



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2025

Present

Dana DeLuca, Steve Glista, Zachary Ehmann, Valerie Leith, Jim Ratliff, Craig Vaughan, Wilson Xu.

Absent Qianna Decker , Lynn Lupini, Lanny Potts **Guest:** Evan Kutzler (Montrose Ave)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Wilson Xu, Board President.

Finance Report

Craig presented the Finance Report categorized into events, promotional materials, office supplies, etc. The current checking account balance is \$4,184 (pending Venmo transfer of \$1,000 for National Night Out from Jae Slaby). The current Savings account balance is \$40. The liability insurance is already paid for the year and not in the current budget. The WHNA 990 qualifies for a short form/postcard filing due to revenue under \$50,000. The annual report is due October 1. Steve will circulate a draft to the Board prior to that date.

National Night Out

The feedback from the Board and event attendees was that National Night Out exceeded expectations including attendance, public officials' attendance, event layout, music, food vendors, and activities provided. Approximately 150-200 people attended. Valerie will compile a donor list to forward to Dana for the purpose of sending donor acknowledgement letters to all event sponsors. Pending sponsorships include \$100 from the City of Kalamazoo and \$400 from Consumers Energy. Suggestions for next year are as follows:

- Extend entertainment duration (face painting/balloon twisting)
- Improve visibility/location of Porta-Potty
- Provide short breaks for balloon twister/face painter
- Consider bike racks at Crane Park as a "quick win" project
- Invite more local clubs, hobby groups, and community organizations
- Explore feasibility of Bookmobile attendance and earlier entertainment booking

Noted challenge: competing with other neighborhoods for officials' attendance on the same date.

Neighborhood Survey

Zach presented the Survey Results by highlighting the following data points:

- Total responses: 179
- Demographics & Housing: Mostly single-family homeowners, 50/50 split on children at home, no responses from apartment/condo residents
- Volunteer Interest: Many indicated “need more information” before committing, high interest in Neighborhood Events and Safety Committees
- Priority Rankings: Safety and Transportation ranked highest. Equity and Commercial Development ranked lowest
- Open-Ended Feedback: Included specific, actionable ideas (e.g., jam sessions, porch concerts, senior activities)
- Neighborhood Satisfaction: Generally satisfied with quality of life, mixed views on maintenance
- Amenities Use: Frequent park use, interest in Little Free Libraries (suggested walking map).
- Safety: Most feel safe walking/biking, mixed opinions on police presence
- Transportation Issues: Main concerns are speeding, poor pavement, and sidewalk conditions
- Civic Awareness: Low awareness of neighborhood officers; higher awareness of city recycling services.
- Feedback for next year: shorten survey length, consider more outreach to apartments/condos

Next Major Project Proposal: Imagine Westnedge Hill 2035

Wilson proposed that Imagine Westnedge Hill 2035 be the next project for the Board to undertake in Partnership with the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 planning process, with a goal to create a neighborhood-specific plan aligning with citywide strategic goals (equity, safe streets, environment, etc.). The Phases of the project would roll out as follows:

- Phase 1 (Research): Use past Miro input, 2023 survey data, and existing feedback
- Phase 2 (Engagement): Host workshops Oct–Dec to gather resident priorities
- Phase 3 (Plan Development): Jan–Mar 2026 draft preliminary neighborhood plan for city integration

Steve made a Motion to adopt Imagine Westnedge Hill 2035 as the next project, which the Board passed unanimously.

Quick Win Project Discussion

The concept of a Quick Win was discussed again with the purpose of demonstrating visible neighborhood improvements to boost community engagement, donor confidence and an emphasis on sustainability to appeal to key donors. Options discussed were a Little Free Library bench restoration near the “Heart of the Hill” area (by Wilson’s house), a petition for bike racks at Crane Park, and a neighborhood food scraps compost drop-off site (in partnership with existing City programs).

Other Business

Additionally, the following considerations were proposed:

- Continue building relationships with city officials, public safety, and community organizations for future event collaboration
- Explore a Little Free Library mapping project
- Consider integrating small “community connection” activities into events

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm by Wilson Xu. **The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4 at 5:45 at the YMCA on Maple Street.**

Minutes submitted by Dana DeLuca, Secretary