

West Central Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2026, 7:00pm

Attendance: 30 people

Kelly Benton (Vice-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

Guest Speakers: Homeless Shelter & Police Update

Amanda Fall, City of Fort Wayne Homeless Services Coordinator

Kelly Lundberg, Director of Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services

Q&A:

Comment: I'm so glad the city is doing something about this

Q: Is it 24/7?

A: Yes- access to showers, lockers, etc

Q: Is it residential?

A: The vision is as a resource center rather than a shelter, but cots will be available in stabilization cases

Q: What was the reason/effects of the 3 month delay in funding?

A: The reason- city council wants them to look at other locations. The mayor will respond to City Council about that next month

Q: Is Matthew 25 relocating?

A: Yes, to Parkview Randallia in 3 years.

Q: Is it possible to go east of the Rescue Mission to keep it close but take it further from downtown businesses?

A: No, because that would place it in a residential neighborhood. The city looked carefully at property options and intentionally avoided residential areas while keeping it close to other existing resources like the Rescue Mission.

Q: The problems with homeless people have grown since the Rescue Mission relocated, contrary to assurances. One assurance was that it would be better than a "low-barrier" shelter. I've never seen a low-barrier shelter that isn't in a blighted area of a city. Can you point to examples that do not lead to blight?

A: An important distinction is did the blight exist before the shelter or not? The Rescue Mission has changed to a more low-barrier model (new CEO less than 2 years ago). Every community has had a huge increase since 2020 since COVID dollars dried up.

Additional information: March 25th City Council passed an ordinance written by the mayor to fine people who are providing bus tickets to people who do not have a bed available at a shelter. The process is to send a cease and desist letter and then move to the fine.

Q: How do we define success if the resource center is funded? What to do if it's not successful?

A: There will be a list of metrics as every nonprofit has to report to their funders. Some include: # of assessments, #moved into shelter, a "concern line" numbers

Q: What cities have successful programs?

A: Memphis "The Hub", some aspects of Lafayette's (with change of making a separate walled off area for women and families), New York, San Jose

Amanda left card to contact her, she is open to one-on-one meetings

Guest speaker: Treven Brown, West Central Police Liaison

Treven has been our liaison officer for 20 years. West Central is still a very safe place to live. The majority of crime reported in the neighborhood is at Lutheran Hospital (but crimes are reported there, not occurring there) Overall, theft/crime is still very low here.

He does believe that more services (for the unhoused) draw more people.

Enforcement is not realistic right now because of the way the ordinances are written.

They give notices, and people have 72 hours to move. People mostly move and police clear the trash. They don't clear encampments and throw away people's belongings.

Yesterday in West Central: Role of Trees in West Central with Tom Cain

- Like most of northeast Indiana, West Central was mostly woodland prior to being cleared for housing. Trees were planted/used for shade when there was no air conditions
- Benefits of trees:
 - Trees slow the time rain drops reach the ground and therefore the sewer system
 - Trees around streets are considered "friction" which leads drivers to slow down and be more cautious because it creates the feeling that there is more that can't be seen until the last minutes
 - Trees can also help with creating identity; and this is where we can put in place specific policies
- Proposal: see slide (PDF available [here](#))

- Board is looking at putting money toward tree maintenance, buying larger (more mature) tree
- Q: Am I allowed to prune the tree in my park strip? A: Technically not without the city arborists' permission.

Flock Cameras with Jon Paul Pepen

- There are Flock Cameras in West Central (see map on slides)
- A Flock camera is public safety device operated by a private company (Flock Safety) and contracted by the FWPD
- They read license plates and create a network to help police locate vehicles involved in crime
- Concerns involve data privacy because this is a national network, and Flock Safety does not allow us to control who has access to our data.
- There is a City Council vote on extending/expanding the contract with Flock Safety in July. Contact your city councilman to advocate if you want to
- We set up a resource/information section under "news" on the [website](#).

Home & Garden Tour

- 6 Stops Confirmed- including St Joseph Apartments! 4 more solid maybes/probably yeses
- We are always still looking for sponsorships!

Upcoming Events:

- July 25th: Block Party at Moody Park from 11am to 2pm
- September 12th & 13th: Home & Garden Tour
- October 10th: Movie Night

March Gift Direction

- Every month we give \$250
- Last month the donation went to Art This Way
- Gifts must be to a 501(c)3 nonprofit and not used for religious or political purposes
- Nominations: Miss Virginia's, Greg Manifold Food Pantry (PRC) in honor of his recent passing; Friends of the 3rd World
- PRC Greg Manifold Food Pantry received the most votes.

Other Announcements: none

Concluded: 8:10 pm