

West End N.A. Board Meeting Agenda, January 16th, 2024

Location: Casanova Pizzeria

Present:

Chris Testa
Rachel Rudeen
Lauren Pennisi
David Anderson
Anita Claridge
Anna Cox

Absent:

Cecilia Lopes

Guest:

Justin Buckley

6:30pm- Welcome to neighborhood members and attendees

6:35pm- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve September & October meeting minutes – D. Anderson.

Second – A. Claridge.

In favor – R. Rudeen, A. Cox, C. Testa.

Abstain – L. Pennisi.

6:40pm- Holiday Drive: Thank You to Katie Erley and Angie from Dandy & Dill (2226 W Main St)

Clothing drive and donations collected for City of Lights was a success.

For future consideration: We should remind residents throughout the year to prep for this drive, do some outreach in the months prior with local schools, businesses & resources.

6:40pm- Discussing Partnership/Merger with WDNA:

Referencing previous discussions, we have covered pros and cons of opinion and fact. Next step is to seek guidance from the city – What is WDNA's neighborhood plan and obligations? Concern voiced over a merger leading to more work for the WENA board without obvious benefit.

Discussion: Kelley Tagg, President of WDNA is a great resource within the political and city arena. Has organized political forums prior to local elections and coordinated candidates who attended NNO. Could a merger increase our utilization of an active relationship with the City? We can increase being a platform for our residents to become more involved in city planning that directly affects them. Idea of a trail merger presented.

Justin Buckley, WENA resident, offers his skills and interest in project development as a liaison for the potential merger with a year-long time frame in mind. It is then proposed that Justin be appointed to an open board seat allowing him to be an official representative of the board while facilitating potentially merging with WDNA. As with any individual appointed to the WENA board, Justin is asked to bring ideas and any progress made to the next meeting in due diligence, before an appointment is made.

7:15pm- Goals for 2024- Brainstorming

Perhaps HalloWENA is done because it grew out of COVID. Focus on one big annual event like Bark in the Park/NNO and more consistent, smaller events to build true community ties.

Happy Hour Meet & Greet on a regular basis with a topic of discussion? Invite city councilperson Hallyburton & other city/state representatives for Q&As? The irrigation rep, Janus refugee coordinator etc. Poll residents for topics of discussion. Board & committee recruitment opportunities. Casanova Pizzeria (karen@casanovapizzeria.com) Has offered WENA use of their meeting space and happy hour pricing for such events.

28th & Woodlawn - Idaho Power right of way – put in a pedestrian path to connect through to Whitewater Park– infrastructure needed, possible Neighborhood Investment Program opportunity for funds.

Sale and development of Idaho Dept. of Transportation– We need to be proactive and request to be informed & consulted on potential sale and development plans before they are finalized. Opportunity for resident involvement here

Salvation Army Lot AKA The Pit at 19th/Jefferson/Bannock – Approach the City: this is an unsafe blight. Possible green space? Dog park? At least be informed & consulted on potential sale/development plans.

Safe Exchange location – Could the BPD Downtown Station at 22nd & Fairview be used as a safe exchange location?

7:45pm- Committee Reports

Community Building- Rachel Rudeen – Wrap up of events, looking forward to 2024

Communications- Lauren Pennisi - Facebook metrics: increase involvement/traffic around election time. Sandwich board: waiting for mini-grant to purchase replacement for stolen board. Billboard exposure is apparently cheap or possibly donated to non-profits.(Lamar/Yesco)

Housing and Development - David Anderson - CWI Downtown Campus

Replacing the bridge and inlet control structure between Esther Simplot ponds.

28/Bannock – Two duplexes (4 units) to replace an abandoned house – application withdrawn; resubmitted under MZC

25/Bannock – Five townhomes – preliminary/final plat do not conform to the minimal dimensional standards for R-3D; denied Clithero/State (State Street Kitchen) – three buildings, 39 units, 1 and 2 bedroom units – approved

Street Sign Toppers- David Anderson – no response; last inquiry was 11.21.23

Fundraising and Grants – Anita Claridge – Reimbursements from events are in, Mini grants Vs infrastructure grants – need goals/events

Neighborhood Watch- Cecilia Lopes - Absent *Chris would like to grow neighborhood watch before he leaves the board

8:05pm- New Business:

Election Committee: Chris will chair, Anna

Snow removal guidance from ACHD

8:10pm: Motion to adjourn David, Anna second.