

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
February 28, 2012

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Hall: [communications@westfield.in.gov](mailto:communications@westfield.in.gov) or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

**February 28, 2012**

Agenda

- I. Welcome – John Dippel
- II. Q&A with Mayor Cook
- III. Parks Presentation
- IV. School Zone Speeds and Times
- V. Closing Announcements



**I. Welcome**

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, March 27, at 7pm** at **City Hall Assembly Room** (130 Penn St).

John Dippel, City Council Vice-President, opened the meeting with introductions.

Mayor Cook discussed and gave updates on the Yellow Tie Ball (June 29, 2012), the Grand Junction land acquisition phase, the Youth Assistance Program, Grand Park and announced that in 2012 the City will lower the tax rate. He also advised the group to watch the WFYI video “Nap Town to Super City” to see the parallels to the City of Westfield.

**II. Q & A**

Mayor Cook answered a question about property assessments, saying the assessments were completed last year and bills should be expected in April.

Mayor Cook also answered a question regarding Grand Junction. It was asked what the City is planning to do with newly acquired buildings in the Grand Junction area. Mayor stated that once property is acquired, they will be torn down to make room for downtown construction.

**III. Parks Presentation**

Melody Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation discussed details on the Build-A-Box Workshop in March and the described the new volunteer software. Melody encouraged members to share the information with their residents. Details on the workshop and the new volunteer software can be found on the City’s website, under Parks and Recreation.

**IV. Speed Limits in School Zones**

The speed limit discussion started with Councilman John Dippel opening discussion on school zone speeds and appropriate times. Councilman Dippel mentioned that he had taken some time to drive to other local communities to examine typical speed limits and times. He found that all

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communities are different, and there are even different speed limits and times within communities.

There were several other points that the representatives made at the meeting:

- Lots of walkers from Grassy Knoll to Washington Woods – could be dangerous to change the speed limit in that circumstance
- “When Children are Present” was discussed and several representatives seems to be in favor of that option. However, Chief Rush explained that it is extremely difficult in enforce.
- Permanent markers should be painted on the street to help identify the zones.
- School zones may need to be evaluated on a case by case basis
- Speed differential (changing from 40mph to 20mph) increases the risk for accidents.
- 7am – 7pm is unreasonable – most of the time, there is not very much traffic.
- There are hundreds of children on the soccer fields on a Saturday at Shamrock Springs Elementary and no School Zone Speed Limit applies.
- Flashing lights (like the ones to mark the trails) were another suggestion but are cost prohibitive. They are about \$8,000 each. It would need 2 lights (one for each direction). The flashing lights for the trails were obtained through grants.
- Questioned whether school zones were even needed if not adjacent to neighborhood or crosswalk.

Most agreement on next steps:

- The City Council should begin conversations with Dr. Keen and the School Board regarding this issue. In order to come up with a solution, the Schools need to be consulted. Councilmen John Dippel and Steve Hoover offered to bring forward this topic and various options to the School for discussion.

## **V. Closing Announcements**

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, March 27, at 7pm** at the City Hall Assembly Room.

Next Agenda:

- I. What do you want from WeCAN in 2012
- II. Police Presentation – Crime
- III. Westfield in Bloom

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at [communications@westfield.in.gov](mailto:communications@westfield.in.gov).

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For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN  
Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wecaninformation/>