

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

January 20th, 2025, 7:00pm

Attendance: 22 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: Craig Leonard “History of the West Central Local Historic District”

- Showed the 1979 map he drew for the original nomination for the National Register of Historic Places
- Karen Anderson (from Bakersfield, CA) spearheaded this with Craig; she saw the value of the neighborhood as someone from outside of the area.
- National Register’s criteria are the most widely accepted of what is or is not historic
- The process started in 1979, and was finally listed in 1984. In that time, there was progress in creating the Local Historic District and the Historic Preservation Commission.
- The LHD is much smaller than what is on the National Register. The National Register makes properties eligible for tax credits.
 - Our WC Historic Preservation Committee will put on a workshop on how to apply for State Historic tax credits
- Q: What was the argument for the LHD? Was there opposition? A: No opposition to the National Register.
- Modern historic preservation movement generally began around the national bicentennial in 1976
- Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database:
 - <https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/county-survey-program/shard-database/>

2024 Membership Survey Results: Kelly Benton, VP

- Spending Priorities Survey in Fall/Winter of 2024- shared in various forms
- 28 Responses
- Transformative Neighborhood Project: (ranked order)
 - Urban Trail development* (most said this was their top priority)
 - Moody Park Upgrades

- Thieme Overlook
- Gateway Signage
- Historic Markers/Preservation Resources
- Write-ins: plowing sidewalks, more historic talks/tours
- Infrastructure repair and maintenance
 - Brick street and alleys *
 - Sidewalks and street repair
- Member Programs:
 - Home beautification
 - Sidewalks and curbs
 - Trees
 - Safety and security* (most listed as top priority)
 - Pruning program to help with the trees
- Tom Cain added that the city has removed trees in the section of the Urban Trail that is currently under construction. He has been in touch with city officials to express his concern
- Anita Kuker shared that anyone can request that the City come prune a tree.

Presentation of the 2025 Budget: George Taylor, Treasurer

- Total projected income: \$73,965. Total projected expenses: \$64,796. Projected net: \$9,169
- We have had two years in a row of exceptional weather with the Home Tour. When devising the 2025 budget, we estimated lower income from the tour to be cautious and reflect the possibility of poor weather.
- Increased tour expenses by 5% as an estimate
- In 2023 only received \$64 in interest, in 2024 we invested in CDs and increased interest income to \$4,482
- Legal & Accounting– added an accountant to the payroll to provide backup for the treasurer.
- Total \$236,000 in the bank. The intention is to invest back into the neighborhood (see spending policy presented in 2024)
- Kelly encouraged neighbors to come to the board with ideas for projects (that you want to execute!)
- Charlotte W is taking leadership on the Thieme Overlook

Note on the Home Tour: Ryan Benton is the Chair for the 2025 Tour. A meeting of the general committee will be scheduled for February. Email info@westcentralneighborhood.org

We also want to encourage neighbors to take advantage of the lead water line replacement program through the city!

January Gift Direction

- In November we contributed \$250 to Inasmuch Ministries
- Joel solicited ideas:
 - Friends of the Parks in Allen County <https://www.yeaparks.org/>
 - Plowshares (part of Heartland Communities)
<https://stewardsofheartlandcommunities.wordpress.com/home/>
- Casey moved to support Plowshares. Craig seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Friends of the Parks will be added to the list for February.

Concluded: 8:00 pm