

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2024, 7:00pm

Attendance: 26 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.

Priorities for 2024: Joel

- Survey was sent out to the neighborhood for our WNCA priorities and we received about 80 responses.
- The board used the input from the survey and at the last membership meeting to narrow down priorities
- Priorities are as follows:
 - Historic Preservation (always)
 - Expansion of existing member programs with a focus on crime deterrents. We will make a greater effort to increase awareness. We have dedicated additional funding for 2024 as well. Programs include: home beautification, sidewalks & curbs repair/replacement, Yard & Park Strip Trees, and Home Security (**update to this! Package delivery boxes are now included!**)
 - Liveability Improvements, including bike and pedestrian friendliness (Neighborhood Greenways, Thieme drive changes, connection to Moody Park) and Property Improvements (empty homes and buildings, problem rentals, unkempt properties)
 - Side note concern about new traffic pattern at end of Thieme- a small group of board members and neighbors met with the city. We were reminded that emergency vehicles do not have to obey one-ways and can get to hard to reach places more easily
 - Landlord event
- Check out the WCNA website for much more detail on the programs, including qualifications and applications.
- Safety Sundays- one each in April and October
- See Kelly or Connie to get into the Beyond Porch Parties Facebook page

Historic Preservation Committee Update: Craig Johnson

- Three purposes: education, advocacy, and vigilance
- Official Statement: The purpose of the West Central Historic Preservation Committee is to foster improvement of the West Central neighborhood through preservation of historic structures and places using an established revitalization process; promotion of compatible residential and commercial growth and development; procurement and rehabilitation of historic or architecturally relevant vulnerable neighborhood structures; education and promotion of local, state, and federal historic preservation resources; and public education about West Central history to build both connectedness and stewardship.
- Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the downtown library. Craig invited anyone interested to come and sit in.
- Reminder: if you see something historically inappropriate happening, please let a member of the Committee or the Board so that we can communicate with the City
- ARCH is part of Indiana Landmarks– there are grants available– they are talking about putting on a seminar about what it means to be on the National Historic Register vs the Local Historic District. Education could also include the Indiana Residential Historic Tax Credit. (Joel suggested recording these and making them available on the website)
- Suggestion to add links on our website to State historic standards
- Question: do landscape changes require local HPC approval? Yes. Just reach out to Creager via email.

Financial Update: George Taylor

- Presented the 2024 WCNA budget
- We are decreasing the projected income for 2024 due to record income from the 2023 Home Tour.
- Increased budgeted amounts for the Programs.
- Anticipating a net balance of ~\$5,000 for the year.
- He has copies of the budget available
- We are hiring CPA Targeted Solutions, who works exclusively with nonprofits, who will help us with our books. This will help keep us secure in the event that something would happen to our Treasurer. The CPA will help with quarterly statements and tax filings.

Membership Update: Anita Kuker

- Reminder to sign in at the meetings! In order to vote as a member, you must come to 3 events where attendance is taken.
- Anita is working on getting neighborhood businesses to come to our meetings to promote their businesses and give us coupons, etc
- Current 83 memberships, 122 members

- Please tell Anita if you have new neighbors! She will reach out to tell them about the benefits of membership, and provide a house history, when available

Home & Garden Tour Committee Launch

- 2024 Co-Chairs: Ellen O'Connor Sauer (ellencsauer@gmail.com) and Ryan Benton (rpbenton@gmail.com)
- We have already identified Subcommittee Chairs!
 - Artsfest West Side: Katie Pruitt
 - Artsfest East Side: Meredith Stout
 - Art Spaces: Diane Groenert
 - Food Trucks & Beverages: Lynn & Liz Brockmann
 - House Captain Lead: Laura Paschen
 - Marketing: Kelly Benton
 - Music: Andy Stout
 - Scavenger Hunt: Sonia Checchia
 - Sponsorships: Bradley Seibt
 - Tour Stops: Bethany Pruitt
 - Volunteer Recruitment: Alicia Kirkland

Call for Guest Speakers

- We often throughout the year have guest speakers come to meetings to talk about issues important to the neighborhood. If you have any ideas, please contact anyone on the board and we will try to arrange it! If you have connections to people who would be great speakers, share that too!
- Ideas: Dr. Frye (Insight Vision), Old Settlers from Swinney Homestead, Arborist, Master Gardener to talk about native plants, Community Cats educator
- Mechanic St bridge: a bid is posted again, Phase 2 of Riverfront development, someone from the Pearl Development, Elex (EW apartments) Update, Nurses Dorm Update,

New Chapman's is opening next month!

Mark Smith is coming to an upcoming meeting to request support for an art piece that will honor the importance of art in the history of West Central.

Question about Thieme Overlook. It is under the purview of the Parks Dept. They can clean up the graffiti, but we may need to look into other funding to spruce that up.

Concluded: 8:00pm