



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2013; 7:00pm; Mystic Celt; 28 people present

Holiday party began at 6:30

Stacey Paradis called the meeting to order at 7:05

Raffle ticket numbers were called throughout the meeting. The raffle raised \$265.

Block Club

Terri Hanley presented simple ways to create a block group and begin group email notices. She had samples of flyers with preventative information that could be scanned and emailed out every 3 or 4 weeks. Also methods of collecting contact info and forming a more active block club that could include meetings and activities like block parties and clean-ups.

Kerry Reborra presented the process she and her neighbors used to start up their block group, and made some suggestions as to activities that could be organized to help get people out to meet their neighbors.

New Business introduction – Burger Boss, 3208 N. Southport

Anthony and Nick, the owners, opened a couple of weeks ago. It's a quick order restaurant, and food is served at your table. They felt the process is tedious and time consuming to get a business open in this city. The zoning department has to approve any signs that hang over the public way. On Tuesday, Dec 3rd, 15% of the entire day's proceeds will go to the School Street Park fund.

Cubs Update – Kam Buckner

A month ago the Neighbors Day took place. \$25,000 was donated to a local park. Holiday tree lighting is December 5th. On April 26th Northwestern women's Lacrosse team will have a game. Events throughout the year will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Wrigley Field. There will be 43 night games next year. New construction plans took out the bridge over Clark and moved the entrance for the hotel, but there will be an archway over Clark. They are working with the roof top owners, Alderman Tunney, and city council to finalize an agreement.

School Street Park Update – Jason Mundy

Jason showed the design. The committee is working with the Cubs to schedule the ground breaking day. The soiree on School was very successful, it raised over \$50,000. Over this past year \$167,000 has been raised. Jeff Lowe will match up to \$10,000 in sales of bricks or donations made between now and the end of the year. David Lee Cisco is the artist that designed the water wall, and he is doing a limited edition art print, signed, and all profits will go back to the park. Forms to purchase a brick are available.

Alderman Tunney

He brought 3 petitions to sign for candidates. As for the Target store, he met with them, they are looking at several designs for the store. When he gets a plan it will come back to the community. The traffic study is being done. Target is looking at 2015 for opening. Regarding the foreclosed Bert Wyman lot, Bosworth neighbors have met to discuss what happens in the alley. Questions of height and retail viability on the street level were raised. The final property has been donated for the play lot on School St. and it will be more than 14,000 square ft. The alley will be deeded back to the city so Henderson will have an alley. The entrance to the Rickett's hotel will be on Clark, not Patterson. The deck over Sheffield is gone. A wider deck will be on the stadium side of Sheffield, and will maintain a 2 way street. The street parking blue lot will expand to have more spaces and open it to neighbors on non-game days, at no charge. Night game ordinance had 30 games and has been amended to 43. He's asking for 30 additional cops after the games for 2 to 3 hrs. Irving at Rockwell will have remote parking for 1,000 cars, and will be free for Cubs visitors.

Alderman Pawar

Bell and Cooney are being expanded. He is working with Ald. Tunney on LV HS. Lawrence between Western and Clark will have trees and bioswells, which will decrease flooding. This year's budget is simple. Divvy bikes will generate a lot of money. In 2015 the city is required to make a \$600,000,000 contribution to the firemen's and policemen's pension funds. He feels this may cause some amazing tax increases. The new park district agreement is more manageable.

He explained the redesigned streetscape on Lawrence. There will be left hand turn lanes, but only one lane in each direction. Buses will share that lane. He feels Western would be a better fit for BRT. Groups in the area are pushing street cars. Most transportation is federally funded. He would not support anything that didn't include left hand turn lanes.

City Council has created a new impartial analyst office, who will hire a staff of 6 and serve as a resource to Aldermen. Before votes are taken this office would provide an independent financial analysis to aldermen. They will publish quarterly reports.

How people are notified for LV2 parking needs to be reviewed. A new ordinance is needed to amend the definition of what a night game is to cover special events, like concerts.

WLVN in 2014 – where should we focus?

Five issues that WLVN concentrates on are: traffic, safety, green space, education and zoning. Cubs fall into most of them. WLVN looks to LVCC to deal with the Cubs.

We have one very important issue, the BRT plan on Ashland. As an organization we will oppose it because parking will be a nightmare, and few left turns will cause gridlock. One lane of traffic will be very problematic. Mary Slivon asked who is going to use the BRT. The Ashland bus is not crowded now. Why has this been proposed for Ashland? The WLVN board will draft the letter in January. The line is scheduled to go all the way to Irving Park once it's finished.

Next meeting is January 14th, 2014.