

West Central Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2026, 6:00pm

Call to Order - 6:00pm

- Attendees: Joel Sauer, Kelly Benton, Chris Todd, Anita Kuker, Connie Mettler, Al Hofer, Jon Paul Pepen, Guests: Ermina Mustedanagic and team from Wellspring, Joe Francis?
- Absent: Bethany Pruitt

Note: In Bethany's absence, no one remembered to take notes, so these were compiled by memory at a later date.

Wellspring Capital Campaign

- CEO of Wellspring, Ermina Mustedanagic attended with a few members of her board to discuss their upcoming construction plans and capital campaign.
- They have outgrown their space on Broadway, and after exploring other options, they've decided the best option is to build a new facility on Broadway. If everything gets approved, the new building will be on the southeast corner of Van Buren and Wilt, where a city-owned free public parking lot currently sits.
- They would remain in their current building until construction is complete, then they would tear down the current building and turn it into a parking lot for their facility, with a free public lot on the east (Broadway-facing) side of the lot.
- They understand the loss of the public parking lot will impact local businesses and residents, so they're looking for a space to borrow or rent for people to use instead. They've talked with the Firefighter's union about their lot across the street, and have talked with Local 901 about their lot. Nothing has been confirmed yet.
- The new building will require a capital campaign - their first ever.
- They will keep our association up to date as they continue through the planning and execution process. They had no requests of us at this point.

Tree Funding

- Our West Central Historic Preservation Committee has requested an increase in tree budget so we can plant larger diameter trees this year.
- Pros: The trees would be larger and thus the canopy would fill in quicker. Once established, they would be more resilient toward drought and damage. They would be taller and more tolerant of street salt in the winter.
- Cons: The city arborist warned that smaller trees transplant better and that we may have a larger percentage of failed tree plantings with a larger diameter tree. They require more care and water in their first year.
- The board discussed it and voted to approve the additional funding for 1 year only and then reevaluate next year.
- Chris pointing out that Electric Works (specifically The Elex) had a bunch of dead trees along Wilt and Broadway. Joel said he would follow up about them replacing those.

Speeding & Noise

- Joel mocked up some sign ideas to put in peoples' yards along Washington and Jefferson to encourage people to drive slower.
- The board discussed the different options and gave some feedback - keep it positive.
- No actions were set for this. Still in discussion.

Block Party

- Anita gave an update on block party planning. Everything is going well and looks to be on schedule.

Connected Neighborhoods Grant

- Kelly said there has been no update since Dan asked us not to tell anybody back in May. She will follow up with him.

Plein Air Merit Awards

- The board has previously agreed to spend \$1,000 toward the Paint it Fresh Plein Air event happening in August.
- Kelly suggested we split the amount into 2 \$500 merit awards - one for the best painting of a house on the Home Tour this year, and the second for the best painting of the "essence of West Central" - whatever that means to the artist and judges.
- This was approved. Kelly will communicate with the organizer.

Concluded - 7:20pm