

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2011; 7:00; Mystic Celt

Introduction of new WLVN President, Will DeMille.

First guest speaker Representative Mike Quigley – He voiced his thoughts on the message of the tragic shooting last Saturday. Could have a chilling effect on the Democratic process – more security, plexiglass for Congress, less meetings. He must have meetings, won't be cut off. Still wants to get out there, must get out there. He and his staff are available, office is on Irving Park Rd, satellite office in Ald. Tunney's office. Policy issue concern—guns in our society. Chicago's handgun ordinance was struck down, exceptions should be what type of weapons (large clips, semi-automatic, assault weapons), who can have them (dangerous, mentally ill, felons) 33 states allow sales of guns at gun shows, including IN. He feels he should be involved in better gun laws as a congressman from Chicago.

Important issues are coming up in D.C. but things have been put off this week. He's on the Judiciary and Reform and Oversight Committees. Debt and deficit are a major concerns, his office has put out a report that it's worse than we think. How to consolidate Cook County's budget should be reviewed by the new Board. In March he will take part in a recreation of events in Selma and Birmingham during the civil rights movement.

Diann Marselak, LVCC President made several announcements including info on a free skating day at the Wrigley Field skating rink, Saturday, January 29th. LVCC members can attend a party afterwards for free. And, the Mittens for Children Project, sponsored by LVCC, is still taking donations.

A candidate's forum for the 32nd Ward Alderman's seat will take place at St. Luke's Church January 18th, at 7:00.

Current info and upcoming events, such as a health fair in the Spring, can be found on the LVCC website- www.lakeviewcitizens.org

Paul Sajovec, from Alderman Wagespack's office, said Xmas trees are being picked up, free mulch is available for pick-up.

The property at 1325 W. Belmont may be a 3-story medical center. It's actually in South Lakeview Neighbors, and meetings have been held.

Tax assistant seminars, and energy efficiency seminars will be held during open ward nights in future, check the website, www.ward32.org or call 773-248-1330 for information and dates.

Sidewalk café requests will be sent to WLVN before the Ald will sign off on them.

Alderman Tunney was present at the meeting, but not officially on the agenda. He said that the Bank of America property has been reviewed and may be sold for commercial usage, new financing may be in the works.

1240 W. School may be purchased for green space in the next 30 days in his Ward. 1.5 to 2 million dollar price tag. Is a top priority for him. A dog park, a children's area are on the table, he welcomes suggestions.

A Chicago's driver's seminar (how to avoid getting tickets, how to contest them, how to avoid the Denver boot) will be held at the 23rd precinct station, at Addison and Halsted, on January 25th, from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

Sidewalk Cafes – Tom Kelly – Chair of P&D committee, List of sidewalk cafes handed out for all to review and comment.

Andy and Kristey McGuire, owners of the new La Gondola Restaurant (was Joey's Brickhouse) on Belmont is asking for a new liquor license and side walk café license. Owners opened Dec 7th. There is parking 7:00pm to 12:00 midnight in front of American Bagel.

John Fritchey, Cook County Commissioner then gave an update – Cook County Board is more of an administrative role. 60% of the budget goes to health care and law enforcement. Looking to reduce budget by 21%. Consolidate Tax Assessor's Office, Treasurer's Office, in the 12 separate districts, there are now 17 Board members. Update computer systems. Get rid of redundant jobs, patronage jobs. His office is at 2539 N. Southport, satellite offices, outreach at these offices several days every month. Commish@fritchey.com. a question was asked about redundant jobs, he said people will be laid off. He feels it's important to get information online so that people can see where the money is going, and a new IT person in charge now will try to do that. Put board meetings on line, post voting records. Millions can be saved by modernizing computer systems. IL has too many units of government- 7,500 total. Efficiencies should be put into place to reduce that number.

31 people were present at the meeting.