

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

July 15th, 2024, 7:00pm

Attendance: 31 people

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.

Guest Speaker: Dan Baisden

- *Community and Economic Development, Neighborhood Planning and Activation*
- Goal as a team is to help neighborhood associations and neighborhoods thrive
- [Introduced his five member team.](#)
- What do they do?
 - 10-15 year vision plans
 - Runs INspire conference for neighborhood leaders
 - Neighborhood Grant Program (things like signage)
 - FORTify Neighborhood Accelerator
 - CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). Significant decline in crime on High St as a result of their intervention
- West Central: 2 census tracks: 11 and 12. Part of Track 20 is in WC, but not significant amount
 - Track 11 is West of Broadway. Track 12 is East of Broadway to Calhoun
 - Showed a graph of overall population since 1990. Overall population decline, but evening out between the two tracks.
 - More men than women in the neighborhood.
 - Households: grown in number of households since 1990
 - Racial makeup: White only- 83.8%, which is -6% change. Most growth in hispanic population
 - Age makeup: About 25% residents between 24-34. Consistently largest segment
 - Children under 5 declined and now it is increasing again.
 - Most growth is in Track 12 (East of Broadway)
 - Tripled number of residents with a bachelor's degree
 - Median income: Adjusted to 2024 inflation. Now \$44,926 compared to ~\$60,000 for the whole city

- Commuting: WC has always had a lot of cars. 70.7% (up 5%).
- Crime: From 2010 to 2023 total crime incidents 1481 to 1332. Violent crime is down. Vandalism is down. Trespassing is up from 40 in 2010 to 217 in 2023. Likely more reported due to Ring doorbells, etc.
- Housing: total units from 2191 in 1990 to 2262 in 2022. A unit is a “place to live”
- Owner occupied: Less than 25% consistently since 1990. West of Broadway increased, East decreased. One of the lowest in the city– a good example of how to create a neighborhood with lots of solid rental properties.
- 73.5% of people stayed in the same house at least 2 years in 2022 (huge increase)
- Housing value, adjusted for inflation: \$71,762
- Question: how have the historic designations (National Register, Local Historic District) impacted these numbers?
 - No study has been done for the West Central area on this, but studies that exist for other areas show that historic preservation has a positive impact.
- How (or is he) working with West Central? What do you recommend for West Central?
 - Their team has been in “build mode” for the past few years. Looking to add another staff person. WC can reach out to work together, for example if we want to apply for a grant
- Do you have data from other areas that we could use to compare West Central?
 - Yes. A researcher who does “peer” city research is coming to help the team next year.
- Fort Wayne Neighborhoods dot org

Safety Sunday

- First event in April was described as “meh.” The second event is coming in October.
- We are looking for Block Captains to rally neighbors for the October event
- Job description: coordinating just THAT DAY.
- Please let us know if you want to volunteer

Tour Update:

- Not much new information– all planning is still going well!
- All 10 tour stops have been announced.
- Sponsorship- record year! 37 sponsors for a total of over \$24,000
- By day one of the tour, we will be fully funded! Rain or shine.
- Sign ups for docents will begin August 1st.
- New this year! Overnight security will be an off-duty police officer.
- Volunteers needed to ride the pedicab!

- Posters will be available at the next association meeting

Historic Preservation Committee could use additional volunteers. Please see Craig Leonard if you'd like to join. Room 114 main library. First Tuesday of the month 7pm. Open to everyone

Upcoming Events

- Friday Porch Parties, organized by Jo Buffalino. We are in need of more hosts!
- Block Party: July 20th, 11am-2pm
 - Volunteers needed- contact Tyler Bowers: tyler.bowers713@gmail.com
- Neighborhood Cleanup: September 4th in the evening
- Home & Garden Tour: Sept 7-8
- August Association Meeting:
 - Creager Smith & Nate Lefever: History of West Central

Concluded: 7:59 pm