

## West Central Neighborhood Association

*Meeting Minutes*

*August 21, 2023, 7:00pm*

Attendance: 31 people

*The vision of the West Central Neighborhood Association is to create a friendly environment that is rich in history, culture, diversity, and community that is valued by its residents, business owners, and visitors.*

Kelly Benton, Vice President, introduced herself and our guest speaker, Geoff Paddock.

**Guest speakers:** Geoff Paddock, 5th District City Councilman, Kyle Windling from parking enforcement, and Dan Baisden from City of Fort Wayne Community Development Administrator

The last time Geoff was here was when GFL (Green for Life) was phasing in after the troubles with Red River trash collection. He shared that it is going smoothly and he is getting very few complaints about the new company.

He showed the map of the district— it is a large district covering most of the center of the city and a lot of the historic neighborhoods. One investment that got held up was funding for Swinney Ave brick repair. It is up for a vote tomorrow and he is hoping to get it passed tomorrow. He is working on putting more money into the brick street and alley repair.

With most graduating classes: 500 police officers and 375 firefighters  
Concerns with speeding and hope that more officers will increase traffic patrol.

He is the chairman of the finance committee. Budget meetings will start in September. Wants to continue to invest in neighborhood infrastructure. 7 million to 40+ million on infrastructure projects. Railroad overpasses are scheduled for beautification. They are changing out the lamps on W Washington, and have completed W Jefferson.

Electric Works: Discussed delays in apartments being built around the parking garage. The Promenade Park apartments are complete, and the building by Headwaters Park is still in progress. Delays are largely due to increase in costs.

Q: There are two new stop signs on Lavina & Jackson and cars are not stopping consistently. Also, storm sewers are blocked off at this intersection and the intersection completely

floods when there is rain. Will this cause long term damage? What can be done to address this?

A: Will check with City Utilities. Another resource is calling 311 or submitting a concern online.

Q: Splash pad in Headwaters Park has been destroyed for several years– is it coming back?

A: Earlier this year management was transferred to the parks department. The splash pad was closed a few years ago due to COVID, and with new regulations, it must be rebuilt to be in compliance. The parks department awarded a contract this month to do the work. Hopefully it will be back on by 2024.

Q: Railroad viaducts– some were painted. Who did this?

A: The city paints them for beautification, and the railroads keep up the structural integrity.

Q: The lights along College Street are not working.

A: Kyle took note and will look into this.

Q: Is there a way to find out what the structural grade of the viaduct is on College St? It looks like there is major damage.

A: Kyle is going to check into this as well.

Q: In the past month, there have been 3 cars stolen from the neighborhood and 3 additional stolen cars dumped in the neighborhood.

A: This came up at the SWAP meeting. They are aware of the TikTok trend. Advised to be vigilant about locking doors and using security cameras. Could have Deputy Chief Haffner attend a meeting.

Q: The board is hearing about parking issues during the day around Lutheran Downtown and Electric Works.

A: Can encourage businesses to remind patrons to use free parking options in garage and lots. The option of parking permits has been raised, but this brings additional challenges with administration. For illegal parking (i.e. in No Parking zones) you can call 311 and they will send an officer out.

Q: Is it possible to add a sewer drain? Southwest corner of Wayne and Rockhill is always flooded, muddy, and icy.

A: Geoff will contact 311 about this and encourage the neighbor to do this as well.

Q: There have been complaints about signs in yards, particularly along Washington and Jefferson, that seem to stay up for years. Are there any rules or ordinances against this?

A: I have called the number on some of these signs to inform them of the ordinance (put in place about 15 years ago) prohibiting this. There are two different kinds of signs– in the right of way and those behind the right of way– if they fit the size requirements of the ordinance they can stay long-term.

Q: How long can a house remain half-built? No work has been done for years.

A: It goes through Neighborhood Code. Geoff took the address and will follow-up.

**Tour Update:** 190 tickets sold already. \$19,0000 in sponsorships! We still need just a few more volunteers to serve as docents! Please sign up! 40 artists are coming for ArtsFest. Some are coming from out-of-town and could use a place to stay. If you're willing to share your guest room, contact Connie Mettler, or Ellen Sauer or Kelly Benton. All the information is on the neighborhood website!

**Neighborhood Programs:** There are still funds available for the security program. All the info and applications are available on the website. Must be a member of WCNA.

**THERE WILL BE NO ASSOCIATION MEETING IN SEPTEMBER** to allow all the volunteers to rest and recuperate after the Home & Garden Tour. There will be a post-tour meeting in late September or early October– please come with your feedback.

Concluded: 7:57 PM