

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012; 7:00pm; Mystic Celt; 20 people present

Will DeMille, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05

State Representative Ann Williams

A special session adjourned in May, the main topic was the budget. The major program discussed was Medicaid, and was revised this year. What didn't happen was action on the state pension issue. We have a huge pension liability due to nonpayment from the state. Several proposals were put forth. The local school districts would be responsible for pensions in one of the proposals. Representative Williams feels the local shift should be done, but she didn't support either. She feels it must be fair, it must be constitutional, address the system of the pension fund, and address the current liability. She's in favor of a mandate that the state must make payments. Deleting the COLA will possibly be processed. She feels a resolution will be reached. She asked for perspectives from us.

Return to Springfield end of November.

Locally, her office is 1726 W. Belmont. She shares an office with Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey. Coffee and conversation will be Sept. 22nd at Safari Cup, at 10:00am. She's concerned about the deletion of the #11 Lincoln bus. Small business resource workshop includes financial assistant, like marketing plans, financial planning, buying new equipment, hiring, loans. Sat. Sept 29th, 9 – 12.

Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey

The county is in good shape. In 2010 there was a half billion dollar deficit. The roll back on the sales tax was completed. There's still a 100 million dollar deficit, most of it for Stroger Hospital. People come from other counties to the hospital. The coming budget will be tight, but he will not vote for a property tax hike. He agrees with making arrests for a small amount of marijuana, it should be just a ticket, because tens of millions of dollars would be saved from court costs.

His working group has combined city and county services and saved millions. Cook County has a separate recorder of deeds and the clerk's office, he backed that the bill that would have merged these two, but it fell short. As for indigent burials, he wants the county to take over the

cemetery operations and save millions. He reviewed tax appeal workshops. Lakeview Township is still open for appeal.

Does the county have a pension problem? Yes, it's significant and being reviewed. The problem was created over decades, governmental units did not keep up their responsibilities. Privatizing a lot of the county divisions is a possibility. Loopholes of pension payouts have been closed.

Energy Impact Illinois, Rob Geltner 847-845-1900

What are some of the programs being put into place. 855-9-IMPACT, energyimpactillinois.org

It's an alliance of governments, non-profits, and utilities, to get funds back to homeowners. All homeowners qualify; single family homes, 2-4 unit bldgs., condo owners. At the residence, information of energy efficiency will be explained, by a trained and certified workforce. Reduced cost of in-home usage with air sealing and insulation average \$2,500. The dept of energy offers a \$1,750 rebate. The program saves \$500 a year. Assessment is \$99. If you host a house party for an informational presentation you will get a free assessment.

Paul Sajovic from Alderman Waguespack office and Bennett Lawson from Ald Tunney's

Paul reviewed the new Ward numbers on voter registration cards. He said to continue with your current Alderman. The vote finalizing redistricting is still not known. Alderman Waguespack is advocating the continuation of the #11 Lincoln bus.

Bennett introduced Erin Duffey as the new neighborhood representative. The 44th Ward isn't changing much with the redistricting. Grid garbage pick-up begins Monday, the 17th. A question was asked about Southport being an entertainment zone or district. Bennett said there's no city designation of entertainment zone or district. A complaint of Schoolyard Tavern was voiced.

Cubs Update

Jennifer Hewes-Novak. Wrigleyville Neighbors event will be scheduled soon. The concert was successful. Cubs may be a major contributor of the 1230 W. School St. park. Cubs are building another field at Lane Tech High School.

2012 Mutt Strut, Stacey Thomas from Dogoholics

It will be on Newport, from Southport east. It's Saturday, September 29th, with lots of contests. The entrance is by donation, the 1.5 mile walk registration is \$35.

School Street Playlot Updates

The playlot is at 1230 W. School. It was 3 separate lots and all have now be purchased. The Cubs may cover the design of the park. Money needs to be raised for additional features, such as a water feature. A flyer was available with Sunday 23rd as a clean-up day for the lots, 10:00 to 11:00am. Check the website for info. It may be open by next year.

LVCC Update

Crime is increasing in Lakeview, so a Crime Committee will be established.

Lakeview Chamber Update, Heather Way, Director

There will be an event on Saturday, Sept 29th on the west side Southport CTA station. Free sandwiches will be offered, neighbors are asked to bring a dessert. A market will be there next year, with produce, locally made foods, it will start next June, 3-8:00pm. Halloween event is on the website. The empty Ann Sathers restaurant will be torn down.

Library Update, Dick Donalek, Manager

Dick supplied a flyer with new hours. He has increased children's story time. Attendance is one of the largest in the city at this branch. Computer capabilities have been expanded. The library is a Safe Haven for school age children of all ages. It's trying to be a part of the community.

CAPS Update

Terri Hanley announced the 1922 beat meeting will be Sept. 19th at 2509 W. Irving Park, Revere Park Clubhouse. The 1924 beat meeting will be Oct. 3rd, 850 W. Addison, 19th District Police Station. Handouts were left at the sign-in table.