



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes November 18, 2019; 7:00pm; Butcher's Tap; 16 present

Jeff Goad, president, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Jeff presented Dick Donalak, Head Librarian at the Lincoln/Belmont Library, a grant for \$1,500. To be used for children's programming.

Beer festival – WLVN received a little over \$6,200

Dick Donalek - Fascinating programming. Let him know what you want for programming. What does the neighborhood want? Will be open on Sundays next year. 1:00-5:00. Has a FB page, send messages to WLVN.

CUBS - Heather Way Kitzes

No construction happening. This Thursday the ice rink is opening.

Gallagherway.com has info

There is curling at Gallagher's. Ice skating lessons are available. Curling has a fee, check site.

Alderman Matt Martin (with daughter):

Introduced Michael Sewell as primary point of contact for all neighborhood issues. His office has a few developments asking for community in-put. Now has neighborhood councils; Community Green, Transportation, Seniors, Schools. Budget for city may be voted on next week. Small property tax increase is included. Re-ordering positions for city employees will begin next year.

Q: How is overtime budgeted?

A: Way high. Streets, fire dept and police dept have the highest. 95mil for police dept lawsuit settlements. May be closer to 150mil Will happen next year. Down to 91mil for current mayor.

Better to have risk management, now there is a position for that in City Hall. Settlements must be voted on by the City Council if it's over a certain amount. Perhaps some employees need to be investigated if they have a lot of suits filed against them.

Jeff: Safety is important, regardless of budget limits.

Alderman: We are well staffed in the police dept. The 19th has the lowest response in the city. Number of detectives is going up because of the homicide rate.

Q: What about a new police superintendent?

A: Don't know if internal applicants are being considered and if mayor is going out. The union will supply 3 names.

Q: Chicago has over 120,000 gang members. Resources need to address the problem of gangs. How is that addressed?

A: We are pushing for CPD to maintain their database. Community policing, walking the beat. Gun violence is getting worse. 10mil dollars provided for behavior therapy.

Q: How much do firemen and police make now?

A: Don't know for sure.

Contact the Alderman's office at Aldermanmartin.com

44th Ward Update – Chris Jessup

Site being discussed right now at Sheil Park. Would require rezoning for 5 stories.

Q Is there a master plan?

A: Yes, but it's outdated. TODs are now part of the mix.

Comment: A real plan needs to be done so we know what can and can't be done.

Chris: TODs have changed that.

Comment: Someone should look at the current status and update a plan.

Jeff: In 2001 the entire city zoning code was updated. All retail districts were made comparable zoning. There isn't a "micro plan" so each project is reviewed and the alderman's office goes to the zoning board hearings. City Hall can agree and approve a plan, or not approve.

Comment: A community plan is to stop the rezoning.

Comment: Commercial buildings are taxed at a higher rate, so greater density is needed to pay that bill, which means some buildings need more floor space.

Jeff: We try to protect the neighborhood.

Comment; How do we encourage small businesses and 2 flat homeowners? How do we protect the neighborhood?

Jeff: Small streets are controlled by a handful of people maybe. Streets like Southport become popular so rents increase a lot. Andersonville has a plan for neighborhood businesses through an SSA.

Ald Martin: Demographics have changed. In the 47th ward 2 and 3 flats have been torn down for single family homes. Head count may stay the same but completely different demographics occur. Zoning wasn't planned for how to keep a 2-flat always a 2-flat. A new zoning change that would allow a 2-flat be replaced with 2-flat, even though it's in a single family zone, is being reviewed.

Chris: Since 2015 we've been sharing staffing numbers for the 19th district. 388 is the current count.

Merlo Library is under construction, March 1st is projected opening date. Coat drive can be left at Ald's office. The AIDS Garden dedication is this Friday, the first part of the garden, a sculpture, will be installed. Belmont and Lake Shore Dr. east of LSD, south of Belmont Yacht Club.

Dec 22nd is the menorah lighting at Lincoln and School.

Meeting called 8:12.

Next meeting: January 13, 2020