

**Minutes  
Wicker Park Committee  
Membership Meeting  
July 11, 2007  
Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

**I. MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

- A. Minutes of the June 6, 2007 meeting were approved.
- B. E. Coorens, President WPC announced that this meeting included students from Northwestern and Loyola Universities, along with a member of the press.
- C. E. Coorens introduced Greg Liegel-he has volunteered to work on the WPC website.

**II. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS  
PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**Topic: Project: New Construction: 2221 West North Ave**

**Discussion:** C. Norris introduced this project as new construction in the side lot next to the old parsonage. The project's architect was present. The new construction will be a 3 story building- 2 condos(1600 sq feet each) and 1 commercial space with 3 parking spaces. The architect discussed that the building was kept to the character of the street in re: to height, brick, limestone, wood windows, etc. The discussion with the membership involves that the current zoning B-2 does not permit construction of this building. In addition, the developer is scheduled to present this building to Landmarks 7-12 at 1pm. Landmarks will only approve/disapprove the building-they do not deal with zoning changes. There was much discussion among the membership regarding the impact of changing the zoning; the lot should be left vacant as part of landmarking; density issue: and the corner building and the lot should be dealt with separately. WP Preservation & Development subcommittee recommended not voting for this building until the zoning issue is decided.

**Action:** Membership voted by written ballot to **disapprove the** new construction at **2221 West North Avenue. Vote stands:**

**YES: 7 NO: 14 ABSTAIN: 0**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**Topic: I want I need**

**Discussion:** No needs or wants this meeting  
**Action:** Followup at next meeting

#### **IV. PROGRAM**

##### **A. Topic: Bucktown/Wicker Park Library**

**Discussion:** Nanette Alleman, Head Librarian reviewed the Library summer events:

Books, movies, dvds available

Kids summer reading program-chance to win a Tshirt

Adults summer reading program-chance to win a  
Coffee mug

Book club with authors speaking: 8/14-E. Coorens

Chicago Library Card gives you the opportunity for  
Free tickets, passes, lectures-ie Ravinia

Monthly book club-third Saturday of the month at  
11am; Book Club in a Bag is available  
for your own book club

**Action:** Review the handouts and/or come or call library for details of above events.

##### **B. Topic: Wicker Park Post Office Advisory Council**

**Discussion:** Bill Murray reported on the new council that he is a member of. It includes the new Chicago District Postmaster, Alderman Flores, 3 local post office branch managers and their bosses, and about a dozen users. He explained that the intent of the council is to have customers and postal employees work together on service problems. This Advisory Council has set up [www.WickerParkCouncil.com](http://www.WickerParkCouncil.com) as a way of collecting your complaints and for communicating back to you. For specific gripes or suggestions to the customer group, use [www.advisory\\_council@msn.com](mailto:www.advisory_council@msn.com)

**Action:** Bill Murray will update WPC from this council.

##### **C. Topic: Bloomingdale Trail & The Land for Public Trust**

**Discussion:** Jeff Greenspan from The Land for Public Trust discussed The Land for Public Trust is trying to acquire the land along the railroad line along Bloomingdale Avenue. The railroad line will be abandoned and will be turned over to the city. The Land for Public Trust will turn the land into a park for hiking, biking with access points along the way. He discussed that The Land for Public Trust and the city are committed to this project-it will involve both public and private funding for a quality design with community input. Currently there are 33 conceptual drawings of the park done by landscape design

students on display at ACME, Tues-Sat til the end of July for community viewing. There have been several group sessions to get community input, interests. Time frame for park is about 5-10 years-it had started about 4 years ago.

**Action:** E. Coorens will followup about having group session from Bloomingdale Trail at a WPC meeting. Community input survey can be found at [www.BloomingdaleTrail.org](http://www.BloomingdaleTrail.org).

**D. Topic: ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-Petrina Patti & Neil Levendusky**

**Discussion:** Members of the church discussed that it was decided that St. Paul's Church will be sold. It has been here since 1893, but membership has dwindled to less than 20 members. The income can no longer maintain the building. The members described that this is a unique situation where the congregation own the property and if the property is sold, the profits have to go to a non for profit purpose. The members described that they want to be good neighbors and they want a group to take the church that will do good for the neighborhood. They explained that the church still has funds and time to select the best buyer. The members explained that the Northwest Arts Council approached the congregation and asked for 3 months to check out the possibility of it as a community arts center.

**Action:** Members of St. Paul's Church will keep WPC updated.

**E. Topic: Proposed Performing Arts Center**

**Discussion:** Laura Weathered, Executive Director of Near Northwest Arts Council discussed that the non for profit community based organization is working with the congregation of St. Paul's Community Church to transform the church facility into a community arts center. She discussed that this is a unique opportunity for NNWAC to keep space for public use and arts activities. Currently, she said they are in the feasibility phase- looking at the structure; support from the city; identifying arts partners; surveying audience interest; sufficient resources for the undertaking. Issues discussed by members included: fundraisers, parking, future of building if arts center is sold, etc.

**Action:** WPC members to review Near Northwest Arts Council handout. Any comments, input see [www.laura@nwwac.org](mailto:www.laura@nwwac.org)  
E. Coorens will keep WPC updated of proposal.

Adjournment time: 9:00pm

**IV. MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR**

**There is no August meeting. The next meeting is  
September 12, 2007. Location to be announced.**

Pat Linnerud  
Secretary