

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025, 7:00pm

Attendance: __ 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.

Joel welcomed new neighbors and members.

Special Guest: Mayor Sharon Tucker

- Vision for Fort Wayne: Growth, family friendly, safe, youth sports
- Strong vision in support of neighborhoods- the core of the city. \$42 million investing in neighborhood infrastructure.
- She developed the Connected Neighborhoods Initiative: West Central (as part of the North West Central Collaborative) was the recipient of one of these
- North River Project: youth sports and build more housing
 - Housing stock- we have plenty mid range apartments (around \$2000), we need more higher end, and more affordable units. She doesn't necessarily agree with need for the higher level until we are able to bring in the jobs that provide salaries for those.
- Homelessness: Mayor Tucker was on the board of Vincent Village (homeless shelter), and became Executive Director for 2.5 years.
 - Learned everybody wants the same thing: safe place to live, provide for their family, and home/community.
 - Focused on building a network to bring people out of homelessness through a day shelter with a place to receive mail, lockers(and many other things), so they can lock meds, leave their belongings to get a job, etc.
 - She is working with City Council, which is willing to commit resources. She's heard from neighbors about the problems. She's asking for us to have patience while they work on the problem.
- Questions:
 - Q: What's going on with the jail? What are they going to do with the old jail?
A: The jail belongs to the County, and they will decide what to do with it.

- Q: What can be done about the mess on the porches, etc from homeless people?
 - A: There is a cleaning crew through DID that will come out and do a cleanup.
- Q: Comment on how lovely South Calhoun is, she's moving her business.
- Q: I have two children at Washington Elementary. Concern about Washington & Jefferson, no school zone speed limit. Lots of children walk to school; actually 3 schools. There is frequent drag racing
 - A: There is a map on the Connected Neighborhood Grant website— drop a pin. Another feedback meeting at Precious Blood coming up. Can share with Dr. Daniels at FWCS
- Q: Daily trouble with homeless folks on Wayne St near Van Buren- someone changed their address to his house and had an ID with his address, so police would not stop him.
 - A: Provided a couple of options: call non-emergency number to help move him along. Downtown patrol officers are familiar with the folks downtown
- Mayor Tucker: There are three ways to reduce homelessness in a city: 1. Provide housing (do a count of how many people need it) 2. Once you have the space, pass an ordinance making it illegal to camp on public or private land 3. Opportunities for employment
- Q: What can we do to get traffic police officers in our area? I've called the police so many times.
 - A: Mayor will have them come down to our area. There are four officers on the team.
- Q: What are your thoughts on economic development and trying to bring jobs in to the city?
 - A: In the past we would attract business through tax incentives, which we can no longer do because of the governor's property tax changes. We are rethinking how to develop. We gain revenue on local income taxes; need to incentivize people to move here rather than businesses.
- Q: Any plans to expand public transportation?
 - A: No plans, because Citilink is its own taxing entity.
- Contact: Mayor@cityoffortwayne.org

Yesterday in West Central: postponed to November due to time

2026 Elections: led by Al Hofer, Past President

- Must elect at least 5 officers
- Reviewed Voting Member Eligibility

- 2026 Slate of Officers:
 - Joel Sauer, President
 - Kelly Benton, Vice President
 - Bethany Pruitt, Secretary
 - Chris Todd, Treasurer
 - Anita Kuker, Membership
- Nominations will be taken at November's meeting before the vote!

2025 Home & Garden Tour Results and Statistics

- See slides on website for more details (Members > Meeting Minutes)
- Ticket Sales: 1,954 for \$35,918
- 29% of online ticket sales in the two days prior
- 22% of online ticket buyers were first time attendees
- Sponsorships: over \$19,000
- Total attendees 2,304- a little less than last year, which we were happy about to mitigate long lines
- Gross income \$611, net \$38K
- Positive post-tour survey results

Announcements:

- Holiday Party is December 8th at The Fairfield
- Membership- if you join today it will go toward next year
 - Member benefits- cost sharing programs for security, beautification, trees

October Gift Direction

- Guidelines
- Proposal: Arena Dinner Theater. Voted yes unanimously.

Concluded: 8:19 pm