

**West Central Neighborhood Association**  
*Association Meeting Minutes*  
*March 19, 2018, 7:00pm*

**Call To Order – 7:00pm, 27 attendees**

**Unfinished Business**

- WCNA Branding
  - Anthony Juliano from Asher Agency
    - Completed a survey
    - Created brand positioning statement options
    - Created some tagline options
  - Once we have the brand statement and tagline, a logo will be created
- Local Historic District Expansion
  - A letter was sent to all homeowners in the expansion area
  - 2 public meetings were held
  - An additional letter was recently sent to those who have not signed the petition asking them to sign
  - We have approximately 50% of the needed signatures
  - We will continue asking for additional signatures
- 801 West Berry Update
  - The city owns the property purchased with Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds
  - Three companies responded to the Request for Proposal
    - Affordable housing – Van Buren Goup
    - Castle Restorations – Eric Heffley
    - Wahli Enterprises – Ben Wahli
  - The city established a scoring committee that is meeting with all three companies and asked for additional information from each
  - March 27 is when they will vote on which proposal they'll support
- Membership
  - Each meeting, you have an opportunity to join
  - You can also select “Join Our Association” under the membership menu on our website and pay online
  - Only members can vote
- Electric Works Update
  - The project needs approval for \$65 million in local investment. This is only 30% of the project.
    - The Riverfront project is 100% public money, Parkview Field and the Harrison was 56% public money (and cost \$64 million)
  - Once the \$65 million is approved, the project will receive \$31 million in Federal historic tax credits and \$31 million in State tax credits. Developers are bringing \$93 million of the \$220 million project

- As I understand it, this project may not be in the mayor's top priorities based on reports Ben has heard
  - If the city doesn't support the project, it won't happen
- The mayor needs to hear from all of us that we support this project and what it means to our neighborhood
  - Talking points to share with the Mayor
    - Why and how this project is important to you and the neighborhood you live in
    - This project will leave a legacy for many years
    - It's a smart investment for the city
      - It will generate 1,565 new jobs
      - \$387 million economic impact annually
      - Instead of the city receiving \$120,000 annually in property taxes, they will receive \$5 million annually (13 year payback)
      - The project gains \$100 million in state and federal funding that would be lost to Fort Wayne
    - Mayor Tom Henry
      - 260-427-1111
      - [Tom.Henry@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Tom.Henry@cityoffortwayne.org)
- Charlotte pointed out that if the project fails, the buildings will likely be demolished (32-39 acres total)
- The next step is a meeting with the Legacy Committee
  - If the Legacy Committee provides a recommendation, City Council will vote (and will require a 6-3 vote for it to pass)
- Home & Garden Tour Update
  - September 8 & 9, 2018
  - They have a good list of houses so far
  - They will have ArtsFest again
  - There will be a new event – a dinner at some West Central houses
  - They plan to have some sort of event at the Thieme overlook

### **Officer Reports**

- Treasurer – currently \$174,000 in the bank
- Membership – currently 57 members
- Secretary – February minutes

### **New Business**

- Washington Elementary
  - The school has expressed interest in having a plaque outside the building that states when it was established
  - They would also like a floor mat with their logo on it for the main entrance
  - Diane will draw up a proposal and present it to the board for a funding request

**Guest Speaker: Katie Gibson, Spark Placemaking**

- Programming starts in May
- Katie is in charge of the neighborhood association committee and the history and preservation committee
- The neighborhood association committee has some walks planned for neighborhoods surrounding Electric Works
- They will have a block party on the first Friday of every month
- If you'd like to get involved
  - Sign up for the community contact list by emailing [Katie@sparkplacemaking.org](mailto:Katie@sparkplacemaking.org)

**Concluded - 7:34pm**