

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2026, 7:00pm

Attendance: 26 people

Joel Sauer (President) welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced board members, and reviewed the mission and new vision of the WCNA:

To preserve and promote a unique, historic neighborhood defined by its connected community, rich architecture, and outstanding livability for all.

Welcome & Introductions

- Joel introduced board members. We can all be reached by email (on the website)
- If you have any new neighbors, let Anita know so that she can get them a welcome bag! membership@westcentralneighborhood.org

Yesterday in West Central: Fort Wayne Art School: Beginnings with Shelley Rothgeb

- See slides on the website:
 - <https://westcentralneighborhood.org/association-board-meetings/2026-minutes/>
- “The Hoosier Group” was a group of artists who came together in Indianapolis and put on a series of exhibits
 - J. Otis Adams, William Forsyth, Otto Stark, T.C. Steele, and Richard Gruelle
- J. Otis Adams was from Indiana and studied art in Munich; started an art school in Muncie and then had a chance to earn money teaching in Fort Wayne. He recruited William Forsyth to come to Fort Wayne to teach as well.
- Theodore Thieme toured Europe and wanted to support the arts in Fort Wayne upon his return. In 1888 he purchased a drug store and the first art classes were held on the second floor.
- The Fort Wayne Art School was the only school started in Indiana that lasted more than 2 years.

Quarterly Financial Report with Chris Todd

- The 2026 First Quarter Financial Report is available on the website: <https://westcentralneighborhood.org/association-board-meetings/2026-minutes/>
- Reviewed current assets. Total: \$256,071.33
- Total Income: \$6,451.21 (mostly membership fees, H&G Tour Sponsorships, and CD interest)

- Total Expenses \$6,824.98 (H&G tour expenses, program grants, and administrative costs)

Public Art

- Oct 2nd & 3rd will be Art This Way Fest to celebrate 10 years of Art This Way
- We were approached by Alex Hall (leader of Art This Way) to apply for a grant to support a mural that will go on the side of a building on Broadway & Jefferson
- It was announced last week that we were awarded that grant for \$10
- We get a say on the theme of the mural
- The metal box on the corner of College & Washington is getting a new vinyl wrap with art by Jake Patten.

Home & Garden Tour

- The first committee meeting was held in April. The next is May 27th at 6:30 here at Emmanuel. All are welcome!
- We are still looking for homes and sponsors!
- Contact: Tour@westcentralneighborhood.org

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, May 2 from 9am- noon: Neighborhood Clean up
 - Gather at corner of Wilt & Van Buren
 - Tire & TV pick up as well
 - Organized by Mike Rogers (email greenteam@westcentralneighborhood.org)
- Friday, June 5 & Saturday, June 6: Yard Sales (set your own hours)
 - WCNA puts out signs & encourages neighbor to put out signs as well
- West Central Wine Club (not an official WCNA event) is the 1st & 3rd Thursday at Chapman's

March Gift Direction

- Every month we give \$250
- Last month the donation went to WBOI
- Giving guidelines: (from photo)
- Nominations: SWAP (South West Area Partnership) 11, Art This Way (3), Friends of the Third World (9)
- SWAP received the donations

Other Announcements: none

Concluded: 7:37 pm