



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lake View Neighbors Meeting March 9, 2020; 7:00pm; Butcher's Tap; 18 present

Please note: All dates are pending due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Jeff Goad, President, called the meeting to order 7:24pm

Cubs Update-Heather Way-Kitzes, Government & Neighborhood Relations

Announcements - home opener is March 30th, 3:10, Pittsburgh Pirates

Night games up to Memorial Day, and after Labor Day will start at 6:30pm

Special ticket offer, School Night Special, ticket and hotdog included

This Sat. St. Patrick's Day party in the plaza

Five concerts are currently scheduled

Swift and Sons Tavern on the corner will open March 30th, opening day

Sara Feigenholtz, State Senator

Recently appointed to Senator Cullerton's seat

Agenda: We have to get the casino bill finalized

Capital bills to pay for infrastructure and one for schools. We must deal with property tax hikes. These bills must be passed.

The Real ID has raised lots of question. A mobile Real ID will be available this Sat. at Center on Halsted

Jeff: Real IDs are safer than carrying a passport for domestic flights.

Sara: Funding education. Fair tax would separate it from property taxes. We have one of the greenest districts in the state. Ann Williams is author and sponsor of the Clean Air Act. Bike Trail bill requires money be set aside for bike lanes and trails. Getting additional police for the community and public transportation is important. We have a FB page.

Q: You send out an electronic newsletter?

A: Yes

Q: You're trying to eliminate the tax on property taxes for school funding?

A: Yes, replacing it with the casino tax.

Sara: You will have a vote on the ballot for graduated taxes in IL. We need to look at how we tax things in the state.

Comment: Appreciate the effort on the mobile ID. The downtown, 69 W. Washington, office doesn't do Real IDs.

Sara: Make sure you bring all the original documents, not copies, you need this Sat.

Q: What should we be concerned about?

A: We consolidated pensions in downstate IL. The casino bill was to take care of the Chicago pension shortfall. If we don't fix it, our property taxes will go up. We have a lot of schools that need repairs and upgrades in this neighborhood.

Q: Where will we have sports betting in the neighborhood?

A: I don't know right now. The Cubs will be involved.

Q: How does this relate to us?

A: We will get a significant amount of money from this. Chicago is a great tourist town and a centrally located casino would also be a good thing. Navy Pier is the city's busiest tourist site. This neighborhood supplies a lot of money for the city, the largest outside of downtown. We need to bring the gambling back into IL.

LV Chamber - Dillon Goodson, Executive Director

Annual meeting, this Weds, at Athenaeum Theatre. Beverages and food, info on Chamber web site, lakeviewchamber.com. LV Restaurant Week coming up this month, Chamber site has restaurants.

Q: What is the new furniture on the streets?

A: People Spots are for people to linger and enjoy. Sidewalk seating elements, sit, relax, eat. Location is at the point by the Starbucks at Paulina and Lincoln.

Q: Could there be a financial incentive to keep storefronts open?

A: It's more of a state issue. Some commercial owners are getting tax relief for empty store space. Working with other chambers to get this discussed with the state. The Cook County Board has made the requirements stricter for this relief.

Q: So this is better than renting the spaces?

A: Sometimes it can be thousands of dollars for the owner.

Sara: We're talking about affordable housing. This is supported by the mayor, county and state

Dillon: We need to engage legislators. Other cities have created solutions that might work here.

44th Ward, Chris Jessup

Shredding event is this Sat and Oct 24th. Last week there were 374 police in the 19th. Call the city and email complaints, copy the Alderman. The temporary police superintendent is not staying.

Q: Who will be the new superintendent?

A: Not absolute right now, maybe a woman from Aurora, Colorado.

Q: What about security on CTA property?

A: The canine unit was discontinued for the time being. The city is revamping those policies. The canine unit may be replaced with another contractor. Swat teams are being employed.

Comment: Swat teams are impressive at stations.

Q: Can you send out a sample letter of what to say about the police shortage?

A: Yes, we can do that.

Comment from Sara: We have self-defense classes and meetings in which criminals discuss how and why you are a target and why specific properties are.

47th Ward, Michael Sewell, Director of Community Services

Was involved in WLVN

West of Ashland the LV2 permits will be coming. Get it before March 30th.

Block party application is online. It's possible for someone from the Alderman's office to come and demonstrate how to use the 311 app on your phone. Sign up for Clean and Green day, April 25th.

Events: Green Council, tomorrow night at Sulzer Library. March 2nd is Open Wall, an art showing at the alderman's office. March Night Out with the Alderman will be at Burning Bush Bar.

April 19th, shredding event in Jewel Parking lot across the street from the alderman's office.

Donations of bedding and books are being collected at the Alderman's office.

We have a Youth Council, Transit Committee, Green Council and several others. Check these out on our website.

Q: What about the Chicago recycling program?

A: Alderman Martin requested a review of the recycling program. Commercial bldgs. and large residential bldgs. should have their own recycling requirements. Inspector General's office is reviewing. We need to reduce waste more than we do now. Like restaurants not supplying plastic ware if not asked for.

Q: What's considered contaminated in recycling bins?

A: Things like pizza boxes, no food should be on any items. A sign can be put on a bin that says the bin is grossly contaminated and it won't be emptied.

Q: The producer of the most cardboard is Amazon. Can this be reduced? There should be a location to return the cardboard.

Michael: We have also sponsored an environmental statement in city council.

Garfield's Beverage - Dave Garfield, Adam Silverstein, owners

Wants to open a liquor store at 3200 N. Lincoln (prior American Mattress location). Two locations now in the city. Craft beers, wines. Well lit, organized. Asking for a special use permit and not rezoning.

Q: How will you have deliveries and drop-offs, the street is already crowded?

A: We will try to have the least amount of impact.

Q: How will you handle time of day, size of truck?

Jeff: You can request time of day, and smaller trucks. The Pony has their drop-offs so it will not be crowded.

Dave: It's a challenge.

Q: Isn't it close to Bitter Pops?

A: Yes, it will be competition, but not a problem. We have a strong business model.

Q: Are you planning on deliveries?

A: We do offer 1 hour delivery and do it ourselves.

Q: What kind of build out are you looking for and what is ceiling height?

A: The upstairs is office space. The ceiling height will be 11 to 12'. The wall shelf height is 54"

Q: Is there any place for storage?

A: Yes, the basement. And there is a vaulted sidewalk.

Jeff: We'll talk among the P&D committee and let you know. Since this is not a rezoning it's less involved.

Next meeting is May 11th.