



2025 Annual Meeting

Jan 9 2026

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Open Audience Feedback

Final Remarks

Introduction



Good evening, neighbors.

Thank you for coming to our annual meeting, it is great to see some familiar faces and new faces.

We often think of a neighborhood as just a collection of houses on a map, but what truly makes Westnedge Hill a home is the community we build within it. Our neighborhood association is the heart of that effort, and it is more important today than ever before. Thank you for joining us tonight, your presence means a lot to our neighborhood community.

Mission

To foster a strong sense of community by actively advocating for neighborhood needs, and working collaboratively to maintain a safe, attractive, and inclusive living environment.

2025 was a milestone year for the re-establishment of our association! The city of Kalamazoo has 22 neighborhoods, and 14 have neighborhood organizations and our neighborhood rejoined the list last year.

I'd like to share a quick refresher on why we're here and why every neighborhood could use an association.

Build a stronger relationship and pride among neighbors.

Create an organized and unified voice in city government

Empower residents to identify needs and initiate positive change

How We Operate

- Not affiliated with any political or religious organization.
- Run by volunteers from our neighborhood.
- Registered 501c3 non-profit with LARA and IRS.
- All funding comes from donations and community grants.
- Not affiliated with any Facebook groups, NextDoor or other online discussion groups. The intention is to bring conversations offline and in person as much as possible.

Now I'd like to go over the basics of our operation.

We are not affiliated with any political and religious organization, any board member must disclose possible conflict of interest and any resources obtained from outside organizations must be available for all neighbors without discrimination.

Not affiliated with facebook or nextdoor groups. We may occasionally use those group to make public announcements, but do not monitor those platforms and we do not administer those platforms.

As this is the first year of our re-establishment we are constantly improving our operation, if you have any questions, advice, concerns we would love to hear it from you during one of our board meetings.

2026 Board of Directors



WILSON XU

President



VALERIE LEITH

Vice President



DANA DELUCA

Secretary



CRAIG VAUGHAN

Treasurer



QIANNA DECKER

Member



ZACHARY EHMAN

Member



STEVE GLISTA

Member



LYNN LUPINI

Member



LANNY POTTS



JIM RATLIFF

Financial

Income: \$7400

Income source: 100% Donation

2025 Total Expenses: [\\$2105.56](#)

Total revenue as of January 2026: [\\$5294.44](#)

Expense Breakdown
2025 Total Expenses: [\\$2105.56](#)

Website: \$273.45
Insurance: \$400
Non-Profit Licensing Renewal: \$20
Events: \$860.15
Postal: \$286
Promotional Material: \$225.72
Office Supplies: \$21.14
Bank/Credit Card Fee: \$19.10

If you know anyone in the neighborhood who might be able to help lower our expense, please let us know!

2025 in Review

Now I will go over all the major accomplishments that happened in 2025.



Formed Board of Directors

Monthly Board Meeting:

First Thursday of the Month
5:45-6:45pm
Maple St, YMCA Chapel boardroom

Foundation of an impactful neighborhood association is the board of directors. Consistent participation and dedication is what enabled us to make meaningful progress. Our board has a diverse pool of skills and expertise on a variety of topics, needless to say our board is strong and we all worked together wonderfully. We also established ourselves with Maple Street YMCA as our monthly meeting location. Very grateful of their support.

Re-establishment

westnedgehill.org



A lot of subsequent works went into re-establishment of the neighborhood association. We updated the 17 years old bylaws to reflect the current situation in technology and meeting practices. A lot of research and discussion went into operation structure and funding methods. We also setup a robust donation infrastructure which gave donors a variety of ways of donating.

Communication tools and file management system was also setup using google workspace and canva. Both softwares were provided to us for free through their non-profit donation program. Our newsletter management software is done with Brevo, which is free for now. Our board did a great job navigating the new software tools to enable high quality productivity and communication.

Setup Communication Channels

- Setup website infrastructure and newsletter sign up.
- Establish newsletter workflow and contact list.
- Connect and develop relationships with other neighborhood association leaders.
- Update to the city website link to our new website.
- Establish social media presence – Instagram: [whna_kalamazoo](#)
- Regular meetings with city appointed neighborhood activator.

Conducted Neighborhood Wide Survey

Survey Type: Online form

Survey Timeline: April – July 2025

Survey outreach: Postcard mailing with QR link,
Neighborhood Facebook post, WHNA newsletter.

Original Survey Questions [Link](#)

Total respondents: 204



We conducted a neighborhood wide survey with the help of our neighborhood activator between April and July last year. We obtained 204 respondents out of the 1500 business and households, we hope everyone in attendance will help us promote our next survey so we may obtain more data that help us improve our neighborhood.

