

West Central Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2026 4:30pm

Call To Order –4:34 pm

- Attendees: Joel Sauer, Kelly Benton, Chris Todd, Anita Kuker, Bethany Pruitt, Al Hofer
- Absent: None. Full quorum present.

Art This Way 10-Year Anniversary (Guests via Zoom)

- Alex Hall (contractor for Downtown Fort Wayne and public artist) & Tamara Cummins (Event Director for Downtown Fort Wayne)
- Downtown Fort Wayne was reauthorized in 2025 for 10 more years and Broadway Corridor and Wells Corridor are now included.
- Large scale event is planned for October 2nd & 3rd of 2026: Close Broadway for 2 days (will impact lots of people- wants us to help get the word out in July, August, Sept) Will make a huge First Friday, Art Fair, Trailer Stage with LED screen, local and national acts.
- Closure from Sweeney Ave to Jefferson Blvd
- Electric Works is a partner, will likely have a big role on Oct 3rd.
- Free event! Expecting 10,000 attendees
- She offered WCNA to have a booth for education/promotion and consider any other kinds of collaboration.
- “Art This Way Fest” She will share graphics with map

2026 WCNA Project & Funding Priorities

- The board wants to use our money to leverage the Connected Neighborhoods Grant.
- The first on the list of priorities for CNG is traffic calming. At this point we have no information on how this will proceed
- Social Events: Anita requested increasing the budget for more food, a second bar tender, or free drink options. The holiday party ran out of food quickly and went over budget.
 - Bethany would like to host the Winter Mixer again to welcome and integrate new neighbors.
 - Kelly: Southwood Park NA offered \$200 reimbursement to anyone hosting an event open to the whole neighborhood. Could we consider something like this? Discussion: exempt alcohol and porch parties
- Anita needs the box in front of her house re-wrapped. Are any of the other boxes in need of re-wrapping?
- Historic Preservation: we previously asked the Committee to propose

projects or programs to spend money.

- Suggested project: training contractor to do work for historic restoration/preservation
- Joel will talk to the committee about ideas
- Chris suggested increasing the Beautification budget (per person)

Treasurer's Report

- Introduction of Chris Todd as new Treasurer for 2026
 - He met the accountant. He gave a form to Kelly to take to Old National to give check signing permission
 - What is needed from the treasurer? Quarterly is enough to give information to the accountant. The board is OK with quarterly financial reports as well.
- Review of 2025 Financial Statements
- Proposed Budget for 2026: Discussed each line of the budget. Treasurer recorded the changes. He will send it out before final approval to see if the budget is balanced or not.
- We lost a small amount of money on one of the CDs because of lack of renewal. Chris fixed this. All three CDs are maturing within the first 6 months of 2026. Will continue strategy of rolling them
- We will take out the Clean Up line item and roll it into the Green Team
- Bethany requested \$5,000 for each the Winter Mixer and The Holiday Party
- Eliminate Food Pantry line item
- Will increase the cost share amount for Beautification
- Will use the same budget for the Home Tour from 2025.

New Board Roles/Positions

- Clarification of existing job descriptions
- New position: Joel requested adding a new role to be a Fort Wayne government liaison to attend meetings and keep up to date with policies, etc.
- Board advisors: do we want to bring on more advisors?
 - Joel will create a list of duties for advisor and new position

Chapman's/Tour Party Update

- They did not properly track their bar tab and the bill is impossible to untangle. If it was done properly, we would owe them approximately what they owe us in sponsorship. Ryan recommends we meet with Scott to confirm that we are even/good. Joel will go with him.

Dignity Memorial (one of our business members) would like to come talk at one of

our meetings. Anita will schedule these.

Set 2026 Calendar

Winter Mixer: February 23rd

Egg Hunt: March 29

Neighborhood Clean up: May 2nd

Neighborhood Yard Sales: June 5-6

Block Party: July 25th

Home Tour: September 11 & 12

Movie Night: October 10th

Holiday Party: December 7th

Concluded 6:20pm