

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on November 26, 2013 at 7 pm.

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 Derek or Erin at the Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3013 if you have any questions.

November 26, 2013

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Westfield in Lights/Lighting competition
- III. Updates with Q & A by Mayor Cook
- IV. Open discussion on programming for 2014 by Jim Ake
- V. Easements and Right of Way Information
- VI. New Meeting Room options
- VII. Closing Announcements



I. Welcome

Jim Ake welcomed everyone. The room went around and introduced themselves. Jim quickly went over the agenda for the night.

II. Westfield in Lights/Lighting competition

Westfield Parks and Recreation Director, Melody Jones, introduced Westfield in Lights and the Westfield in Lights Holiday Tour.

She called for residents to post locations of decorated homes for the light tour. Locations and map are located here:

<http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item:id=3131>

Melody also made the group aware of the Business Lighting Competition sponsored by Westfield in Bloom, in downtown Westfield. The competition is judged by the public and will be kicked off at the Westfield in Lights Christmas celebration on Dec. 7th with paper ballots. Residents can judge on the Parks' Facebook page and online at the City's website. A "Vote for Us" sign in will be placed in front of participating businesses. Last year's winner was Erika's restaurant.

Westfield in Lights Christmas celebration will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7th from 4:30 – 8:30p.

Highlights include: Live nativity, entertainment at two locations, two reindeer and Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving by carriage. Attendees are encouraged to line Penn Street.

Santa will be at the Parks and Rec facility for free pictures (330 E. Main Street). In the Parks facility will be a Girl Scouts gingerbread competition judged by Mayor. A lighting of the City Christmas

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Tree by the Mayor and the WHS football team will be joined by food trucks and boutique trucks. Carriage rides are also available, although, attendees need to register online.

More information about the event can be found on the Park's webpage:

<http://www.westfield.in.gov/egov/apps/document/center.egov?view=item:id=3483>

III. Updates with Q & A by Mayor Cook

Mayor Cook updated attendees on the recent utility transfer approval. The IURC approved moving forward with the transfer. Mayor explained the billing cycle and that the money received from the transfer will pay off utility debt. In addition, \$40 million will be used for various infrastructure projects around the City.

Q: Will water/sewer bill go up in January?

A: No.

Q: When will we get billed trash/stormwater?

A: Beginning in February, residents will receive a separate bill – to be billed quarterly.

Q: Will I be able to still automatic deduction for citizens and will it stay the same for city?

A: Yes.

Q: When will towers be built?

A: Still to be determined by Council whether Towers would be built. Several years away.

Mayor also spoke on some businesses and building locating the Grand Park area. Along Wheeler Road, Dairy Queen and Subway will be built soon. Grand Park Village's three story clock tower is also beginning construction.

Q: Corner of 161st and Hazel Dell surveying land - what's going there?

A: A residential development

IV. Open discussion on programing for 2014 by Jim Ake

Jim Ake took a minute to discuss options for the WeCAN group in 2014, more specifically, where we should meet. Due to the group growing in size, there was some concern that WeCAN doesn't fit well in its current location. Some ideas were:

- Set up room like lecture hall in main media level
- need more chairs
- keep round table to keep discussions going push tables closer together
- know attendance ahead of time to set up appropriate chairs
- Employee break room?
- downstairs media room

Other comments were made about the future of the meetings:

- don't need to hear from politicians during election cycle

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- disagree, wants more feedback b/c I can ask questions and set up separate sessions for politicians to speak at off site
- announce political candidates on agenda to give warning
- Westfield Schools - more info on how they run and funding
- Westfield schools reimbursement from state is 5th lowest
- Detailed plan schedule of repair and maintenance of streets
- Economic development department want more info?
- How are we marketing Westfield
- How important are state issues?
- Please reach out to other homeowners from other HOA to come

It was discussed that the State of the City was hospitality orientated - plenty of opportunities for volunteers. Volunteer activities - 96% of volunteers, who signed up, showed up. Westfield in Lights will have over 75 volunteers.

IV. All about Easements and Right of Way

Director of Public Works, Ken Alexander, spoke on easements and right-of-ways (ROW) He stated that utility easements are different than normal easements.

Right of Way: public transportation easement typically owned and government can come and take it

Easements: in terms of utilities, you own the easement as a homeowner but it grants that utility to maintain and install to have access to it to do repair work on it. The homeowner can't hinder their access. Utility company, in general, can provide you the information and in most cases they are the most accurate easement dictated before the development.

Q: How do they access if it's not on their property?

A: They have to have unrestricted access

Jesse Pohlman, Economic and Community Development Senior Planner, discussed the City's thoroughfare plan, including information about 161st.

V. Wrap up Announcements, Jim Ake

Jim mentioned that there will be NO meeting in December.

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, January 28th, at 7pm** at the Westfield City Services Center located at 2728 E. 171st Street.

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. For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: www.westfield.in.gov – under the "Community Links" tab.