



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2013; 7:00pm; Mystic Celt; 52 people present

Will DeMille, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Congressman Mike Quigley, Member of the House Ways and Means Committee

There is 1.2 trillion dollars a year in subsidies. He stated we need a sense of urgency. The transportation plan cut 4 trillion from the budget, military budgets were reviewed, and terrorist attacks have been stopped with good police work. In a couple of months the decision to raise the debt ceiling will come up again. There is a thoughtful, bi-partisan group that is willing to work together. The Congressman's district office is 3700 W. Irving Park Rd. Class trips can be arranged with tours in the capital.

Question: What is Cantor's agenda? He wants to shrink government dramatically.

He said his committee budgeted for 10 new destroyers, and the navy only wanted 9. The Defense Department can't be audited. The congressman thinks the debt ceiling should be raised.

The Democrats won't bend regarding drastically changing Social Security. It must be reformed. A think tank found half a million dollars in cuts without hurting recipients. Raising the caps alone will probably buy continuation of the current program for a decade. The ratio of workers to retirees is now 3.5 to 1. Soon it will be 2 to 1.

He feels the cost of corruption is the loss of the public's trust.

Cubs comments regarding stadium renovation, triangle property and hotel

Jennifer Dedes-Nowak – Announced that the schedule is on the web site. The first concert is Jason Alden. The skating rink is open until the end of Feb. Cubs Caravan is next weekend. It stops at schools, and will stop at the Merlo Library for a reading by Cubs players. She showed a video of concepts for the field and surrounding area. These concepts include: enhanced field, roof removal, new upper deck seats, club house built under seats at field level, new below grade batting area, renovated suites and lounges, new press box, new electric, new water service, new telecommunications, more restrooms, new mezzanine, increased concessions, additional roof top deck. The interior will replicate the design of the exterior. The Cubs are exploring options as to source of money and agreement with city. If they have more funds beyond the field renovations the triangle property will be developed. It was approved, but was not started by the Tribune Company. There have been recent meetings with the community for options. Neighbors were not keen to have a building with 400 parking spaces on that site. It has been redrawn and concepts were presented. Offices were along Waveland, with an open plaza, small retail and restaurant buildings. Across street, on what was the McDonald's property will be a hotel. That property, when developed, must have a McDonalds.

Question to Jennifer: Any idea how to provide parking for hotel? She replied that there isn't much in the plan.

She stated that the financing is not there yet. The height will be reviewed along with parking. The P&D committee will review this.

What's the parking solution? Congestion will be added if parking is provided nearby.

Another concern is staging for this construction. The community would be told in advance.

Aldermanic representatives

New "Cross Walk" street signs were addressed. Alderman's Tunney's aide is taking suggestions, but waiting to see how they withstand winter weather and snow plows. Trucks run over them making deliveries. He announced that CDOT has money for work on Ashland and Cornelia, the plan has been signed off on by the Alderman.

Paul Sajovic, from Alderman Waguespack's office, said he forwards comments to CDOT. Question from the floor: When will the remapping become final? It might be some time in the spring. Why the delay? The Aldermen were elected in the last election, so it won't change until the next election, in 2015. The change from the 2000 census was done long before this time of year. Zoning changes go to the new ward office, then the old one. Until the 311 system is updated, the old ward is still being contacted for any service requests.

Heather Way, Executive Director of the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce

Boundaries are Diversey, Racine, Irving Park to Ravenswood for the Chamber. In 2012 the Chamber enlarged the SSA area. Green bike racks, 15 traditional bike racks, and managing Shop

Lakeview were some of the SSA projects. For every \$300 spent at local merchants you got \$30 as credit to spend with those merchants. The Chamber will be launching the open air market at the Southport station in early June. Local produce, confection and food will be offered. In 2012 about 20 new businesses opened. The biggest disappointment was the loss of the #11 Lincoln bus. Lakeviewchamber.com is the web site address.

Support local businesses to keep them open. Lakeview needs affordable, national merchandise, like Target. Southport has changed dramatically in the past 11 years.

Making Lakeview more bike friendly, enhancing pedestrian experience, and facade rebates are goals for this year.

Target Store at Ashland/Belmont/Lincoln

People are concerned about the impact on local small businesses. Traffic and impact of neighbors is a concern. The Alderman has made Target aware of the park that the prior developer had agreed to. Any close neighbors should contact the Ald. with any concerns. The CDDC will be involved when it's final, and it may be completed this month. The property has been purchased by Target, so it will be a teardown.

Some residents on School St. mentioned making the School and Ashland lot a park, but the playlot at 1230 W. School St. has been started, and Wells Fargo will be leasing the LaSalle property.

Potential development at Addison and Ashland

The property has been sold. It may conform to existing zoning. It's a high end mental health facility. The 2 corner buildings will be staying.

The lot next to the Paulina station has been sold. If a drugstore is opened there it may have a negative impact on the neighborhood. That stretch of Lincoln is now a pedestrian thoroughfare.

Southport Corridor activity

Will announced a Gap/Baby Gap is opening on Southport by the el station. The store will be 28,000 square ft. He stressed that everyone should shop local. The person who sold the property stated that this is a natural trajectory on Southport. We will see more of a national presence south of Addison.

More crime, less police, in West Lakeview

We lost 30 beat cops in this District. The only way this can be addressed is if the elected officials hear from you. The link to the article is in the email. CAPS is being restructured, and the precinct Commanders will have more say over the program. Call 911 with any problems.

WLVN goals for 2013

We have been focusing on green space and building development, but contact any Board member with ideas.

School Street playlot update

There is still a big fundraising effort in process.