



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2025**

Present

Qianna Decker (via Zoom), Dana DeLuca, Steve Glista, Zachary Ehmann, Valerie Leith, Lanny Potts, Jim Ratliff, Wilson Xu

Absent Lynn Lupini, Craig Vaughan

Guest Aaron Theill (Imperial St) attended as a Guest on behalf of the Drew Duncan Campaign for City Commissioner.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm by Wilson Xu, Board President.

Finance Report

Wilson reported on Criag's behalf that the only recent update to the Finance Report was the \$100 received from the City of Kalamazoo for their National Night Out sponsorship.

Bike Rack

Wilson reported that he purchased a stainless steel, bolt-down, continuous loop bike rack (made by Landscape Forms). To install, it only needs a small concrete pad and anchors. The two location options presented for placement of the bike rack included Kleinstuck Preserve and Crane Park. If we chose Kleinstuck as a location, Jim explained that while the common entrance off Chevy Chase is the most used entrance, parts of it are not owned by WMU nor are they managed by Stewards of Kleinstuck. Additionally, the city right-of way somewhat complicates a placement at Kleinstuck. If it were installed at Kleinstuck, Stewards of Kleinstuck would install it and maintain it. Wilson will contact Stewards of Kleinstuck to request their permission for installation and to gather any pertinent feedback. If we chose Crane Park as a location, we would have to confirm ownership and maintenance responsibilities with Patrick McVary at the City. Qianna will reach out to Patrick to inquire further about the property line map at Crane Park and to share a picture of the bike rack, which Wilson will provide. It was also suggested that once installed, a sticker or plaque be placed on the bike rack that says, "Bike rack provided by the Westnedge Hill Neighborhood Association." Wilson offered to create the sticker or plaque. Once installed, Valerie suggested that we loop the Winchell neighborhood in via a communication about the bike rack to encourage shared use. A vote on the location to install the bike rack was tabled until further discussion.

Heart of the Hill

Wilson reiterated the Board's original goal to commemorate the geographic center of the Westnedge Neighborhood with a "Heart of the Hill project to rebuild the Little Free Library that is currently in his front yard at 715 Edgemoor Ave. The budget for the project still needs to be fleshed out (with the concrete slab likely to be the most expensive component of the project). The existing metal bench would also need to be refinished and leveled and a Way Finder light post would also be installed. **Valerie/Steve made a motion to move forward with the Heart of the Hill project to rebuild a Little Free Library using the WHNA wordmark-based design and to develop costs and an overall project plan. Vote passed with no objections.**

Imagine Westnedge Hill 2035 (IWH 2035) Planning Session

Wilson reported that there will be an IWH 2035 working session on Friday, October 10 from 6-8 pm at the Parkwood Upjohn School gymnasium. Natalie Patchel (former WHNA Board member) will share history on the school and the community at the event. The purpose of the event is to recruit a leadership team to outline a strategic process going forward, including marketing and goal setting. The City's collaboration on IWH 2035 will be essential. Steve offered up pre-existing WHNA long-range planning materials to help us prepare a comprehensive neighborhood plan to propose to the City when we're ready. We can expect roughly a year for the plan to take shape, and we will coordinate early enough with the City of Kalamazoo for feasibility purposes.

Annual Report

Steve submitted the WHNA Annual Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). WHNA will reimburse Steve \$20 for submitting the report.

Instagram Account

Wilson suggested we create a WHNA Instagram account for broader promotional reach. The Board agreed that Instagram is simpler to moderate than Facebook. **Wilson/Zach made a motion to create an official WHNA Instagram account, managed by Valerie (with shared credentials via the board email). Vote passed with no objections.**

Food Waste Composting

Wilson has been in touch with Chris Broadbent, Solid Waste Coordinator at City of Kalamazoo, to strategize about a food waste composting drop-off site in the Westnedge Hill neighborhood. The vendor would pick up the compost weekly. It would require a willing host and must be placed in a location that could accommodate truck access at a non-right-of-way location. Some locations that were proposed were the YMCA on Maple St, neighborhood churches, Housing Resource Inc. (near Howard/Crosstown), Girl Scouts, and Crane Park. Wilson and Valerie will oversee further inquiry on potential sites and hosts based on the proposed suggestions and bring back options in November for discussion and a potential decision.

Annual Meeting

The tentative date for the annual Meeting is January 9, 2026. Proposed locations are Parkwood Upjohn, Girl Scouts, Zion Lutheran Church, or the Consumers Credit Union conference room. The goal for the annual meeting is to recap wins, outline next year's goals, and further grow community engagement.

Neighborhood Business Outreach & Fund Development

Valerie compiled a neighborhood business contact spreadsheet with a plan to develop a one-page “Neighborhood Partner” flyer to promote WHNA’s mission, events, projects, and potential sponsorship tiers. Valerie has also looked into neighborhood grant opportunities for WHNA. Many of the grants she identified wouldn’t apply due to WHBA’s demographics (as most of the grants focus on low-income neighborhoods), but she will continue to explore options for potential grant funding. Longer-term ideas were to explore property in the Howard/Crosstown corridor for a potential future site for the WHNA, including a tool lending library, a meeting/program space, and a food waste composting site.

Other Business

Dana reported that after submitting a complaint to Dennis Randolph at the City, the graffiti on the Inkster Bridge was re-painted and an additional camera was installed the next day.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm by Wilson Xu. **The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6 at 5:45 at the YMCA on Maple Street.**

Minutes submitted by Dana DeLuca, Secretary