



# WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

## West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes January 9, 2017; 7:00pm; Butcher's Tap; 17 people present

Tom Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**SSA (Special Service Area)** – SSA 27 encompasses the stretch of Lincoln Ave, Southport, Ashland, and Belmont that are within WLVN boundaries. That's the north side of Belmont, Lincoln and Ashland up to Addison, and Southport up to Byron.

**Lee Crandell, Director, Lakeview Chamber of Commerce** - explained that an SSA is a local tax district, with a property tax levy placed on local properties, usually commercial streets, within the SSA boundaries. Each SSA is governed by an appointed Board of Commissioners. All meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes are posted online. The Lakeview Chamber of Commerce is the Sole Service Provider for SSA27. The Chamber supports a vibrant quality of life, and promotes the neighborhood. The SSA services include: litter abatement, tree pruning, landscaping public areas, bike racks, trash cans, holiday decorations, holiday gift card promotion, tracking of business improvement and vacancy rates, tourist attraction efforts, events to attract people, like Taco Fest on Southport, the Lowline Market, Trick or Treating on Southport, and the Southport holiday stroll. The available fund for this year is \$740,000. SSA budgets are approved by city council, and overseen by a city department. The residential properties on these streets also pay into it.

Comment: The SSA shoveled on Southport in past years, but it's not very good right now.

Reply: We talk about it every year. Snow removal is difficult because it's such a big area. It's \$50-60,000 a yr. There were lots of complaints. It's challenging. There were a few years that it didn't get done by the SSA.

Q: Aren't businesses supposed to shovel their sidewalk?

A: Yes, all businesses are responsible for clearing their sidewalk.

Q: How long has the SSA been around?

A: Started in 2003. Reapproved in 2011 and is good until 2025.  
Bill Goodson, in the Chamber's office, is now manager of the SSA.

**TODs (Transit Oriented Developments), Tom Kelley, Chairman, P&D Committee**  
1-16-17 Mercury Theatre, Southport neighbors meeting..

Tom: We plan on being involved with Southport Neighbors to get a more cohesive overview of TODs in the neighborhood. As a group we're always dealing with developers who want to build bigger and higher. We are a stop-gap between the developers and the Aldermanic offices. We can give our opinion to the aldermen. These TODs allow smaller apts, larger bldgs, no parking, and more units on one property. The aldermen give us the opportunity to talk to these developers. This gives us a chance to make recommendations, like bldg materials, the density, the size of apts. We can maybe come up with a set of guidelines to see what we want in the neighborhood. We've lost diversity, we want people, and we've been losing people in the neighborhood. How do you want the neighborhood to look? The Centrum project is almost done at Lincoln, Roscoe and Paulina. 3301 was discussed, parking spaces were a big discussion. But I see spaces on my block now. The Chamber has been very supportive of TODs. They put out research and would like to work with the residents. There are challenges on the business side.

Comment: The density is a concern. We want people to come and stay. The small studios will have renters that will be gone in a couple of yrs.

Comment: We need to have a variety of apts for people who can only afford studios.

Comment (Tom): We have to look down the road 5, 10, 15 yrs. This neighborhood was built on multi-unit bldgs. We want to have a variety of housing stock. We can make recommendations. We're here to try to get the best deal for the neighborhood.

Comment: Diversity, and a wide range of people in different stages of life, is a good thing in a community.

Comment: A younger diversity of people is who shops on Southport.

Ann McCabe: What is the reach of these 2 groups (WLVN and Southport Neighbors)?

A: Tom - our meetings averaged 40 or more over the past 2 yrs. We've had a mix of people making presentations at our meetings. We've had emails and FB, but now face how to stay relevant.

Q: How is the relationship with Alderman Tunney?

A: Tom: We have a pretty good relationship with him. They take our comments, they listen to us I think.

We are reviewing 2 different things when it comes to the TODs. The height of the bldg is one thing.

Our concern is the height of this bldg. Maybe we do need the density. From Addison up to Irving Park is a dead zone.

**WLVN Board Election** - Will DeMille, Patricia Craig, Tom Kelley, Terri Hanley, Mike Sewall, Paul Sajovic, Jeff Goad are current board members up for re-election for 2 year terms. Stacey Johnson was added to the slate this year.

Tom: We encourage more people to get involved. Motion was made and seconded to approve this slate. The motion carried unanimously.

**44th Ward update** - no representative present

**47th Ward update** - no representative present

**Cubs Update - Heather Way Kitzes**

Full on construction mode. The plaza will be completed by opening day. This weekend is Cubs Convention.

Q: What will the ticket prices go for?

A: I'm in Community Relations, and not sure.

Q: Will the plaza be open and have restaurants?

A: The plaza will be open by opening day, restaurants will be coming. Hotel is opening in 2018.

**Next meeting is March 13.**