



## WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING - MINUTES

### December 19, 2017 @ Brann's W. Leonard @ 4PM

Present: Bob Schellenberg (Turnstiles), Jon O'Conner (Long Road Distillery, GR City Commission), Captain Matt Ostapowicz (GRPD), Michael Curtis (GRFD), Johnny Brann Jr. (Brann's), Annette Vandenberg (WGNO), Linda Arnold-Lillibridge (Steepletown Neighborhood Services), Ken Bair (Bridge St. Market), Dan Grinwis (Oasis of Hope Center)

- Sign in
- Call to order, welcome and introductions – Johnny Brann Jr
- Minutes from Previous meeting (Fall/2017)
  - available on table or from website ([www.wlbagr.com](http://www.wlbagr.com))
  - Minutes approved
- Treasurer's Reports – Dan Grinwis
  - Financial
    - Mercantile account management update
      - Changed over to a Small Business Checking account in order to avoid monthly service charges
      - Accounts are under the control of Johnny Jr. and Dan G
    - Summary Report (see attached report detail: Treasurer's Report, Check Detail)

• Balance Forward on 2017.19.19	\$2,524.06
• Credits	\$987.45
• Debits	<u>(\$253.79)</u>
• Balance on hand 2017.12.19	\$3,257.72
    - Dan Grinwis is filling in as Interim-Treasurer but we need someone to fill the position
      - **Johnny will see if the Bank would like to assign someone**
    - Financial reports approved
  - Membership
    - 19 supporting members for 2017/18 (see attached detail)
    - Including one new member today: Steepletown Neighborhood Services - WELCOME!
  - Annual Reports to Ste of MI – Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)
    - Everything is now current
- Public Safety Updates
  - GRPD – Captain Matt
    - Apparent double homicide on Quarry near Leonard now appears to instead be an OD situation
    - Finding fentanyl in everything now, including cocaine and marijuana and no longer just in heroin
      - Dangerous for the officers to be exposed to it; requiring extra caution and testing and slowing down processing
    - Heroin, however, is still the big concern in the City
    - Some armed robberies; seems to be the same perp moving to different locations and who is getting very brazen

- GRPD taking a great deal of heat on the cuffing of the eleven year old girl
  - Officers doing their best to contain situations and following their training
  - Forcing a review of training methods, policies and procedures
  - Very difficult to make judgments about actions taken when one was not on the scene
  - We support GRPD and their efforts
- GRFD – Michael Curtis (Residential Safety Program)
  - CO2 monitors and smoke detectors available to those who need them
    - Nationally recognized and acclaimed project
    - GRFD will even come into the home and install
    - Devices to be installed in multiple locations and on multiple levels in the home
  - Welcome GRFD's willingness to partner with WLBA and attend our meetings and interact and inform us – glad to have Michael as a point person
    - Discussed different areas we'd like to be kept informed about
    - **Michael can also discuss this with others in his department who do this sort of thing**
  - Some current hot topics include:
    - Open burning violations
    - Safety monitoring device installation in homes
    - Arson
    - Prevention
  - Could information be provided about **the location of OD's happening in the neighborhood** so that we can all be aware and perhaps be more proactive – perhaps this could be mapped
    - Information may come from GRPD
  - Calling 311 is also a good source of information
  - Question: who is responsible for Fire Hydrant Access maintenance in the winter
    - GRFD will take care of it, but residents are encouraged to pitch in
    - Residents can earn points with MYGRCityPoints program
- Neighborhood Business Alliance (NBA) Update – Dan Grinwis
  - No one from WLBA attended the last quarterly meeting
    - **We need a new regular representative**
      - Not a huge commitment: attend quarterly meetings and report
  - Neighborhood Business Awards and reception on November 2
    - Several West Side businesses nominated for awards: OST for Good Neighbor, WGNO for Block Party and Mural, Butcher's Union, Sovengard, El Granjero, Jack's Service for Best Longstanding, Holiday Bar for their renovations, etc.
- West Grand Neighborhood Organization (WGNO) Update – Annette Vandenberg
  - Had the annual meeting on December 16 reviewing 2017 and discussing goals for the future
    - Including a great video that Chi put together highlighting what WGNO does
  - Annual meeting was followed by a party for the neighborhood including a Santa Concert
  - Completed several important projects in 2017
    - Fallen Officers Memorial in Richmond Park
    - Several fund raisers
    - Annual Block Party
    - New West Side Mural
    - Worked with Steepletown to build a new neighborhood playground
    - Reorganizing much of WGNO's infrastructure
  - Working on projects to improve sustainability
    - Including possibly some entrepreneurial opportunities, like a coffee shop for example
- WestSide Corridor Improvement Authority (CID) Update – Johnny

