

**Minutes
Wicker Park Committee
Membership Meeting
April 4, 2007
Location: Bucktown Wicker Park Library**

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

I. MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There were no minutes from the March 7, 2007 meeting. March meeting was a social event.

II. OLD BUSINESS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Topic: WPC Cultural Events and Sponsorship Survey

Discussion: E. Coorens asked all in attendance to pick up this survey at the front desk, complete it and return it by the end of the meeting. She discussed that these results will help in the planning of events and activities for the WPC. Participation is appreciated.

Action: Complete surveys and turn them back in at the end of the meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Topic: Filter issue

Discussion: E. Coorens brought up the issue that the Filter Coffee shop is closing and that it is thought that another bank is going up in its place. J. Peterson, member of the SSA, reported that the SSA is awaiting a formal statement from Alderman Flores regarding clarification of a zoning ordinance that you cannot have one bank within 600 ft of another bank. It was discussed that even if Filter did take a private buy out option, maybe something else besides a bank could be put in its place. It was also discussed that there is no definite information on the second floors.

Action: Discussion to be continued with Alderman Flores later in the meeting.

B. Topic: I want I need

Discussion: A member discussed that she needed the city services to look at the issue of asphaltting the alleys. Since the asphaltting of her alley, she has had water in her basement. Her request is that the asphalt be removed; our alleys be volunteered for the rubber experiment that is to be done with the sidewalks in the city; and/or keep our alleys brick. There was discussion about the green alley project in the city.

Action: Issue will be forward to aldermen's offices.

**IV. PROGRAM: SLIDE PRESENTATION OF MILWAUKEE THEN AND NOW... ELAINE COORENS
PRESERVATION ON MILWAUKEE AVENUE
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ALDERMAN MANNY FLORES**

Discussion: E. Coorens presented a slide show of buildings on Milwaukee-past buildings, destroyed buildings and current buildings.

J. Fine, Preservation Chicago, described Milwaukee Avenue as having a large number of intact and historic buildings and it is considered to be on the endangered list for preservation.

Alderman Flores showed a map of a proposed Landmark district. He discussed that both the WPC and East Village Associations will work with him to make this project work-to make Milwaukee Avenue a premier destination showcasing arts, history and independent businesses. He discussed that he is committed to any city project or benefits with the input from the community. He feels he has been working with the community and feels it is working well and he says he will continue to do this. He discussed specific areas on Milwaukee Avenue:

-Pizza hut is closed-his office has contacted the owners regarding plans-no info as of yet. It is in their property rights that they could build a 4 story building.

-Vacant land next to MB bank-development could be done on surface parking lot.

-Burger King closed. His office has already said no to a request for a bank with a drive through. They could still put up a bank without a drive through. Ordinance says no new curb cuts.

-Mautene Court-could now be a green space-community park area, shopping, outdoor art gallery; SSA on parks is

working on a park design. This used to be a corridor connecting Milwaukee and Division-a very busy intersection that could be more appealing, safe and comfortable. Infrastructure needs work.

-Pedestrian retail ordinance-his office has asked for an analysis from dept of planning regarding having a bank within certain feet from another bank

-Wood and Milwaukee-Alderman Flores discussed that this is only a proposed development. A planned development application has been filed-no zoning or planned development has been agreed upon. WPC will be referred to. This proposal will be reviewed in the context of the Milwaukee Avenue Preferred Development.

Alderman Flores took questions/comments from the audience:

-Member felt that there needed to be more done for the preservation of artists' areas. Ald Flores discussed that he is trying to work/promote/ support spaces for artists; use of vacant lots; trying to increase capacity of Around the Coyote. SSA and Chamber is looking out for artists. Difficulty arises in balancing with property owners.

-Filter Coffee-he is not sure if the ordinance Pedestrian retail can apply; if it does, an applicant can still apply for a Special Use Permit which can still be granted or denied. Filter entered into a private contract and he does not know what else can be done about it.

-Wood and Milwaukee parcel-numerous concerns were expressed why this parcel of land is left out of proposed landmark map. Concerns in size and density were expressed. Ald Flores said it is not left out but is being looked at in the context of having Milwaukee Avenue as a premier destination-he did discuss that the proposal that he saw is a 7 story building with a parking component. He emphasized that this proposal is still up for review and there will be community meetings to review this proposal. Meetings may start as early as next week.

-Availability of programs or incentives for owners to bring in independent businesses. Ald Flores said there were a few grants but not enough. More resources are needed for this.

-Landmarking to cover Division-this is still being discussed. There is a cluster of noncontributing buildings in this area.

-Timeline of landmarking of Milwaukee Avenue-

Dept of Planning has told Alderman's Flores office that it could be done as soon as May 2007.

Alderman Flores encouraged WPC to contact his office with any questions or concerns -773-278-0101.

Adjournment time: 8:55 pm

IV. MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR

Next WPC membership meeting is May 2, 2007-social event.

Watch for location.

Pat Linnerud
Secretary