

## West Central Neighborhood Association

### *Meeting Minutes*

*August 15, 2022, 7:00pm*

Attendance: 18 people

- Guest Speaker: Geoff Paddock, 5th District City Councilman for past 10 years
  - Provided updates on passenger rail plan. His resolution passed last Tuesday 7-0 to urge Indiana DOT to work with USDOT to apply to federal funds to reinstate rail line that would connect Fort Wayne to Chicago and Columbus, OH. Last Amtrak train left Fort Wayne in 1990. The hope is that it would activate economic development across the northern part of the state and re-activate the Baker Street Train Station. Neighbor asked how long it would take to get from FW to Chicago. Answer: less time than it takes to drive. Some of the money would be to put in overpasses so that trains would not have to slow down for intersections. He discussed option of having a bus route from train station to airport.
  - Provided updates on Electric Works. Phase 1: FWCS Amp Lab opened last week. Whole project created 2,000 construction jobs and 1200-1300 permanent jobs. 100s of thousands in property taxes will be collected. He thanked neighbors for patience during construction.
  - Provided updates on downtown jail: He visited with commissioners and voiced that they do not want a new county jail built in the southeast side of town. He shared that there is still room to build up the current jail two more stories. A neighbor mentioned the option to use the old Byron property. It is a county decision, but city council is advocating for residents' wishes. County commissioners must respond to a court order.
  - 10 years ago, \$7 million was spent on neighborhoods. \$40 million is spent today
  - Budget will be passed by the end of October
  - Reapportionment of districts is happening soon. Reports adding Precinct 678 into District 5, otherwise not much change.
  - Purchase the old Pepsi plant- it will be dismantled and the city will proceed with more riverfront development.
  - Councilwoman At-Large Michelle Chambers was also in attendance
- Treasurer's Report was presented: Total Income in July: \$3,054.79, total expenses: \$663.77. Motion passed to accept the report.
- Membership Report: 113 total members. Motion passed to accept the report.
- Meeting Minutes from the July Board Meeting and Association Meeting were available for review. Motion passed to approve.
- A section of Lavina that is currently closed will reopen by 8/25/22. Tyler showed a photo of the progress on the parking garage. A portion of spaces will be open to the public for visitors to Electric Works to keep cars from parking on neighborhood streets.
- Tyler shared updates on the dropshaft project:

- He spoke to Frank Suarez. The Berry/Thieme/Nelson intersection project has been put on hold. The first vortex was the wrong size, and now they have discovered there is damage to the second vortex that is currently installed. They are going to dig up the street to assess whether to repair the damage or replace the entire vortex. They agreed to delay the work until after the home tour. If residents have any questions, they can reach out to City Utilities.
- Upcoming Neighborhood Events!
  - Movie Night on October 8th at 8pm at Moody Park. Free to everyone! The movie will be Monsters, Inc.
  - The Neighborhood Block Party was rained out on July 23rd. A Party Apart canceled due to lightning, however we retained \$1,500 credit (75%) from A Party Apart. Tyler shared ideas for what to do with that rental credit and leftover food that was purchased for the block party.
  - Kekionga Plein Air Event: August 24-27, 2022. There is a neighborhood sponsored prize for any home painted in the neighborhood and a prize for a painting of a house that is on the home tour this year. We will have a booth at the ArtsFest Plaza from 11-6pm to sell Home and Garden Tour Tickets
- 40th Annual Home & Garden Tour! September 10th & 11th.
  - We still need about 100 volunteers for the event. Go to the website for photos and opportunities to sign up!
  - Tyler shared a map of the tour stops and trolley route.
  - The pre-tour party will be on **Thursday night, September 8th** to allow homeowners to attend the party and still have time for last-minute touches to their homes.
- Question about staffing at the Historic Preservation Commission. Several neighborhoods (Northside and Williams Woodland) sent a letter to the city to advocate. There is an unofficial report that they have hired someone full-time with a pay bump
- **No WCNA Meeting for September!** Your board members will need some time to recover from the Home Tour. Come back in October for the Home Tour re-cap and presentation of the slate of candidates for the 2023 Board.