

## West Central Neighborhood Association

*Meeting Minutes*

*April 15, 2024, 7:00pm*

Attendance: 37

Joel Sauer (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced board members, 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.*

### **Electric Works Update** provided by Katy Silliman

- Electric Works Phase II is underway! It is called Elex, which was the name of the women's group at General Electric. The apartments were named this to honor that group.
- Katy showed us renderings from the perspective of looking south on Broadway at the intersection with Lavina
- Building B (on Broadway) is 4 stories and Building A is 5 stories. B will be completed first and will contain first floor retail/commercial space (fitness and restaurant) and A will have an early learning center/daycare.
- Expected completion dates: end of 2025 for B and beginning of 2026 or A
- There will be a large mural on the outside of the parking garage that will be visible from the South (the side that faces the railroad tracks). There is a call for artist submissions for the mural. The effort is led by Alex Hall.
- 89 units will be earmarked for affordable housing (senior, low income, and for folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities)
- Question: is the building going to be taller than the parking garage? There are lights on the garage that shine into neighborhood homes. Answer: Katy will find the answer and get back to us!
- All the renderings will be available on the Electric Works website.
- Discussion of the parking situation. Katy shared that she is consistently trying to encourage visitors to park in the free parking lots rather than on our neighborhood streets. If there were to be a permit system implemented, it would have to be through city legislation, because no permit system currently exists in Fort Wayne.
- There will be a crane that will move supplies from the roof of the parking garage (it will be closed to parking) from the jobs sites. There will be more traffic along Lavina during the daytime while part of Van Buren ext is closed from 9a-2p. Broadway will

be narrowed during construction. The sidewalk on the East side of College will not be restored until the conclusion of Phase II in 2026.

- Question: any plans for permanent entertainment at Electric Works? A: Yes, they are working on plans for the long-term, and currently filling in the gaps with pop-ups.
- Q: Will there be any more brick work done? A: Yes. All brick work is done by the City. They are waiting to do any more brick work until construction is complete.
- Q: Any plan for bike racks on the north side of Union Street Market? A: Yes, we need those. Bike racks also need to be moved further from the buildings to be functional

### **Membership Update** provided by Anita Kuker

- Please remember to sign in at meetings! Attendance is required at 3 meetings or events in order to maintain your status as a voting member
- Current membership numbers: 42 households (up to 84 people), 16 individuals, 27 seniors, 4 lifetime members
- If you aren't sure if you're a member, see Anita!
- Please encourage your neighbors to become members!
- The neighborhood goes all the way to Calhoun St to the East and all the way to Taylor St to the South.
- Anita is creating new neighbor welcome bags with information on joining WCNA, benefits of membership, and information on living in a Local Historic District

### **Historic Preservation Committee Call of Members**

- Our WC Historic Preservation Committee has lost a few members, and are looking for new members!
- This committee is separate from the City's Historic Preservation Commission.
- They meet the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Main Library at 7:00 pm in room 114
- Next meeting May 7th
- Recent accomplishments: created a purpose statement and plan for 2024, successfully intervened at 801 W Berry St renovations (windows, etc)

### **Coming Events**

- Safety Sunday (Sunday April 28, 4-5pm)
  - Just get out and meet your neighbors, exchange contact info
  - I'll watch your porch if you watch mine!
  - Reminder that we added package boxes to the Security Program!
- Neighborhood Cleanup (Saturday, May 4th, 9:00-12:00PM)
  - Looking for volunteers
  - Trucks are needed for hauling garbage and debris!
  - Meet at Van Buren and Wilt
- Yard Sales (June 7-9)

- Block Party (July 20, 11am-2pm) at Moody Park
  - Need volunteers
  - Contact Tyler Bowers (tyler.bowers713@gmail.com)

### **Home & Garden Tour Update**

- 5 home stops confirmed so far!
- Sponsorships have topped \$10,000
- Volunteer ticket pickup will be hosted by Chapman's!
  - Friday before the tour
  - More details to come

### **Other Business**

- Trees! Joe Francis will be putting out some more information about trees
- May 20th meeting: Derek Camp from Wayne Township Assessor will discuss property taxes– how they are assessed and how to appeal

Concluded: 7:57pm