



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2016; 7:00pm; Butcher's Tap; 20 people present

Jeff Goad, board member, called the meeting to order at 7:09pm

44th Ward Update

no one present from Alderman's office

47th Ward Update

no one present from Alderman's office

Library Update - Dick Donalek, head librarian at Lincoln Belmont Branch

lots of activities, June 20 - Sept 1, Explore on the Go; On the Table - meetings around the city discuss anything on your mind regarding the community; children and teen volunteers; Summer Learning Challenge through Rahm's Readers, June 20 - Sept. 1, has tutor help or someone who can answer questions on ACA healthcare on Weds. Website updates can be found at chipublib.org/summer. He asked for ideas on what we want at the library, email him at: dohnalek@chipublib.org

Lake View Live Concerts - Dillon Goodson, LVCC, SSA 27 Program Manager

Dillon reviewed background of the LAMP (Lakeview Area Master Plan) plan - he mentioned that the Lincoln/Roscoe/Paulina business area was recommended for community events. Art music and play: cater to families: other businesses wanted to interact with people, not at family events. Businesses have recently discussed local entertainment, beer, food. Goal is to present the neighborhood as hip, lively and unique.

LVCC is proposing family friendly events on Thursday evenings, June 16, July 21, Aug 18th, 5:30 - 8:30pm, will feature live music, all types. Craft beer and wine available; business presence; sidewalk sales; a couple of food tents; amps if the musicians want it; 500 people expected. Funding is from Chamber, maybe the SSA. Not expecting a profit. Road closure needed, and the alderman has asked the Chamber to acquire approval from WLVN.

Response from residents:

Kathryn DeGraff and Joe Gallina of 1703 W. Henderson introduced themselves and spoke to the neighborhood's experience with the Sunday Spots that took place last fall at this same location of Paulina/Lincoln/Roscoe. As with the Sunday Spots these concerts will be positioned right outside residential windows and the noise levels in those residences is expected to be quite high.

One concern was that since there is no designated spot off the street for such events (as Giddings Plaza in Lincoln square or the North Center location on Belle Plaine) that closing Paulina at rush hour means inconveniencing those who are not attending the event and that attendees will be spilling into residential areas. The continuing use of only Paulina for such events as these concerts and Sunday Spots, with no consideration of other possible alternative locations, is a major concern for residents. Other locations were suggested – the Y parking lot, Chase Bank parking lot, Melrose Parking lot by the library, Marshfield adjacent to Whole Foods.

They thanked the Chamber for taking some of the Henderson neighbors' concerns into account after a meeting with them. The Chamber agreed to explore changing the direction of music amps to point away from residential bldgs., will review other locations for the Sunday Spot events, delete the last proposed concert date, and change to slightly earlier hours.

Terri Hanley introduced herself as a resident of the 1700 block of W. Henderson and stated that her concern is that there is a hidden agenda. She stated that some people know the Chamber has met with Ald. Pawar's office to discuss permanently blocking off that stretch of Paulina and making it a "people initiative location", that's a euphemism for plaza. Paulina is a busy two-way street. Period. At that point she said she had planned to invite someone from the Chamber to tell all present, right then, that the Chamber has no plans and would not participate in any such project, and she would like to hear the same thing from the Ald's rep. But, since there was no one from Ald. Pawar's office and Dillon was the only person from the Chamber, and he's a new employee, she didn't feel that he should have to be responsible for responding.

She added other possible locations to the list: Roscoe, Cornelia/Lincoln, the 3400 block of Paulina, and Melrose at Lincoln. All of these are commercial properties. She asked which businesses, exactly, asked for this event to be on this strip of Lincoln? There's a dentist there and it's the back of Starbucks, a corporation. There are no vacant storefronts between Melrose and Roscoe, they're occupied, being rehabbed, or new construction is happening. She had a copy of the LAMP report and quoted a bullet point on the "General Recommendation" page that states: "create a more visible and usable plaza at the north side of School and Lincoln Ave." Then, she turned to another page in that same section that showed an illustration of this proposed plaza on Marshfield going north from the intersection of School/Lincoln/Marshfield. When this plan was presented to WLVN 5 or 6 years ago, someone mentioned that the plaza would block off access to the Whole Foods loading dock. Terri pointed out that the Chamber could take down the raised garden bed they had paid to have installed on that Lincoln/Marshfield point, block off the 14' sidewalk on the east side of the Brundage building, install one of their benches, and have a permanent plaza, beside business zoned properties. Special events, such as the Sunday Spots and concerts, are held on weekends and evenings, so Marshfield could be temporarily blocked off and the events would have a larger space than Paulina, on a one-way street that dead ends into School, and is not nearly as busy as Paulina. The YMCA and Building Blocks toy store would probably want to participate during the Sunday Spot events.

Q: At the L/B/A intersection meeting at St. Luke's last month one of the CDOT reps said that making Paulina a cul-de-sac wouldn't happen, so why the concern?

A: Terri – I was at that meeting, too, and heard that statement, but aldermen have been known to change the city’s position on projects, and that’s my concern.

Comment: I like the events there.

Comment: Chicago streets were laid out to facilitate traffic flow, and Paulina is one of the north/south streets important in this plan.

Comment: We should break this into separate items to be voted on.

Two motions were made.

First: WLVN should have advance, meaningful, dialogue with the Chamber and input on any future site determinations for this music series and any other planned outdoor activities.

Vote: For – 11, Opposed - 6

Second: WLVN will not support the plans for the concert series and Sunday Spots in the current location, the 3300 hundred block of N. Paulina, a residential street, behind Starbucks.

Vote: For – 9, Opposed - 8

Lincoln/Belmont/Ashland Intersection –

Will be on hold until the street construction in the area is completed: has narrowed down to a couple of plans. Paul Sajovic, board member reviewed the meeting a month ago that showed the preferred plan. Some elements are: extending the curbs out to cut down space in the intersection, eliminating left turns off of Lincoln, must wait for IDOT approval, expecting 2018 start, will carry streetscape design from the surrounding streets, use federal funding, city’s portion of funding would be 20 %. Info is on the WLVN website.

Q: Prohibiting left turns? Is it a good idea?

A: There is a rating system for intersections, this one is an F right now. How can more traffic get through safely, that left turn holds people up. The side streets will get more traffic, but people will get used to it. Jeff stated that the #1 priority is pedestrian safety. The really long crosswalks stop the traffic for a long time. The bike lane will be extended across the intersection.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Update –

No one present. Patrick Doloughty, board member, said, in regards to gardening, that free saplings are available at 3500 Howard, Thurs , 9-12noon//rain barrels will be available.

Lakeview Chamber Update – Dillon Goodson

The farmers market at the Southport station is returning , 15 - 20 vendors like Green City, Thursdays, 3-8:00pm

Comment: has good traffic at the station

Jeff recommended the farmer’s market

Q&A

Q: Any street festivals?

A: Yes, Taco Fest on Southport in Sept.

Cubs Update - Heather Way Kitzes –

Cubs in 1st place right now; opening day went well; Cubs charities hosted Race to Wrigley and another event; raised 2 million dollars; gave out \$50,000 to local schools; gave out 1million dollars across the city including the LV pantry, Run Away Safeline; Levy Restaurants filed for patio license to sell alcohol in the plaza.

Q&A

Q: With this permit is the controversy liquor?

A: think it's the late hour for closing

Q: Who are tenants on patio?

A: it's owned by the Rickett family

Q: How much seating in the plaza

A: 4-6,000

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm

Next meeting is July 11th.