

**West End Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
September 11, 2024. 6:30pm
Reiche Community Center**

Present: Steven, Scharf, Rosanne Graef, Bryan VanDussen, Barbara DeSerres, Liz Parsons, Mark Tappan, Gregory Farino, Kim Sutton and 20+ members of the public.

Secretary: Barbara DeSerres
Minutes from the 5/8/24 meeting and the 9/11/24 meeting will be distributed for approval at the November general meeting.

Treasurer: Bryan VanDussen

Available Funds by Source

Norway Savings	\$13,744	
Paypal	\$500	
Petty Cash	\$30	
Less outstanding debits	-\$852	chks 231, 236, 238: WPSC, Kim Sutton, West end news
Plus outstanding credits	\$200	Desarres donation
Total Available Funds		<u>\$13,622</u>

Earmarks

WENA AgeInPlace	\$1,764	
Swim for Life	\$2,344	
Harbor View (MMC)	\$0	
Harbor View (Fundraiser)	\$2,717	
WENA GenFund	\$1,546.38	
MMC Reforest	\$3,564	
MMC Reiche Restart	\$1,656	
Petty Cash	\$30	
Total Earmarks		<u>\$13,622</u>

Bryan Van Dussen
Treasurer, West End Neighborhood Association
treasurer@wenamaine.org

General Announcements:

1. **Candidate Forums:**

District 2 candidates, Wednesday, October 2, 2024. 6:30, Reiche Community Center
At Large candidates, Wednesday, October 9, 2024. 6:30, Reiche Community Center

2. **Reiche Activities:**

WENA sponsors a wide variety of activities at the Reiche Community Center including; exercise classes, game nights, film night, crafting sessions, travellogues, and discussion groups. The schedule is posted on the WENA website and in then west End News.

3. **Clark Street Park:**

A mural has been installed and the playground renovated with a dinosaur theme. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be Friday, Sept. 27 at 1:30.

Community Policing Report: Carole Dunphe, Community Coordinator

Neighborhood offices are open at Reiche School and at the former Greyhound bus station on St. John Street. Phone 207-804-6098 or email caroled@portlandmaine.gov

City Councilor Report: Victoria Pelletier was not present.

School Board Representative Report: Emily Figdor was not present.

City of Portland Community Prosecutor Presentation: Richard M.Bianculli Jr.

1. A handout listing civil ordinance and state law violations was available.
2. People are encouraged to use the website seeclickfix.com/portland_2 to report problems.
3. The prosecutor can be contacted at 207-756-8350. richb@portlandmaine.gov

The community policing officer can be contacted at 207-804-6098. caroled@portlandmine.gov

4. Needle collection; do not pick up discarded needles yourself. Contact the Department of Public Works at 207-874-8493.

JOIN IN! A neighborhood community building project: Mark Tappan

1. This project, funded by a MMCNAC grant, was inspired by a concern about racist flyers and posters in the neighborhood.
2. The documentary, Join or Die., based on the work of Robert Putnam in the book Bowling Alone, will be shown on September 23, 2024 at 6:30 in the Reiche Community Center.
3. The film will be the inspiration for developing a wide variety of intergenerational community activities including, but not limited to discussion groups, indoor sports, tai chi, pickleball,

game nights, ukelele lessons and art activities.

- 4 . Activity schedules will be posted in the West End News and on thenWENA website.
- 5 . Specifically targets the underserved age cohorts of ages 13-19 and over 65.

Presente' Maine: Rosanna Ortiz Burnham

A new organization providing social services and a food pantry.

Located in the former Peleton Labs on Congress St. and at a farm in Greene.

An online fundraiser will be held the last two weeks in November.

Reforest the City & Tree Census Project: Liz Parsons

Street Tree Survey

- There are 56 streets and lanes in the West End total.
- Nineteen people volunteered to survey street trees.
 - The basic task involves noting if a tree is present or not in a street tree well. If present, noting cases where the tree seems unhealthy/damaged. If not present, noting if there is a stump in the tree well; if the tree well is empty or landscaped; if there are any other relevant factors.
- I have received surveys on all but 13 of the streets (some are still being polished up the surveyors; a few still need surveying).
- Once surveyors send me the information, I compare their material with the City's tree map, adding the specific GIS number for each tree as well as the species. This process is time consuming, often involving spot rechecking since it appears the GIS data was entered some years ago.
- There are 23 surveys I'm considering complete and 6 that still need checking (not counting the 13 outstanding surveys).

Street Tree Adoption

- 20 people have volunteered to adopt street trees.
 - "Adoption" involves spreading mulch (purchased by WENA) over the tree well and then keeping an eye on the tree well to remove trash and weeds.
- 17 trees have been adopted.
 - These represent a combination of taking on trees recommended by the City (those planted within the past 3 years) and trees near where adopters live.

Other aspects of ReForest are being overseen by Susan LoGiudice. You can get a good idea of what's involved there by looking the large ad she had placed in this month's West End News.

Friends of Harbor View Park: Liz Parsons

The city asked for help with restoring the park after damage done last winter.

\$3,000 has been raised toward a goal of \$10,000.

Donations are encouraged and should be sent to the WENA post office box or to Bryan vanDussen

Submitted on September 12, 2024 by:

Barbara DeSerres

WENA secretary