

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

March 17th, 2025, 7:00pm

Attendance: 42 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.

Announcements:

- New Member Welcome
- We have surpassed 200 members of WCNA for 2025!
- WCWC: West Central Wine Club. First and third Thursday of the month at Electric Works from 6-8pm. This month will be at Crane Bar.

Yesterday's West Central: Thieme Overlook (presented by Charlotte Weybright)

- The overlook is located on Thieme Blvd (all along the river) near Main Street
- Theodore F Thieme was responsible for the creation of the Overlook
 - Owned Wayne Knitting Mills
 - Lived on the corner of Berry and Rockhill (in Mike Anderson's current home)
- Civic Awakening- The City Beautiful
- He sought help of George E Kessler, renowned landscape architect from Kansas
- Completed in 1911
- It was put on the National Historic Register in 1984
- London Plane Trees: the whole drive at one point had 37 trees. Only 14 remain
 - A new one was planted in 2011 to celebrate the centennial
- It was the first constructed boulevard in the "City Beautiful" plan
- Future of the Overlook: Tom Cain created a design to propose a boat landing many years ago
- Parks Dept did maintenance and restoration work on the Overlook and light fixtures 10-20 years ago. The City has committed to cleaning up the overgrowth on the river side of the Overlook, but have not done this yet

Guest Speaker: Michael Galbraith, Executive Director ARCH

- Lived in West Central and other historic neighborhoods in Fort Wayne! Has Master's in Historic Preservation (second career after coming to Fort Wayne to be in the

Philharmonic). Was previously working at ARCH for 10 years, and is pleased to be back

- ARCH is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year
- Mission statement: ARCH celebrates, protects, and preserves architecture and community heritage in Allen County and Northeast Indiana
- Vision Statement: ARCH is the recognized leader working collaboratively with communities in the region to save and revitalize our historic places
- Michael has helped ARCH own more historic properties: 1) 1000 block of Broadway, was once slated for demolition and bought two of the buildings 2) Mary Rockhill Tyler House on Van Buren
- ARCH also acts as a depository of information, files, photos, etc that relate to historic buildings
- ARCHFW.org
- Q: Is ARCH involved in the corridor studies? A: Yes, ARCH provides some of the historic information for this City initiative
- June 21st on Forest Park Blvd is this year's home tour
- Members of WCNA should also become members of ARCH!

Announcements:

- Coming up soon! Neighborhood Cleanup on May 3rd from 9:00-11:00 AM
 - <https://www.cityoffortwayne.org/great-american-clean-up.html>
 - Contact Tyler Bowers for volunteering: tyler.bowers713@gmail.com
 - Meet at the dumpster: Wellspring parking lot Wilt & Van Buren
- Green Team Update: The team launched last month as a volunteer opportunity for neighbors to clean up. The WCNA is providing kits, with donations from Do It Best
 - 16 routes, 18 volunteers
 - 10 streets remain to be covered
- Steve Miranda has volunteered to help the Settlers (who run the Swinney Homestead) to run their Bulb & Plant Sale on May 2nd & 3rd from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The house will be open during the sale! He is looking for volunteers to help during the sale. You can also donate any bulbs to Steve!
- Volunteers needed for the 2025 Home & Garden Tour!
- Update on the Amaryllis Sculpture: all the money has been raised and the sculpture is being built at the artist's studio. Installation targeted for July 2025.
- Update regarding the condition of the pavement on West Jefferson: The reason for the deterioration is the existence of trolley tracks underneath the road. There is a plan to dig up the tracks and repurpose the brick pavers that are under the road as well
- Amp Lab is growing seedlings in partnership with Community Harvest Food Bank. They will be giving away the seedlings in exchange for donating part of the harvest

to the Food Bank. The next four Saturdays will have these available at the Farmer's Market during market hours

- There were 40 kids at the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Moody Park. 950 eggs given away!

March Gift Direction

- Each meeting we designate \$250 to be donated
- January: Plowshares
- February: Friends of the Parks in Allen County
- March: Washington Elementary School
- Suggestions for April: ARCH, Wellspring. The vote was unanimous for ARCH.

Concluded: 8:07 pm