

# West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012; Mystic Celt: 7:00

Will DeMille, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15.

## **Agenda:**

### **Cook County Commissioner – 10<sup>th</sup> District, Bridget Gainer:**

Redistricting has been completed, her district changed little. Loss of population on the north side caused more realignment in other districts. Budget deliberations won't be completed until Oct. She is Chair of the Pension Subcommittee. Information on specifics as to how the fund has become under funded can be found on [openpensions.org](http://openpensions.org). Her proposal is to provide a stable retirement for employees. Changes may be made to the retirement age and higher employee contributions. Forums have been held. Her goal is to maintain a defined benefit plan.

Foreclosures of vacant buildings. The banks must maintain vacant properties. Cook County had 50,000 foreclosure filings last year. The creation of a Cook county land bank, that can accept property and act as a stabilizer, order demolitions, create rental programs, especially single family homes, rehab and sale the properties, is in the works. The attorney general has funding to start these programs. [Bridgetgainer.com](http://Bridgetgainer.com) has info on property tax appraisal appeals.

### **Electricity choices and energy efficiency for residents:**

Ann McCabe, Acting Commissioner of the Illinois Commerce Commission

We do have a choice of an electricity provider, ComEd, alternate providers, or real-time pricing (best for those who can shift their use during the day to off peak hours). [PluginIllinois.org](http://PluginIllinois.org) has a lot of info, prices, length of term, termination fees, etc. Bills still come from ComEd, service would still be ComEd. Contracts usually run for a year from other providers. About 10% of ComEd customers have switched.

Sarah Moskowitz, CUB, Citizens Utility Board, representative

Works on behalf of utility customers. There are over 20 electricity providers. There have been choices in the natural gas market, but about 93% of the alternative gas providers are worse than Peoples Gas.

ComEd rates will be redone next June, so their rates may improve. She supplied 2 handouts, one explaining the real-time pricing program and the May 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter from CUB.

In the Real time pricing program, you're charged for the actual cost of exactly when you use it, time of use, instead of an average. The cost fluctuates during the day, but ComEd averages the standard consumer's bill. Real time pricing would require a new meter.

Smart grid is going forward.

### **Alderman Tunney:**

Max Bever, an aide of the alderman's, relayed the alderman's viewpoint regarding the plans from the Cubs organization, and what the mayor's plan includes. Alderman Tunney wants to make sure he's on the community's side, and quality of life issues are a priority. Tunney went to Fenway to see what was done in Boston. NATO delegates will be traveling to Wrigley Field, street closures are on web. Street cleaning notices and night games can be had with web notices. Hug Chicago painted the Roscoe pedway and will paint another one, Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 11-3 pm, volunteers can call Max.

### **Cubs update:**

Jennifer Dedes-Nowak

Gave 30 tickets to the meeting attendees for a Cubs game.

4 concerts are planned, June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. and 2 in Sept. All are Friday and Saturday evenings. Tickets for neighbors will require a special code in order to purchase tickets.

Cubs.com/neighbors will have the required code. July 8<sup>th</sup> will be a Blues Brothers possibility or a daytime soccer game.

Cubs have made a concert donation in the past of \$75,000, for any additional night games. The Sheffield closures were denied last year for street festivals. As part of Wrigley Field renovations Sheffield might be closed. Triangle property for multi-purpose bldg. has stalled out. Neighbors don't want parking. It's back in planning stages.

### **LVCC Update:**

LVCC annual meeting is May 22nd, at the Laugh Factory.

### **New WLVN website overview:**

John Lyons reviewed the new site. Members will have a log-in area for special offers, events. Polls will be a regular section, vendors, Latest Events, minutes, lots of dropdown choices.

### **Rock Around the Block Festival update:**

2 community meetings will review it with Star Events, May 22nd and June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm at the Lincoln/Belmont library. The festival will be July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, on Lincoln, from Belmont to Roscoe.

**CAPS update:**

Terri Hanley announced the new, monthly beat meetings. Updates from the 1924 meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> were that NATO attendees and delegates would be going to Wrigley Field for the Friday or Saturday games, and that public transportation would be slowed.

**New Business introductions:**

Dinkel's Café- will open beside Dinkel's Bakery, N. Lincoln Ave. Luke Carl, general manager, stated the opening will be mid-July. Menu will include simple sandwiches, salads, quiche, etc.

Evolution Liquors, N. Lincoln – Brian Rosen, owner, was present. Will open June or July, once current business is evicted. Will do wine tasting events. Will have a wine channel television program. Sales are 78% wine. Hours are noon until 10:00pm. Parking spaces will be upgraded.