

West End N.A. Board Meeting Agenda, Sep 19, 2023

Location: Fairview Park

6:30pm Welcome to neighborhood members and attendees

Chris Testa –Present

Anita Claridge – Present

Rachel Rudeen – Present

Cecilia Lopes – Absent

Anna Cox – Absent

Lauren Pennisi – Absent

David Anderson – Absent

Guests:

Kelley Tagg, president of West Downtown NA & Scott Tagg from WDNA

6:35pm Approval of Meeting Minutes

Without a quorum, previous minutes cannot be approved at this time. Minutes will be reviewed for approval at the October meeting for: AGM (May), June, July, August and September.

6:40pm Presentation from Idaho Office for Refugees- Terry Graves, Senior Housing Specialist

Idaho Office for Refugees (IOR) is the designated organization to oversee refugee resettlement in the State of Idaho, in partnership with resettlement agencies.

Ms. Graves' role is with focus on affordable housing within neighborhoods like the West End and offered resources and ways we can help support the agency's mission to support refugees. Neighbors United, a grassroots organization in the Treasure Valley, have launched the "House your neighbor" initiative houseyourneighbor.org which offers valuable ways we can offer support to newly resettled refugees: Befriend a refugee, co-sign on a lease for housing (with protections in place and any incurred costs covered by resettlement agency). Help find or provide employment for refugees, especially some who are coming from over a decade in refugee camps. Build an AUD on your property and keep an affordable rate to increase available housing. Refugees are vetted by 2 governmental agencies prior to resettlement in the US and are provided 9 months of financial support, most have found employment within their first month here.

6:50pm Discussing Partnership/Merger with WDNA

Kelley & Scott Tagg originally started the West Downtown Neighborhood Association when the need for representation of the residents' voices arose surrounding development of the now vacant Salvation Army lot at 19th and Jefferson/Bannock. The WDNA has a small footprint: 16th to 19th St, State St to the connector. Either Scott or Kelley have presided over the WDNA board for 20+ years and feel they have accomplished their goals with zoning rewrites & keeping projects in line with the neighborhood plan. They are ready to step back but with such a small footprint, have found a lack of new board members and see merging with WENA as a potential overall benefit.

WDNA has an established Neighborhood Watch Program, their Neighborhood Plan is in place and both would remain with a merge. They are responsible for weeding & maintenance of the traffic triangle at 19th & Idaho. They are seeking our opinion on merging into one NA.

We currently have a great partnership & collaboration between the 2 NAs. No cons were raised at this time.

Plan: discussions to follow with both NAs, develop next steps. WDNA next meeting Oct 11th with Board elections in November.

WENA has 4 unfilled board seats since our elections in May. Possibly fill open seats with current WDNA board members to create a more cohesive merge.

7:00pm- HalloWENA Event Planning/Next Steps

HalloWENA: Oct 28th 4-7 Fairview Park. Discussion includes closing Idaho St to south of park this year. Set subcommittees for Food & Concessions, Entertainment, Permitting & Compliance, Decor & Fundraising. Confirmed Live DJ, Costume Parade & Vignette in the Park decoration contest to replace home decorating contest. Will need volunteers as always for set up and clean up as well as planning help and fundraising.

7:30pm- Committee Reports

Community Building- Rachel Rudeen: See HalloWENA event planning

Communications- Lauren Pennisi

Housing and Development - David Anderson: State/Whitewater Blvd – KUM & GO Store and Gas Station - The project engineer withdrew the DRC application. No reason given.

23/Main – Fairly Reliable Bobs – The owners appealed a city requirement to replace the trees, add low-height perennials to soften all the rock, and pay a \$9000 mitigation fee to the City Forestry Fund (ouch!). Both the DRC and the P&Z Commission have now denied the appeal. Next step will likely be an appeal to City Council.

Bannock Street Streetscape Improvements – New sidewalks, trees, and lighting between 12-16th Streets. Although this is downtown, it will improve the bicycle/pedestrian experience on the way to WDNA and WENA.

29/Jordan – 30th Street Condominiums – Developer let the condo plat expire. Certificates of occupancy are on hold until corrected.

Modern Zoning Code – Redline of the final draft is available for review on PDS website. P&Z approval is next.

27/Madison – Plat update to include a 70-year old ADU that had yet to be recorded. Approved.

26/Bannock – PUD application to bring existing lots into compliance with City code. Approved.

Street Signs- David Anderson: Signtoppers – We have city approval of the bid from the sign printer for 20 – 18"x18" signs. Proof has been sent to ACHD for approval.

Fundraising and Grants – Anita Claridge: Mini grant submitted to City for HalloWENA funding. WENA Storage shed has been purchased & reimbursement will come from prior mini grant.

Neighborhood Watch- Cecilia Lopes: Get to know your Neighborhood Contact Officer (NCO): Coffee with a Cop, October 3rd 6-8PM Boise Police Dept. 333.N Mark Stall Place.

"No agenda or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, share thoughts and get to know the officers that work in your neighborhood." Please note this is an evening event.

New Business:

CALL FOR HELP: Whittier Elementary is in desperate need of crossing guards, can be a volunteer or paid position available. [Click here for more information on how to apply](#)

Need to purchase 2 new sandwich boards - 1 to replace stolen sign and 1 to be place nearer to our Veterans Park section of our NA boundary. Can apply for mini grand for this purpose.

7:45pm: Rachel Rudeen- motion to adjourn

Anita Claridge- second