

Memorial Park Neighborhood Association (MEMPARKNA)

November Meeting Minutes

Saturday, Nov 1, 2025,

Location: Pontiac Branch Library

Time: 11am-1pm

Number of Attendees: 8

Meet and greet with pizza buffet. The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am by President. All attendees present introduced themselves and last meeting minutes were approved but not read.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Announcements

Community Block Party was a success on August 23rd with over two hundred attendees; twenty volunteers; 3 vendors and 4 community partners. We received sponsorships from Habitat for Humanity, Franke Plating Works, and Current Mechanical.

Three board members attended the Inspire Conference on September 12th, and the Dept of Neighborhoods announced \$350,000 in additional sidewalk funding for the Connected Neighborhood Groups- Memorial Park, Harvester, Eastside, East Central and LaRez.

Memorial Park members participated in the Shepherd Hands Health Fair Trunk or Treat event on October 18th and passed out hygiene kits, hand sanitizer, masks, toy prizes, and candy to 135 families.

Our neighborhood medallion signage project has been pushed back to end of the year. We are receiving forty-four logo medallion signs installed on light post throughout the neighborhood as part of our neighborhood improvement grant.

NEW BUSINESS

MEMPARKNA Praise Report — 2025 Highlights

Celebrating community wins across Memorial Park Neighborhood serving 539 households.

- Hosted a Great American clean-up event to beautify surrounding areas around the Memorial Park Middle School with several volunteers.
- Apply for neighborhood improvement grant funding through the City of Fort Wayne and awarded forty-four neighborhood branding signs for light poles, a personalized logo, Logo banner, and two blinker stop signs for traffic control.
- Launched our signature summer event — “Party with a Purpose” (Aug 23): carnival-style fun, vendor row, kids’ zone with bounce house, dance floor, and DJ. Introduced Dusty’s the 3-on-3 Hoop tournament.
- Built sponsor and partner support for the block party, recognizing Franke Plating, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne, Current Mechanical, and Concordia Cemetery.

- Re-energized engagement with a thirty-Day Fall Membership Drive and social media campaign “Fall in love with your neighborhood” theme.
- Clarified membership offerings: resident and business membership messaging, a ‘Friends of Memorial Park’ concept. Gifted members and volunteers received a promotional tee shirt with MEMPARKNA logo.
- Strengthened communications: issued a pre-block-party newsletter and spotlighted the positive Input Fort Wayne news article coverage of our neighborhood.
- Advanced advocacy-drafted correspondence to councilman on long-standing infrastructure concerns.
- Deepened community partnerships: continued collaboration conversations with organizations like Bowen Health for wellness support, Shepherd’s Hands Community Outreach for family support connections, Pontiac Library for hosting meetings, and connected neighborhood groups (CNG) to collaborate on future neighborhood projects. CNG are as follows: Memorial Park, Eastside, Harvester, East Central and LaRez.
- New sidewalk connection near Memorial Park approximately six hundred feet of new sidewalk along Dubois St and Pennsylvania St. Glasgow/Randall bump-out and sidewalk connection to enhance safety for residents to walk to Memorial Park.
- Participated in the community health fair and trunk or treat event at Shepherd’s Hands Community Outreach and connected with over 135 families in 18 different zip codes.
- Connect with local schools- Adams Elementary and Memorial Park Middle School to support teachers and students by donating snacks to the teacher’s lounge and donating undergarments for small children.

Note from Councilman Geoff Paddock- Funding for Memorial Park and budget improvement pending but a plan is in place for separate phases. The ongoing projects are as follows: Alley Replacement between Humphrey and Randall; Wabash and Grant (2026). Phase I and Phase II Concrete Repairs (multi-year project) on streets, sidewalks, and curbs in the neighborhood. Post concrete repair street resurfacing with asphalt and chip and seal in the neighborhood. Several utility projects are also underway and combined sewer projects to build more capacity and dump less in the river. Geoff suggested planning an input session with Memorial Park residents and the park staff for future park improvements. Lastly, the mayor is creating a low burden shelter for the homeless and appointed Amanda Faulk as the Homeless Initiatives Coordinator.

Discussion with Melissa Fisher- Small business owner and community leader officially launched her campaign in the Democratic party primary for Allen County Council District 1 Forward with Fisher on September 15th at Memorial Park. The President of MEMPARKNA was invited to the campaign kickoff and was unable to make it and extended the invitation for Melissa to join our meeting to discuss her vision and priorities for the Southeast area. The responsibilities of the Allen County District 1 Council members are to listen to the priorities of the neighborhoods in the district, advocate for funding that supports those areas, vote on how county dollars are spent, ensure county services are equitable across the district and act as a bridge between residents and county government.

Although MEMPARKNA is a non-partisan organization, from time to time, candidates running for public office may contact MEMPARKNA seeking support, visibility, or opportunities to speak with residents. We value open communication and encourage civic engagement, but we remain **strictly neutral** in all elections.

Neighborhood Concerns: Some of the members reported foul sewer smell when it rains in the neighborhood, but some days are worse than others. It was suggested to call 311 within 24 hours to report the odor. It is unknown if the odor comes from the sewer or from a nearby business. The President plan to reach out to the Utility department to invite a staff member to our next meeting to discuss the sewer update plans for our neighborhood.

Another member had concerns with residents leaving household furniture outside in between houses which may cause a rodent problem and others' not keeping up the maintenance of their yards. The President agreed to attempt contacting the property owners of rental properties to make sure tenants have a maintenance clause in their leases and hold the landlords responsible for exterior appearance of the property. Members can contact code enforcement by calling 311 to report code violations or request heavy trash removal pick-up. Total investment made in our neighborhood was approximately \$115,000.

Looking Ahead to 2026

- A vote to change the mission statement to reflect on the achievements and actions of the neighborhood association's first full year of reactivation.
 - **Vision:** *To unite a community with a bold future and strong roots.*
 - **Mission:** *To bring people together to create a safer thriving and connected community-where neighbors collaborate, celebrate, and have a place to belong.*
- Finalize membership conversions from the Fall Membership Drive using a new membership portal called Join it. Members can join directly through the website and have the option to set up recurring billing.
- Plan year-round mini-activations (clean-ups, workshops) to maintain momentum between big events.

