

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting – May 18, 2010

Merchant Introductions:

Safari Cup Sidewalk Café: 3404 N. Southport – Dave McLaughlin

Safari Cup Coffee has been open since October. The theme is essentially African and they roast their coffee on site. Dave sends out tweets when he's going to be roasting and customers can stop by and observe the process. In addition to coffee, food cooked by Dave's wife Sharon is available. Their next major project will be a small sidewalk café. Plans have been presented to the WLVN P & D committee.

Cerato Boutique – 3451 N. Southport – Tracey Glibowski

This new boutique opened on May 8th, and the neighborhood response has been great. The store features local Chicago apparel and jewelry designers. The mission is to highlight and support local talent.

Lakeview Chamber Update

Heather Way, the chamber's Executive Director updated the group on upcoming events.

Cuervo Games – June 5th: The Cuervo Games will be held from 1 PM until 10 PM on Saturday, June 5th from Roscoe to Addison.

The one-day event will feature a series of five “extreme” challenges (ex. a waterfall climb) and will be open to teams. Teams can sign up on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/cuervo>) or enter that day.

There will be no liquor, live music, or food, although neighborhood bars and restaurants will be open and many will sell take away food.

There will be 10 vendor booths highlighting local businesses. Dog-a-holics will have a doggie obstacle course. In addition the Lakeview Chamber will be promoting local events.

Paper Drive – June 5th through June 19th:

As a part of the City of Chicago's Earth Day 2010 programs, the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Department of Environment on the 2010 Neighborhood Paper Drive.

Help us become the neighborhood with the MOST PAPER collected! Start collecting your office paper, junk mail, magazines, greeting cards and the like! More detailed information about the collection location is forthcoming.

Master Plan:

A group consisting of business owners, commercial property owners, and residents has started work on a master plan for Lincoln and Southport Avenues. An RFP for consultants has been created. The goal is to get as much quantifiable data as possible.

Liquor License Application Process Overview

Chicago Liquor Commission Representative, Bryan Knipper, explained the application process.

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There are several steps in the process. The first step is Zoning. The applicant submits site and floor plan and zoning looks at the plans and makes sure the applicant has all of the required permits and determines what liquor licenses are needed. This step takes about three or four weeks.

The applicant pays all fees at the end of the process and the clock starts ticking for the next step. The applicant has thirty days to submit all the required documents and 45 days for the required notification – postcards sent to all voters within 250 feet of the establishment. Voters are asked to submit any concerns to the Liquor Commission.

Day 46 (the day after the notification period) is the first possible day the applicant can get a license; however, the commission has up to ninety days to make a decision.

This decision could be a contingency approval. If this is the case, the applicant has three months to address any issues (building inspections, etc.).

Another possibility is a conditional approval. This means the plans were approved by zoning but no actual work on the property has been done. The applicant has a year to building out their establishment after a conditional approval.

There has to be opposition to the liquor license to get a Plan of Operation. Neighbors or neighborhood groups need to write letters of concern with specifics. This can include deleterious impact, noise, trash, traffic, etc.

The liquor license holder is usually a corporation, not an individual. The corporation is bound by the Plan of Operations. If there is a violation, an adjudication committee takes over and addresses the issue.

If there is a large enough outcry, the license application will be denied with wording that the applicant has twenty days to supply a Plan of Operations. This plan will be reviewed and fine tuned. If the Plan of Operations is still not approved, the applicant will get a notice that the application has been denied.

The applicant can then go to the License Appeal Committee and the process goes into the court system.

Although a Plan of Operations can help, it's easier to deny a license than to take it away due to violations.

Cubs Update – Jennifer Dedes

Jennifer encouraged residents to sign up for the neighborhood newsletter for ticket offers, concert information, etc. at www.cubs.com/neighbors .

Family Sundays are being offered in April and May. If you purchase four tickets, your kids can run the bases after the game.

A minor league game has been scheduled. Tickets will be \$5 and kids will be able to run the bases after the game.

A Northwestern vs. University of Illinois football game is scheduled for November 20th.

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The proposed Toyota sign in left field has passed the Landmarks Commission. The next step is to go to the Building Committee and then City Council.

The Cubs are neutral on the subject of the Park on Clark. They are focusing on their own property that will be developed. The family wants to make sure the triangle property will accommodate everything they need, and the project will be good for the community.

Leo's Coney Island Liquor License Application:

The owners, Lou Goldhaber and Jordan Summers, spoke to the group.

There are 40 Leo's franchises in Michigan and one in Chicago. Six out of the forty in Michigan serve liquor. Serving liquor wasn't their original intent. It's been obvious over the past few months that customers, including moms and dads, want a beer or wine with their meal. They are asking for an incidental license.

At least one owner is there all the time. They have a long (10-year) lease, fixed seating, and will have off-duty police security. They have no intention of creating a bar.

Ann McCabe provided background and the WLVN board recommendation. The WLVN board is working on a policy for liquor license support conditions – similar to our Outdoor Café Guidelines. Since these guidelines are not completed, the board has had a number of meetings with the owners of Leo's.

We would like Leo's to have a Plan of Operation that would bind them and future owners to limiting hours of serving alcohol to 11 PM on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Tom Kelley made the following motion:

Support the WLVN board sending a letter to the Liquor Commission opposing Leo's Liquor License in order to trigger a Plan of Operations limiting the hours liquor can be served to 11 PM weeknights and midnight Friday and Saturday.

Patricia Craig seconded the motion.

WLVN members voted on the motion which passed unanimously (13 – 0). Per bylaws, only residential paid members in good standing (members two weeks prior to the meeting) can vote.

The motion gives the board permission to draft and send the letter on behalf of the membership. The letter does not need further review or approval by the membership.

One member would like the Plan of Operation to include that Leo's (or a future owner) can not have a physical bar in the restaurant. Another member described two existing Plans of Operation from the city website that include additional restrictions.

Other:

We continue to collect food for the Lakeview Pantry. Please remember to bring donations to future meetings.

The next WLVN neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 20th at Mystic Celt.