

West Central Neighborhood Association
Association Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2019, 7:00pm

Call To Order – 7:03pm, 27 attendees

Old Business

- Open Streets Event – July 14
 - WCNA had a booth near the AEP building on Calhoun Street from 11am-3pm
 - The city sponsors the event to encourage walking and biking in the street – nearly 2 miles of Calhoun Street was blocked from traffic
 - 4 time busier this year than last year
- Lutheran Hospital Downtown
 - Several board members and residents attended the Planning Commission meeting last week
 - Channel 15 did a news story about West Central’s concerns
 - General thoughts expressed by the board:
 - A new hospital is a great addition to a thriving downtown
 - It’s a challenging project to fit it in the existing parking lot
 - It would be better if they had built it to the east of the current hospital, but it would’ve displaced 5 houses
 - Delivery traffic, ambulance route, and design fit are a main concern
 - They’ve encapsulated the loading dock so it’s not directly on Berry Street
 - The ground breaking is on Wednesday
- Electric Works
 - Leasing
 - They currently have 17 tenant organizations/companies with letters of intent for approximately 200,000 square feet of commercial space
 - Among those tenants, nearly 250 new jobs are planned, from companies new to Allen County or expanding within Allen County
 - They will convert those letters of intent to lease agreements when they have a definitive closed and construction start date – their intention is to close and start construction as soon as possible
 - Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
 - They’ll be issuing a press release next week that the Board of the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has established a renewal fund to support the community-building and charitable activities related to Electric Works
 - Environmental Remediation

- Their remediation activities have been focused on lead and asbestos abatement in buildings 26 & 27
 - This phase is expected to be completed later this summer
 - They've removed approximately 435 tons of material from the campus
 - Media
 - Fort Wayne has received national media coverage thanks to Electric Works, including the Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, Bloomberg, and The Atlantic
 - Last week, they were interviewed for an upcoming article in the New York Times
 - City of Fort Wayne
 - Last week, they received approval from City Council for petitions requesting the City's vacation of several right of ways to complete the west campus redevelopment
 - RTM Ventures is requesting the city continue to work with Electric Works on an amendment to the EDA to address the delays in the New Markets Tax Credits allocations and requirements for the private financing
- City Projects in West Central
 - West Jefferson sidewalk and jersey barrier
 - Traffic calming efforts, a sidewalk on the south side of Jefferson, and a new decorative jersey barrier
 - Narrowing the lanes coming into downtown and raising the curbs
 - Spending the money they got when AEP put new poles along the train tracks
 - Wilt Street brick reset
 - Jackson to Nelson
 - Brick alleys
 - The city is currently patching with soft asphalt
 - They said it's a temporary fix and they'll remove the asphalt when time comes to repair the alleys
 - Light pole painting
 - All of the town-and-country style poles in the south side of the neighborhood have been painted
- Home & Garden Tour
 - September 7-8
 - All the houses are in place
 - Looking for volunteers!
 - Last year, we needed close to 200
 - Invitation to the pre-tour party at the Phoenix
 - Free ticket to the tour
 - If you sign up for 2 shifts, you get a free t-shirt as well
 - Sponsorships are coming in to support it – the largest amount of sponsorships we've ever had

- Ticket sales are being earmarked for the Moody Park Development Fund

New Business

- 1314 Jackson
 - Owned by Electric Works – planned to be torn down for a future parking garage north of the train tracks
 - The house quickly declined, so they requested the demolition get moved up
- St. John's Lutheran Church
 - Opening a coffee shop on the corner of Broadway and Jefferson
 - Offered volunteers for the Home & Garden Tour
 - Possibly host a breakfast and Moody Park Event at the close of the tour
- 1848 Broadway
 - A resident said there have been issues with this home and the one next to it for 5 years
 - The same people have lived in the homes, and are suspected of dealing drugs and prostitution
 - She requested the board use their connections to reach out and ask for change
- Quarterly Newsletter
 - Send anything of interest to wcquarterlynews@gmail.com
 - Home renovations, marriages, births, etc

Upcoming Events

- August 24 – West Central Block Party, 11am-2pm
- August 31 – Clean Up Day, 8-11:30am, corner of Wilt and Van Buren
- September 7-8 – Home & Garden Tour
- October 29 – Tire & TV Day, 8-11:30am, corner of Wilt and Van Buren
- December 16 – Christmas Party, 7-9pm

Concluded – 8:05pm