We (WNCA Board) want to have more info for residents before a meeting.

Easter egg hunt: Great turnout on Easter, and a large turnout from area 5. A large number of baskets were donated for those that did not have baskets. 700 eggs were hunted and found.

Cellco cell towers: Cellco has 4 new areas incoming for the neighborhood. Tyler and Tom have written more letters needing a response from Cellco, we are not seeing support from downstate. There is not a lot of communication coming back at all. Not hearing even if our letters are even falling on deaf ears. The best we can hope for is that they do not put our street lights on the poles so it does not look like a "franken pole of some sort" light pole. A better idea might just let them be as "their own" pole.

Our neighborhood swag needs to be refilled for sale, one being clothing. The neighborhood did approve \$3,000 seed money. The last time we sold out and people looked for more merch. New ideas for more kinds of merchandise are needed, like wine glasses and corkscrews Ect...

Connie to speak on art event: Taste of the arts called for artists to come in from all over the country to come in and paint in public for show.

Last year the WCNA offered money for the first prize painting and would like to award it again to bring the artist back to the neighborhood, a taste of the arts, and our arts fest. Connie proposed the prize be raised from \$500 to \$1,000 for the first prize, for the West Central painting chosen. This brought discussion of how the painting should be judged, either by West-Central, professionals, or a mix. Tom asked if we have a relationship with Charles, at the Fort Wayne Art Museum to help judge or know how to bring judges.

How should we advertise? Should we do it to embody all or hold it only to West Central as is?

Connie's Motion to raise the first place award is passed. 99% I's (pass) 1 nay.

Joe: Talked on trees for the neighborhood. He stated the deadline is fast approaching for applications. If you would like or have a question about a tree, E-mail Joe or the West Central general mailbox. Joe walks with the city Arborist to see where a good amount of trees can be planted, along with any single request.

Sidewalk program: Residents thinking about help should call soon though, as there is no real deadline, much later requests will be pushed into 2022. If you have questions, fill out an application to get estimates. Nothing is set in stone until many more forms have been signed, so do not hesitate to fill one out. The WCNA has the right to deny a request if it takes out trees or the sidewalk is not horrible. The WCNA might request grinding or a different route. The city will work to help to work around a tree or tree roots. All requests go to the city Forester through the Parks Department, right of way or public works cannot take out or take down a tree without permission.

Best discussion for last:

Properties being maintained by landlords out of town or owners who are mothballing homes.

Buying and holding properties to help save the neighborhood. What is the best way to save the neighborhood?

It has taken 3 to 4 years to save 801 W. Berry with \$300,000 of investment, and all work has been background work. This is how long some homes may take to even start. All might not be mothballed, yet unseen progress might be taking place and historic decisions being made.

We are the association. We need to work together to save the neighborhood. Should the neighborhood buy and save homes or should that be left to residents and investors?

Would it help to have Neighborhood Code come in and explain what constitutes certain violations?

Could we start a neighborhood workforce with Neighborhood Code to help the problem areas of the neighborhood?

Brandon to meet with the head of code enforcement to talk about the formation of this partnership. Should the board keep a list of the houses that will need to be enforced? Could we put bullet point houses online explaining what the exact violations are? Could we send a targeted mailing to these specific homes? Should the board be concerned with the inside as much as the outside?

Working on bringing back porch parties. We (the board) are helping to take back over the list so we know who shows up and to be safer. Should the format be reset seems to be the dividing ideas of the who and the what is open to the attendees and timeline of the party.

End:2005