

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

February 17th, 2025, 7:00pm

Attendance: 29 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.

Yesterday's West Central: History of Fort Wayne College presented by Dodd Kattman

- Slides available at westcentralneighborhood.org
- A lot of conflicting information exists about the college!
- Showed a photo taken in 1889 on the corner of Wayne St & College
- Current history marker is on the riverbank at the end of Wayne St
- Original owner of the land was Tipton, was sold to Fort Wayne College, also known as the Fort Wayne Female College
- The college thrived briefly but could not support themselves, so opened up to male students as well. In 1890 Taylor College bought the property. There is evidence of several lawsuits. Taylor eventually moved to Upland. The Fort Wayne College closed in 1892 or 1893.

Guest Speaker: Scott Ferguson, owner of Chapman's

- Scott thanked West Central for our support of Electric Works
- As of November, Scott's role expanded to include management of Union Street Market
- He would like to provide updates on the project to us, just as he does for their tenants
- BSW/3PO Update:
 - BSW is the tenant that runs conferences/events, but is owned by some of the same people who own EW (and are located in Washington DC)
 - Scott formed 3PO, a services company that contracts with BSW.
 - They reopened The Crane Bar (formerly Charlie Horse) and opened The Neon Pear
 - Lots of talk of vendors leaving the market. Statistics are that 9 out of 10 startup restaurants fail. 7 of 10 brand new restaurants to USM are still there.

- 380 events on the campus last year! Over 50,000 people were visiting for those events. 79% of events had the space donated
- 2025- The Campus
 - The Elex: First 111 apartments for 55+ will open in June 2025. The rest will be open in December 2025 For info at: Elexliving.com
 - Aon Insurance: (Also known as K&K) will be bringing in 400 employees
 - Do It Best just bought TrueValue and may take another floor to expand
 - Indiana Tech just bought the building on Wall St. They got a Lilly grant and they will remodel it for an engineering and innovation center.
- The Market:
 - A critique is that there is nothing to do on campus, other than eating.
 - Going to give each space a theme. West Hall will be a sports bar.
 - East Hall has the Neon Pear, featuring nicer bottles of wine. The focus will be on shopping.
 - New places opening:
 - Saladworks: 3/30 (patterned on Cork & Cleaver salad bar, pay by the pound)
 - The Berry: Fruit based ice-cream
 - Bakery: Pasta di Guy is opening a bakery across from current stall
 - New idea: Ivy Tech students do a rotating concept
 - Q: No street presence on Broadway for the Market. Is that intentional? A: We need more signage! Construction has been a barrier to this.
 - Q: What's going on with the East Campus? A: Scott is hearing 2027. Phase 2 is Elex. Phase 3 is East Campus. Will include a conference center.
 - Q: Out of 380 events, how many were private v public? A: A third were private.
- Working together:
 - USM Curb-side and Campus Delivery service
 - Home & Garden Tour
 - Programming and Events for West Central
 - Public Market Trust: when the city put money into the market they agreed to operate for 10 years and provide local food. They created this board for help/guidance.
 - Welcoming to the Elex: Can WC do something to celebrate the opening?
 - Regular Updates: He will work with Joel to get on the calendar and keep everyone informed

Announcements:

- Calendar of Events:
 - Winter Mixer: February 10th

- Easter Egg Hunt: April 13th
- Neighborhood Clean-up/Trash & Tire Day: TBD, reach out to Tyler
- Yard Sale: June 6th-8th
- Block Party: July 19th (tentatively) reach out to Tyler
- Neighborhood Clean-up: September 3rd
- Home & Garden Tour: September 6th & 7th
- Movie Night: October 4th
- Cookie Exchange: TBD
- Officer Election: November 17th
- Holiday Party: December 8th

Home & Garden Tour

- Ryan Benton is the Chair for the 2025 Tour.
- Volunteers needed! The first planning meeting will be Monday, February 24th at 6:30pm in the basement of Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- If you can't make it, email info@westcentral and you can get connected
- We usually need more than 200 volunteers to make the tour happen!

February Gift Direction

- In January we contributed \$250 to Plowshares
- Friends of the Parks in Allen County <https://www.yeaparks.org/> was designated at January's meeting for February's donation
- Joel held a vote. Unanimously passed.
- For next time: Washington Elementary will stock the food pantry

Other business: The poll regarding the sign entrance came out with two thirds in favor of "Historic West Central"

Please fill up the mutual aid pantries on Washington Blvd!

Call 311 with speeding complaints and red light running

Concluded: 8:07 pm