Free Neighborhood Bike Repair (May 4th)



We partnered up with Open Road bike program in kalamazoo. A dozen neighbors brought broken bikes and got them tuned up with part replacements for free. This event aligns with our goal of neighborhood sustainability and safety. Unfortunately we had to end the session early due to the weather. If anyone in the audience

Neighborhood Children Clothing Swap (May 4th)



A children clothing swap event was held the day after our neighborhood garage sale. Neighbors are encouraged to bring children's item to swap. We had three volunteers to help with the sorting of clothing and table setup. We also had neighbors letting us borrow their canopy due to rain forecast. All the remaining items were donated to Trinity Lutheran Church's children's closet. Items donated to the church are given away to community members who are in need, free of charge. As you may have notice the bike repair and clothing swap both happened on the same day at the same parking lot, our intention was neighbors can browse through the childrens items while waiting for their bike repair.

Collaboration with Winchell and Vine Inter-Neighborhood Bike Bus to Downtown (May 10)



During Kalamazoo bike week, Westnedge Hill Neighborhood Association spearheaded the first inter-neighborhood bike bus ride from Center Point church on Cork to downtown bicycle show and downtown mall. This aligns with our goal to connect neighbors and encouraging sustainable and health transportation choices. Riders from age 7 and up participated in this event. We picked up riders along the way just like a bus would pick up passengers.

National Night Out 2025 (Aug 5th)



National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign on the first Tuesday in August where neighbors, police, and emergency personnel host events like block parties and cookouts to strengthen community bonds, raise crime/drug prevention awareness, and foster positive relationships between residents and law enforcement. WHNA hosted their first annual NNO with huge success! We had food trucks, balloon artist and face painter along with music entertainment. We look forward to having you join us in 2026, more details to come later.

National Night Out 2025



Attend All City Neighborhood Events (Dec 10th)



WHNA attended their first All City meeting where all established neighborhood associations out of the 22 Kalamazoo City neighborhoods gathered to hear about the new City Neighborhood Activator, Cee Maul and their plans to help advance the associations connection to the City of Kalamazoo. The city anticipates hosting more of these meetings to continue to strengthen the connection between all city neighborhoods.

Brainstorm initial draft of plan.



Imagine Westnedge Hill is a neighborhood driven initiative to create a neighborhood improvement plan based on neighborhood feedback. Ultimately this effort will feed into the Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 project and become a city recognized effort to invest in Westnedge Hill.

Goals for 2026

As you can tell 2025 was a busy year! Now I would like to present our goals for 2026. Those goals might change based on neighborhood needs, but if anyone in attendance is interested to help us achieve any of the goals we would love to hear from you!

Promote Communication Channels

- **Get more neighbors involved with WHNA.**
- **Establish more monitoring of city matters (various city board reviews, city commission meetings etc)**
- **More collaboration and promotion with local businesses and organizations.**
- **Increase neighborhood branding presence.**
- **Increase social media presence promoting our neighborhood connections and activities.**

Promote Financial Stability

- **Grow donor support by highlighting the tangible results of their contributions.**
- **Request grants from local organizations.**
- **Fundraising with local businesses and organizations.**

Expand Neighborhood Events

- **WHNA hosted events.**
- **Expand into hosting more events.**
- **Collaborate with local organizations to co-host events.**

Expand Operational Capacity

- **Advocate for more neighborhood volunteers.**
- **Promote and enlist neighbor volunteer committees for events.**
- **Encourage neighbors to engage and participate with the WHNA board by attending meetings.**
- **Partner and strengthen relationships with local businesses and organizations.**
- **Improve asset organization for both digital and physical assets such as graphics library and event hosting materials.**

Learn

- **Encouraging input from residents through the annual neighborhood survey and other open feedback channels.**
- **Board is working on establishing electronic voting protocols and infrastructure. So neighborhood and board voting can be more organized, secure and accessible.**
- **Continue to collect neighborhood history and stories.**

Projects

- **Heart of the Hill Project.**



Audience Feedback

Now we would like to open for audience feedback. Please raise your hand if you would like to speak.

Closing Remarks

Our neighborhood has a long, proud history built on the simple but powerful idea of neighbors supporting neighbors. Whether it's through small acts of kindness or large-scale collaborations, this association has always been about looking out for one another. That spirit of cooperation is exactly how we operate today—as a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping Westnedge Hill a safe, attractive, and inclusive place to live.

Over the past year, we've seen that dedication translate into real results. By fostering neighborhood pride through events like our bike repairs and clothing swaps, we've strengthened the bonds that make our streets feel like home. We've also prioritized increased safety and communication, establishing a stronger social media presence and a regular newsletter workflow to keep everyone informed and connected.

Beyond our own streets, we've worked hard to amplify our voice through proactive interaction with the city. From regular meetings with our city-appointed neighborhood activator to monitoring city commission reviews, we are ensuring that Westnedge Hill's needs are heard and addressed at the highest levels.

As we look toward our 2026 goals, we invite you to get involved, share your feedback, and help us continue this legacy of community-driven progress. Thank you for being part of what makes Westnedge Hill so special. This meeting is adjourned!