

West Central Neighborhood Association

Association Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2023, 7:00pm

Attendance: 24 people

Joel Sauer (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the mission and vision of the WCNA:

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.

Call to Order - 7:02pm

Election for 2024 WCNA Board Officers

- Electon was handled by past president Ben Wahli
- Process:
 - Minimum of 5 officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership
 - Officers must be an eligible voting member
 - Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers at the October meeting
 - Open call for nominations beyond the slate at the November meeting
 - Nominees must be aware and willing to serve
 - Elections held immediately following the conclusion of open nominations
 - Led by a past officer who is NOT seeking office
- Ben opened the floor for additional nominations
 - There were no nominations
- Proposed Slate of Officers up for vote:
 - Anita Kuker, Membership (new)
 - Bethany Pruitt, Secretary (incumbant)
 - George Taylor, Treasurer (incumbent)
 - Kelly Benton, Vice President (incumbent)
 - Joel Sauer, President (incumbent)
- The proposed Slate of Officers was unanimously approved

Fort Wayne Police Department

- Guests: Steve Haffner, Deputy Chief Southwest Division and Trevan Brown, West Central Police Liaison
- Stolen Vehicles
 - The car thefts peaked between July and September
 - Most happened along the Fairfield and Calhoun corridors
 - Steve presented a map of thefts of Kias and Hyundais

- Two 13 year olds and a 9 year old were involved in many of the thefts
 - The youth center has a minimum of age 12
 - The gang unit has a good handle on a lot of the kids involved in these
 - There is one young lady who lives in West Central who is involved in some of these incidents, which has resulted in multiple visits to the neighborhood
- The city of Fort Wayne is involved in a class action lawsuit against Kia and Hyundai
- If you have a Kia or Hyunda, keep it blocked in by another car or get a club
- Calls to the Police
 - The department divides all West Central calls into 2 sections, he's guessing north of the train tracks and south of the train tracks
 - 908 calls for service in the north part of the neighborhood so far this year
 - 2nd shift runs 2:30pm - 10:30 or 11pm, and is the busiest shift for the police
- Traffic & Noise
 - We are the entryway to the entire downtown area
 - The city did some calming efforts coming in by the Swinney tennis courts, which has helped a lot with speeding
 - The most noise is probably people leaving the neighborhood and speeding up heading West on Washington
 - There are a lot of head-on collisions happening where Washington and Jefferson meet, just West of the Swinney tennis courts
 - The problem with calling in noisy cars is it's very low priority for the police, and by the time they arrive, the car is long gone
 - There is an ordinance for loud cars, but it's very vague and up to the discretion of the officer
 - Steve said most of his calls are traffic related
- Homeless
 - The complaints haven't really increased, they have just moved with the Rescue Mission's new location
 - Fort Wayne is a popular location for homeless people to travel to - there are a lot of free resources
 - It's not illegal for someone to ask you for money on the street
 - Steve recommends approaching them with confidence, and if they ask you for something, be straight-forward with "I don't have anything for you"
 - If you walk by them frequently, it may be helpful to change up your route
 - It is illegal for people to ask for money from cars from a public area (park strip or sidewalk), but this is a very low priority call for the officers
- Question: Accidents at the Corner of W. Jefferson & College
 - The traffic light turns to a flashing yellow at 10pm
 - Does this cause more accidents?
 - People may be speeding even faster through the intersection without a red light to worry about

- Steve and Trevan will ask traffic engineering to look into this, especially with increased traffic from Electric Works
- Calls & Reports
 - 911 is never the wrong call if you can't remember the desk sergeant number
 - FWPD.org has an online police report if you want to report something non-emergent without calling it in

Allen County Department of Environmental Management

- Guest: Shelby Nichter, shelby.nichter@co-allen.in.us
- The Department is not with the city of Fort Wayne and does not collect our trash
- General Info on Recycling
 - Most recyclables do indeed get recycled
 - The big problem is when things aren't clean
 - Clean, Empty, Dry - the recycling should have no smell
 - 30% of what they receive every day is contaminated, and if the entire load gets contaminated by one item, the entire load goes to the landfill
 - This includes trash like diapers and cat litter, and also plastic bags like trash bags or grocery bags
 - When in doubt, keep it simple with paper, glass, and metal
 - Keep everything loose, not bagged
- Paper
 - The most recycled thing in town
 - Cardboard and paper are baled
 - You don't need to peel all of the packing tape off of your packages, just break it down so it's flat
 - Junk mail, magazines, mail with plastic windows, soft cover books are all fine too
 - Staples are fine
 - Shredded paper should be placed inside a paper bag and stapled shut
- Glass
 - Highly recyclable (there is actually a glass shortage)
 - The glass is crushed when it comes to the facility
 - If the glass comes with a metal lid, simply remove the lid
- Metal
 - Steel and aluminum cans
 - Food grade, no construction material
 - Balled up aluminum foil (if clean)
 - No need to remove labels
 - If possible, keep the lid attached
 - Anything smaller than a credit card (can lids, bottle caps, etc) should be stuffed inside something larger
- Plastic
 - Bottles, jugs, and containers (1, 2, 5)
 - They've mostly moved away from numbers because there are a lot of exceptions
 - No plastic bags

- No styrofoam
- Plastic caps can be kept on the bottle only if it's clean and empty
 - When in doubt, remove the cap and place it inside something larger so it doesn't fall through and end up in the landfill
- Other
 - Plastic Film Recycling - many grocery stores accept plastic bags and other plastic films (bubble wrap, etc)
 - Terracycle - there are free mail in programs for many different types of materials
 - Batteries & Bulbs - up to 10 bulbs and up to 5 lbs of batteries with taped ends can be dropped off at any Connelly's Do It Best or Batteries Plus (these go to the Department of Environmental Management)

Announcements

- Williams Woodland Holiday Home Tour ticket giveaway
 - Elizabeth Christian won 2 tickets
- No December Association meeting!
- 2023 Holiday Party
 - Monday, December 11 at 6pm
 - Electric Works Forum
- 13th Step House
 - They currently own 4 houses in West Central, all on W. Washington
 - They want to purchase a house on College between Wayne and Washington to house 7 people
 - The board has voted to support this purchase
 - Any concerns can be brought to the board
- Historic Preservation Committee
 - Looking for additional members
 - Email Craig at craigleonard1949@gmail.com

Concluded - 8:12pm