



West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes November 8, 2011; 6:30; Mystic Celt

Commissioner Fritchey –

The Commissioner wants to lower the punishment for possession of small amounts of marijuana. Of the 23,000 arrests each year, 90% get dismissed. Processing these arrests costs 80 million dollars a year. He wants to make it an incremental fine system. The County Board has begun to roll back the Stroger sales tax increase. The budget has been cut by 200 million dollars. Property taxes no longer have an exemption of a 7% maximum increase. Increases in the CPS budget have increased everyone's portion of it, so taxes still go up even though property values have gone down. All property owners should make sure all their exemptions are listed. Commissioner Fritchey has put out an initiative to combine the Recorder of Deeds and County Clerk positions, this would save 1 million dollars a year.

Alderman Tom Tunney (44th Ward) –

He stated that budget issues have resulted from not addressing over-spending for several years. A priority in budget revisions is also mental health facilities, as it now stands, the number of clinics will be cut in half. Alderman Tunney is Economic Development and Technology Committee Chair. Technology has enabled city departments to begin to communicate with each other, so monies owed to the city can be identified and billed or ticketed. The city has eliminated the head tax for businesses that have 50 or more employees. He stated the mayor is definitely going after unions. The city has lost 6% of its population in the past 10 years. The black population has decreased and the Hispanic numbers have increased. Water bills will double over the next 4 years. This revenue will go to capital projects to replace ancient water lines. Ordinances are a reaction to a specific event (porch collapse), the snow removal ordinance is 50 years old. His office gets a lot of complaints about uncleared sidewalks, so tickets will be issued. He considers anyone not shoveling their snow as being rude to their neighbors.

Alderman Scott Waguespack (32nd Ward) –

Alderman Waguespack is working on city budget revisions, including several 100 layoffs. Twenty eight aldermen signed a letter to review some budget items with the mayor, including heavy cuts in libraries, 911 service, and graffiti removal. Cutting library hours has been stopped. There will be a big increase in city sticker costs. He wants to introduce an ordinance to declare TIF surplus monies available to close the budget gap. 700 million dollars in uncollected debt is owed to the city. (water bills, unpaid tickets, etc) Regarding police station consolidation, his ward has 2 scheduled for closing. Petitions have been circulated to stop the closure of the 13th district station, and a meeting has been scheduled on November 15th to discuss the 19th.

Hamilton School is doing well.

He has volunteers who shovel seniors sidewalks in the winter, tickets are rarely issued.

32nd Ward has 68,000 tickets issued to date, the 44th has 85,000.

Redistricting is based on compact, contiguous areas, he has to lose 9,800 people in his ward.

Not much will change in our area. The new mapping has to be done by the end of this year.

He feels a letter from WLVN, to the mayor, objecting to the closing of mental health facilities, would be a good thing. The condo rebate will be phased out slowly instead of cutting it completely at one time.

Cubs Update –

Julian Green stated the event last weekend was a snowmobile competition. 10,000 people were at Movie in the Park. There will be a Pink Floyd concert June 8th, and two Saturday games next year. After Thanksgiving season ticket holders will be invited to an open house Dec 3rd. The ice rink will also be there again this year. A Christmas tree will be erected at Clark and Addison, as will a menorah.

Lakeview Chamber of Commerce Update –

Mary Kay Rowan, Assistant Director, announced the Southport Holiday Stroll Dec 2, 5-8 pm Belmont to Irving Park. Paulina Merchants will have an Open House, on December 1, on Lincoln Ave. from Belmont to Addison. The SSA 27 will provide services for 15 years. Public way maintenance and power washing of sidewalks are some of the services provided by the SSA.

Chicago Canine Rescue – The Mutt Strutt event, a 1.5 mile walk, on Southport on October 8th, raised almost \$50,000 for dog rescues. The sponsors of the walk want to continue this walk as an annual event.

Hamilton Elementary School –

Terri Hanley announced that the school has a “wish list” bulletin board, and solicited donations from neighbors to cover \$25 to purchase one book for the library.

Business Introductions –

One of the owners of Southport Fitness, Dave Goldman, announced it will open in early February. Hours will be 4:30am to 12:00 midnight.

Burley Community Park –

A representative from “Friends of Burley” announced the plans for Burley Community Park, at Ashland and Barry, behind the school. It will be a community park, and include artificial turf basketball courts. \$275,000 must be raised for the project.

Year-end local business raffle –

25 businesses donated 40 gifts and gift certificates to this year’s raffle. Raffle tickets were drawn by guest speakers throughout the meeting.

Announcements-

19th District Police Station Closing –

A meeting will be at 6:30, in the Lakeview HS auditorium, 4015 N. Ashland, Tuesday, November 15th

Police Superintendent, Garry McCarthy, will be at the meeting.

Patrol officers from the 19th will be merged with the 23rd. Detectives will stay at the 19th station with the courts.

The last CAPS meeting of the year is Thursday, November 17th, 6:30, 1050 W. School St. (Resurrection Lutheran Church side door)

Shop at small businesses in our neighborhood on Shop Small Saturday, November 26th.

The next WLVN meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th, at 6:30, in the library, at Paulina and Melrose.