

West Central Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 13th, 2024 6:00pm

Call To Order –6:02 pm

- Attendees: Joel Sauer, Kelly Benton, Bethany Pruitt, Ben Walhi, Al Hofer, Shelly Rothgeb, Charlotte Weybright
- Absent: Anita Kuker, George Taylor. Quorum present.

Historic Preservation Committee Update (provided by Charlotte Weybright)

- Board requested an update on their Annual Plan.
- As far as she knows, the HPC has not yet developed the Annual Plan as requested. It has been difficult to get structure implemented at the committee meetings and therefore difficult to be productive.
- Charlotte cited seven mandatory standing committees per the bylaws. Bylaws were reviewed to confirm six standing committees:
 - executive, neighborhood plan, nominating, historic preservation, newsletter/marketing, fundraising,
 - Bethany and Kelly are currently functioning as the marketing/newsletter committee; Home Tour committee functions as fundraising committee
- Charlotte proposed sending out a survey to see what should be our historic preservation priorities to be sent out in Beyond Porch Parties and the email list.
 - Include a question about if historic preservation is a priority at all
- We have not created an updated Neighborhood Plan since 2004, which would be under the purview of the Planning Committee
- Discussed Charlotte and Shelly becoming the next Co-Chairs of the HPC. Joel will follow up with current Chair (Craig Leonard) about this.
- Are trees included under the purview of HPC?
 - Charlotte suggested that we hire a company to water new trees that are planted, so that they don't die. Perhaps contact DID to see who they hire.
- They will discuss The Plan at their next meeting on September 3rd.

Liability Insurance/Finances

- Joel recommends we move our policy over to Colligan. All present board members support this decision.
- We will add a new procedure in which the Treasurer writes checks and the President signs them.
- We discussed several months ago to do a rolling CD investment. All board members present agree to give George (Treasurer) the authority to go ahead with this.

Hemphill Smith Foundation Donation Request

- We received a request from the foundation for a donation, specifically to contribute to the costs of the sign/monument (which are about \$30,000). Current plan is for 10 ½ tons of limestone for the sign.
- Discussion of if and how much to contribute. The board has talked about investing in gateway signage for many years. Donating to this would be consistent with this long-time goal.
- \$15,000 was proposed as a pledge. (won't be paid until the project is complete)
 - All board members present agree to this amount.
 - Next step will be to bring this to the Association for a vote at our next membership meeting.
 - Ben will gather history of the gateway monument plan to present when we bring this to the association. (October 2019 minutes has reference to including this in the 2020 agenda)

Historic Street Signs

- It was suggested that we pursue street signs that contribute to the historic character of the neighborhood.
- Williams Woodland has something along these lines
- This would be a good project for a Planning Committee
- Other potential projects include historic-looking street lights and Thieme Overlook

Other Business

- Financial discussion: When Ben Walhi was President, the board enacted a rule that the Board should not spend more than 2 years of profits in any one year. Discussed reviving this as a guideline as we move to spend more of our substantial assets.
- Discussion: it was suggested that the historic preservation committee could put together a publication as part of its education mission
- Discussed reviving the plan to renovate Moody Park. Parks Dept has developed and approved design plan with public and neighborhood input in the past several years. Currently no city funding is allocated and renovations are not scheduled. WCNA has ~\$23,000 earmarked as seed money for this project. Ben Walhi is willing to take the lead on reviving the plan and using some seed money to produce marketing materials to aid efforts.
- An anonymous neighbor expressed concern about potential plans for the city to install showers and a warming station at Broadway Christian Church (Inasmuch Ministry) for the homeless. Discussed inviting the neighbor to a board meeting to discuss further and recommend he connect with the Homelessness Council as well.

Membership Meeting Agenda

- Vote on financial contribution to neighborhood signage/monument portion of the Hemphill Smith Foundation sculpture project
- Creager & Nate on History of West Central
- Home & Garden Tour ArtsFest Tour Update- last meeting before the Tour!

Concluded: 7:15pm