

## **West Central Neighborhood Association**

### *Board Meeting Minutes*

*July 8, 2025 6:00pm*

#### Call To Order –6:00 pm

- Attendees: Joel Sauer, Kelly Benton, George Taylor, Anita Kuker, Bethany Pruitt, Al Hofer, Jon Paul Pepen
- Absent: None. Full quorum present.

#### **Updates/Reviews**

- The Connect Neighborhood Group that West Central joined won the grant from the City
- One million dollars from the City to work on pedestrian and bike safety, etc
- Allen County has 430 neighborhoods— more than any other county in the United States
- SWAP- no meeting in July. Reviewed and confirmed schedule for the rest of the year.
- President’s meeting- often redundant, but provided good insight on River North RFP process
- Chuck Surack has bought the entire block where the Scottish Rite is located. Joel saw him at a community event and invited him to come to a meeting and talk about his plans for that block in our neighborhood. Chuck told Joel he does not yet know what his plan is. The Bell Mansion (located on that block) has exterior protections, but nothing else is protected. Joel sent a follow-up letter and carbon copied ARCH.
- Joel is back on the ARCH board.

#### **Neighborhood Promotion**

- Follow up on conversation with One Lucky Guitar
  - What is our level of interest? Discussion of narrowing and/or focusing our goals for a campaign
- Suggestions:
  - to start with slow down campaign with signs
  - Reach back out to Complete Streets and use their research and expertise to focus goals and advocate for whatever they recommend
  - Campaign to call in complaints (non emergency lines or 311) so we get more traffic cops in West Central
- Action item: Joel will ask Complete Streets to meet with the board.
- Jon Paul offered to research recommendations from the Strong Towns movement (based on the book, “Strong Towns” by Charles Marohn.)
  - <https://www.strongtowns.org/>

## **Chair Reports**

- Treasurer:
  - June Income: \$6,114.15 (majority from ArtsFest and CD interest)
  - Expenses: \$2,886.11 (highest expenses were ArtsFest, Beautification Program, and Accounting Services)
  - All expenses have stayed within budget
- Beautification: 8 applications so far this year. A lot of landscaping and painting.
- Membership: 217 members! Has delivered 28 welcome bags with 2 more about to go out.
  - Is going to target businesses to join. We have more renters as members now! Board members will encourage neighbors we see out to come to meetings.
- Programs/Events:
  - Block Party planning seems to be going well. Joel will verify. Kelly will re-post sign up for volunteers.

## **Home & Garden Tour Update:**

- Sponsorships are over \$20k.
- 9 confirmed homes, probably 10. House photos have been taken.
- Elex will be an Also Open
- We are on track!
- Next steps: assign House Captains and announce to neighborhood

## **Jersey Barrier Artwork**

- The Board received a letter from Tom Cain with feedback regarding this project
- Discussed reaching out to homeowners who live along the jersey barriers for input, encourage joining association so they are able to vote
- We will revise language in RFP to address common concerns we've heard, including Tom's, about not detracting from historic homes, barriers getting frequently hit, etc. (Joel will update the RFP to include these cautions)
- Next steps:
  - go ahead with RFP and postpone vote for full project budget until we have something more concrete to bring to the membership for a vote. (Must keep RFP budget under \$2500)
  - Look at portfolios from Alex's list of 12 and narrow down (Kelly will contact Alex for the list and send out links to the board to look at)

- Reach out to homeowners after we have received artist proposals

Concluded 7:21pm