



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting

March 14, 2016; 7:00pm; Butcher's Tap; 57 people present

Jeff Goad called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Crime in Lake View - Terri Hanley

Reviewed site sources for crime reports in our neighborhood, things we can do to take away opportunity for crimes, explained the CAPS office in the 19th district, reviewed staffing at the district and introduced Chris Jessup from Ald Tunney's. Chris mentioned bright light bulbs are available at the ward office. He goes to CAPS meetings, court hearings, and is the liaison between the Alderman, police, and residents.

Alderman Tunney then made comments - first safety, lights, Southport to Ashland will have new lights, and Henderson and Melrose. Doesn't like the current light bulbs being used. The merging of the 19th and 23rd precincts was not supposed to reduce the number of patrolmen. He said it's all our responsibility to get involved and work together to effectively bring more resources to our neighborhood. We should have a net gain of 35 officers when all is said and done. He is committed to keeping the neighborhood safe. Officer allocation is based on calls for service, so call and report any suspicious activity.

Q: Isn't the goal for crime to go down not just the quantity of officers? If that takes more officers then we should have them.

A: Agreed. We should have the cops we need, regardless of number, to bring down crime. CAPS will go to your house and do an assessment of your house and safety if you contact them at the 19th.

Q: Are RAPs down in the area?

A: Our responses are good compared to other districts

Q: I don't see patrol cars any more. Why this neighborhood? Are they coming to the Belmont station?

A: CTA security is at the Belmont station. Rapid Transit is a separate unit. The bars around Wrigley have the highest crime rate. The SSAs are assisting with security in that area.

Jeff Goad put out a personal challenge to all present - introduce yourself to one of your neighbors. That way you know who should be there and who shouldn't. Question people who have on delivery uniforms, utility company clothes, even orange vests, if anything seems out of place. Keep your outside lights on at your house, and gangway. Get to know some neighbors.

Chris can provide info to connect you to your neighbors. Block watch groups and clubs are a great way to structure a group.

Doug Dunlay – new restaurant

Introduction of new restaurant at former Justin's site - Doug Dunlay owns Frasca and Crosby's Kitchen in WLVN. Have taken over Justin space, leasing. Will be a Mexican restaurant, family oriented, fun, lively space. Made from scratch Tex-Mex cuisine. Brought a few books explaining the restaurant. Opening date is 9-5 thru 10-1. Keeping the outdoor space, but reducing it a little. The facade will have new windows and tuck-pointing. He has a 10 yr lease and two 5 year renewal options. The deck structure will be removed, a rooftop deck added. Closing will be 10:00pm during the week, 11:00pm on weekends. It's primarily a restaurant, not a bar. Behind Crosby's there is another small dinner-only restaurant, 65- 70 seats, Mediterranean focused with lots of veggies, some seafood. No children's menu, aimed at adults. Expansion on Roscoe will have some glass.

P&D Discussion - 1445 W. Roscoe, Tom Kelley, P&D Committee Chair

Tom stated that in reality zoning is very important. Zoning drives what our neighborhood looks like. We put a height cap on bldgs at one point and then the city downzoned most of the neighborhood, it's now R3.5 and R4. Zoning involves the FAR restriction. After rezoning our neighborhood became mostly single homes. There is now demand to add more multi-unit bldgs. Our group does not really like to grant zoning changes, the Alderman decides ultimately. We make recommendations to the Aldermen and they decide. Developers want to erect a 3 unit condo bldg. at 1445 W. Roscoe. We have recommended to the Alderman that he not approve those plans. We objected to the size and design. 1445 W. Roscoe is now currently R3.5, needs R4. They want 3 units, 38 ft height, 630 sq ft larger than what is there now. Developers changed the plan so that rear yard facilitates trash dumpsters, lowered patio to ground level, added nice streetscape. Developers stated that if they don't get the R4 they won't buy the property.

Q: What is the "compelling" reason for the rezone?

A: This bldg should be torn down and replaced with nicer bldg. There hasn't been a new bldg built on this block that hasn't been up-zoned.

Q: On pg 4, is this the proposed bldg and surrounding bldgs.?

A: Yes

Comment: You came to the P&D committee, these are still the same plans. You have not made changes that the P&D committee asked be made.

A: (by developer) We don't feel that this is necessary for a new bldg. In our opinion we don't need to shorten the bldg. We don't want to, the bldg is longer but still within zoning.

Q: There are 2 other new bldgs. on that block, are they as long as yours?

A: Yes, they are the same or longer.

A neighbor, Stephanie Reynolds, made a statement that it will ruin her back yard and other neighbors. The bldg will cut off sun light. We don't want this over-built bldg on our block. This only benefits the developer, not the neighborhood. This spot zoning is all around the neighborhood, these anomalies will be used to justify rezoning of the whole neighborhood. We're losing affordable housing in this area.

There were two votes taken – members only, everyone present. Members only vote: for – 5, against – 22. All present vote: for – 8, against – 31. Approval of rezoning failed.

Cubs Update, Heather Way-Kitzes - Govt relations/neighborhood relations

4 wks from today is opening, magnatomitors will be installed and everyone will have to go thru them. Arrive early and enter the gate that is on your ticket. Don't bring a bag if you don't need to. Demolition of McDonald's

is under way. A lot of truck traffic will be there for the next 4 wks. Concerts, 7 this yr, will start in June. April 23rd is Race to Wrigley and it does come through WLVN. Neighbors@ cubs.com is where she can be contacted. The big speakers on top of the video board have been removed permanently. Entertainers bring in their own equipment. Plaza is open air with a water feature, 25,000 sq ft, There is a working community group to discuss this plaza.

Next meeting is May 9th.