



WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS

THE VOICE OF WEST LAKEVIEW

West Lakeview Neighbors Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016; 7:00pm; Butcher's Tap; 23 people present

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

Representative Ann Williams, 11th District

Believes graduated tax hikes are politically difficult. Other option is service taxes. The state's tax system is antiquated. Ill doesn't tax retirement income. Funding formula for education is very complicated. She wants the system revamped. Chicago schools are shortchanged. The pension system is antiquated also. Skipping payments is not a good idea at all. Options are not all doable. Payments must be paid.

Alderman Tom Tunney, 44th Ward

Property tax increases are mainly to cover municipal pensions - for police, fire, city employees. Water bills will be increased to pay for some of this. Have a plan now to fully fund the 4 municipal pensions. Revenue sources outside property taxes are being looked at. Chicago is not the highest city in the country for water bills. CTA TIF is increment financing. The new TIF is to cover a local match of 2.1 billion dollars to rebuild the R/P line. The CTA is providing 400 million dollars. Hearing tomorrow night to discuss who's paying and it's basically ½ mile on each side of the tracks. School TIF money will not be cut for schools. The meeting is at 2323 N. Sheffield, Sullivan Athletic Cntr. At 6:00pm.

Q: What was the original justification for the fly-over?

A: It's not reducing the transit time, Belmont is the nexus of the north side - the number of cars can be increased to cover the increase in passengers.

Q: The CTA had stated that a turn-around at Belmont would be part of the project. That's a separate track, that's already there at Belmont just north of the station, and the Brown Line trains would be emptied, pull onto this track and then head back south to the Loop during rush hours. This would mean that even fewer trains would be using the flyover during rush hours. The prior CTA president explained this turn-around track. What happened to that?

A: I don't know any specifics.

Alderman comment: I did vote for the tax water increase. Hears nothing to suggest some cuts, it doesn't make any sense to make cuts, Streets and Sans and Forestry, 80% are payroll costs and keep going up. 50% of the budget is public safety, 35 – 40 %. Garbage is now a separate cost, so the service must be better.

You need to have a water meter. If you don't, call the Water Dept and get one.

Q: What's with crime?

A: Have been, and will be additions in the 19th district. In the near future there will be more officers, and more hours of coverage.

Comment: Water bills are not extreme, but we have the highest sales tax and gasoline tax in the country.

Tunney: The overall burden of taxes compared to other midwest cities is not extreme.

Q: People are leaving the city, aren't they?

A: City lost 6-10% according to the 2010 census.

Q: We should have full staffing in police. Are we getting the best level of service from the taxes we pay? In the amount of productivity with construction, do you see us hamstrung with restrictions?

A: Some water mains are done by the city and some done by contractors. Some projects in this ward are public sector jobs.

Q: What is the quality of work?

A: Racine is an example. We watch the jobs, what should be done first, most correctly? We've coordinated the steps of the street construction.

Comment: The problems are collapses, lower water pressure, etc.

Tunney: We try to stay on top of it more than any ward in the city.

Comment: There is a serious lack of expertise and oversight from the water dept.

Comment: When there's a big rain there's a backup of water, the new drains have slits in them and it seems to back up quicker.

Comment: In defense of the city, the street sweeper comes by 5 times a year now, residents have to take on some responsibility for keeping the gutters cleared. If everyone cleaned the gutter in front of their house, there wouldn't be any drain clogs.

Comment: The slit drains need to be reviewed so that the water drains faster.

Tunney: I clean the drains around my ward. I want to make sure that the blockage isn't any more serious than leaves and trash. If it's cleaned off and the water is still backed up, then the Water Dept. needs to check it. Gets the design issue, it does need to be reviewed.

Q: Is there a way to work with the contractors to get them to keep the gutters and streets clean? They wash sand and cement into the gutters then it washes down to the street drain and causes problems.

A: The Public Way Inspector visits the site and reviews the process, and will fine them.

47th Ward Update

No one present.

Officer Tom Walsh from the 19th Police Precinct

Stated that an arrest has been made for the robbery of a police officer.

Q: Star and gun recovered?

A: Yes.

Q: Is crime in this area increasing statistically?

A: Overall it's pretty much the same as last yr. The entertainment area is getting hit the hardest. Undercover cops got drug dealers off the street. Crimes happen late at nights, want cell phones.

Q: Will there ever be beat cops again?

A: We do have beat cops, the beats are just bigger since the merger.

Q: Tunney mentioned a liquor license was revoked, which business was that?

A: Heard him say that, don't know what location he's talking about.

Sept 21st is the next CAPS beat meeting,

Will comment: Educate your neighbors about the CAPS meetings. Contact him and he will give you the people's numbers if you want to get involved. The LVCC also has a Crime Committee.

Lee Crandall, Director, LV Chamber of Commerce

Events: Taco Fest is this weekend, 11-7:00, 14 taco vendors.

Sunday Spots are this month, every Sunday in Sept, 10am-2pm, at Lincoln and Marshfield.

Halloween with Trick or Treating on Southport. The plans may change due to the Cubs playoffs. The city may cancel it. The Monday 10-31 will be the date. Kids can come after school. Business news – taxes, educational panel for businesses.

New businesses in the neighborhood: Tuco and Blondie, Bare Burger will open next month, Real Good Juice will open this winter on Southport.

Three Lakeview Live concerts at Roscoe/Lincoln/Paulina. We were going for a low key type of event. Were well attended.

Q: In future would you look at other locations for that, it is a residential area, perhaps the Lincoln Marshfield corner.

Lee: that's why we moved the Sunday Spots and we did tweak the concert layout to help neighbors.

Will – How do you feel about Capital One and Amazon Books moving in?

A: The Chamber is opposed to Capital One getting a special use zoning variance but they might not need one.

Q: Are they taking only part of the space?

A: Not that we know.

Will comment: We will have more details at the November meeting

Cubs – Heather Way-Kitzes

Make sure everyone is on the Cubs neighbors mailing list, passed out sign-up cards. The list is strictly for neighbors of Wrigley Field. People can sign up in future. Presale notices will be included in emails. Last home game 9-25th, will be the ESPN game of the week. Plaza head count has been approved.

Tom Kelley, P&D Committee Chair

3462 N. Lincoln, the vote was close in the July meeting, number of units, how high, the width of the alley were all concerns. The developers have reduced the height to 50', made it 18 apts, and reduced alley space they will take. 3220 N. Lincoln will be another TOD, this was the Fizz bar location. We look to keep the projects in line with the neighborhood. The breezeway topic has been reviewed.

Comment: We need to support our neighbors. We don't usually support the first plan that comes to us. The developers ask for the most, biggest plan they can imagine, but most can be revised.

Rep for Gary Mandell, running against Ann Williams, was present, and handed out material.