- CID meets (open, public meetings) the first Friday of each month at 9am at the WGNO offices at 415 W. Leonard
- Purpose is to spark and support development in the area
- Collaboration of 3 West Side districts: W. Leonard, Stockbridge, W. Fulton
- There are currently five CIDs in the City
- WestSide CID Board is by mayoral appointment, approved by the City Commission and includes representatives from each business district, a City Commission rep, an at-large member, and a resident member
- Old Business
  - WLBA Website Upgrade
    - Completed and up and running
    - Open to suggestions for further improvement
    - Thank you to Chi at WGNO for her help on this project
  - WLBA Social Media
    - Would like to make this the go-to page for current information
    - Again, open to suggestions
- New Business
  - Turnstiles Project Update – Bob Schellenberg
    - New neighborhood bar on Leonard St.
    - Still in the planning stage
    - Moving the target location from 520 W. Leonard to the east to 500 W. Leonard (SW corner of Hamilton and Leonard)
      - This was only recently approved by the landowner (Chris Nicholson)
    - Chris has recently acquired an additional property making this more viable
      - Owns the building at 500 W. Leonard; owns the house behind that on the corner of Hamilton and the private alley; now acquired the house south of that down Hamilton
      - Plan would be to seek approval to knock down the house on the alley corner and put in a gravel parking lot covering that ground and the rear of the house to the south making room for 23 parking spaces
    - Better location for security, noise abatement (with new double pane in front and on the east wall), parking, entrance/egress, outside lighting
    - Building will be sprinklered for fire protection
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will remain empty
    - Plan to update WNGO at their Jan 22 meeting
    - Planning Commission will hear the new proposal on February 8
    - What does WLBA need to see?
      - Looks like some of the issues we raised earlier will be addressed by the new plan as presented to the Planning Commission
      - **New neighborhood petitions may be necessary; should use the WGNO template; Annette will get those to Bob (inc. issues related to parking)**
      - Bob should make sure all items on the WLBA list are addressed (including written letters of support)
      - Bob needs to remember that WGNO and WLBA are separate entities, so talking to Annette is not the same as formally responding to WLBA
  - Bridge Street Market – Ken Bair (Store Manager)
    - A 'meijer' project but not specifically a Meijer store; different unique model
    - Not in our district but the desire is make it literally a neighborhood market serving the needs of its surrounding area, and so they will be involved deeply in the area and will be members of WLBA
    - Want to use the WestSide CID logo in the store to show solidarity with the WestSide

- Clearly the answer is “yes”; that’s what its for
  - Is there room to alter it to fit current branding?
    - Maybe; Ken **can discuss with Mike Lomonaco of the CID’s Design Committee**
- Other Business/Open Discussion?
  - DanG will be out-of-town for January and February
    - Attending planning Commission meetings
      - If there is a need for a representative at Planning or Zoning or Commission or whatever meetings, Dan is not available those two months and someone else will need to step up
      - However, if there is correspondence or Letters of Support to generate, just communicate with Dan by emx and he will get it done
    - WGNO assistance: clerical, treasurer, membership canvassing
      - WGNO has expressed willingness to help out WLBA in these areas if we desire
      - For the present, WGNO is willing to return to our old practice of using WGNO offices as a ‘point of presence’ for WLBA
        - **Dan will modify the website and any other documents to reflect 415 Leonard NW as the mailing address for WLBA, and publish WGNO’s telephone number for contact purposes**
    - Jon O’Conner notes that the liquor licensing issues before the City are quite controversial
      - Exploring the ‘half mile’ issue for distance between liquor retailers
      - Since laws have relaxed, many gas station/convenience stores are applying, mostly for single cooler sales
      - Primary issue is to develop some administrative guidelines to balance what is legal and what is practical: hours of sale, ratios of food sales (or something other than food) to alcohol sales
- Next Meeting: Tentatively March 20 at 4PM at Brann’s/Leonard
- Action Items Summary
  - ALL: need a new WLBA representative to the Neighborhood Business Alliance
  - ALL: need a new treasurer for WLBA; Johnny will talk to the Bank
  - Michael Curtis to look into what sort of topics to update WLBA on quarterly, and to see what information is available about ODs
  - Ken Bair: check on questions about the CID logo
  - DanG modify the website and any other documents to reflect 415 Leonard NW as the mailing address for WLBA, and publish WGNO’s telephone number for contact purposes
  - Annette to get neighborhood petition templates to Bob/Turnstiles
  - BobS to address and respond appropriately to items on the WLBA list
- Other outstanding items from earlier discussions:
  - Replace ‘welcome to the West Side’ sign on W. Leonard east of the overpass
  - Board should consider another membership solicitation of some sort
  - Create a budget and a goals statement
  - WestSide Trolley
  - WLBA Committees
  - Christmas lighting
  - Trash receptacles
  - Relationship with CID/BID
  - Newsletters
- Adjournment at 5:30pmish

- Attachments

- **West Leonard Business Association - Treasurer's Report - 2017.12.19**

Small Business Checking Account – Mercantile Bank

Balance on Hand 2017.09.19 \$2,524.06

Credits/Income

2017.09.21	Memberships	\$250.00	
2017.10.03	Memberships	\$300.00	
2017.10.16	Membership	\$100.00	
2017.10.16	Reversed Service Charges	\$33.00	
2017.10.31	Membership	\$100.00	
2017.11.07	Memberships	\$200.00	
2017.11.29	Stripe Test Transfer (w/ \$0.55 fee)	<u>\$4.45</u>	
	Subtotal Credits/Income		\$987.45

Debits/Expenses

2017.10.01	Bank Service Charge	-\$12.79	
2017.11.15	SquareSpace Annual Webhosting Fee	-\$216.00	
2017.11.15	SquareSpace Annual Domain Reg. Fee	-\$20.00	
2017.11.21	Stripe Test Donation	<u>-\$5.00</u>	
	Subtotal Debits/Expenses		<u>-\$253.79</u>

Balance on Hand in Mercantile Small Business Checking 2017.12.19 \$3,257.72

- **WLBA Paid Membership as of 2017.12.19**

Able Manufacturing, LLC  
 Belden Brick & Supply Co.  
 Brann's Steakhouse  
 Chemical Bank  
 Credit Union One  
 Choice One Bank  
 Dr. James E. Smith  
 Jack's Service Center  
 Long Road Distillers  
 Mieras Family Shoes  
 Mitten Brewing  
 North Lakeshore LLC (McDonald's)  
 Oasis of Hope Center  
 Rainbow Music  
 Shade Shop  
 Mr. Car Wash (formerly Southland)  
 Steepletown Neighborhood Services  
 Two Scotts BBQ  
 West Grand Neighborhood Organization