

**Minutes
Wicker Park Committee
Membership Meeting
September 12 , 2007
Location: Bucktown Wicker Park Library**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

I. MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- A. Minutes of the July 9, 2007 meeting were approved. There was no membership meeting in August 2007.
- B. **Treasury Report**
 - J. Peterson reported that the financial balance to date is \$17,438.76.

II. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. COMMUNICATIONS

Topic:: Website Development

Discussion: E. Coorens introduced Greg Liegel-Greg volunteered to work on the WPC Website. He is looking for anyone willing to help; and also for feedback on what the community would want to see included on the Website. **Action:** If interested in volunteering or have any input, go to www.wickerparkcommittee.org and contact E. Coorens.

B. CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Topic: Antique & Junque Sale October 13, 2007

Discussion: E. Coorens reported that this annual event will be held on October 13, 2007. This year you can register to have a sale at your home; rent a table at Pritzker School; or donate your items to WPC. Donated items will be picked up at you home for the WPC table at Pritzker-proceeds will go to WPC. All leftover items will go to the Salvation Army. **Action:** Forms available at meeting to register for sale, table or donation or to volunteer to help with sale. For more info, call or email for details: Andrew Wozniak 312.804.9690; Rebecca Wright 312.804.9693; or A&JSale@wickerparkcommittee.org Watch for flyers!

C. PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1. Topic: Project: 1739 N Milwaukee

Discussion: C. Norris discussed that he wanted to bring to the community's attention that buildings such as this are zoned as M1 light manufacturing, but there has been efforts to get this type of building rezoned. This would change the purpose of these properties and would change the face of the neighborhood. Rezoning requests

go to the alderman, then the Preservation & Development Committees and then to WPC. Bucktown P&D is also aware of these efforts to change zoning. C. Norris discussed that every case is individual, but is helpful to be aware of these possible zoning request.

2. Topic: Project: 2225 West North

Discussion: T. Varndell reviewed the current status of this project-at the July 2007 WPC meeting, the membership voted against development of this project. WPC P&D had earlier voted to accept design of the building if it were to happen. A letter from WPC P&D was sent to Landmarks the vote from the WPC P&D. A second letter informing Landmarks that the WPC membership voted against the development was not sent. Landmarks proceeded to say that WPC was okay with the project. E. Coorens reported that she did discuss the votes with Landmarks, but it was not followed up. T. Varndell said that from this we learned that the WPC and WPC P&D do not get ahead of ourselves because of the timeframe of a developer. **Action:** Status report for next meeting.

3. Topic: Walgreens project

Discussion: C. Norris reported that Walgreens did not come to the last P&D meeting. As it stands now, a zoning change will not be requested. The project will proceed under Landmarks standards and it will be reviewed before WPC P&D. **Action:** Status report for next meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Topic: Bloomingdale Trail

Discussion: A resident reported on the issue that he found on this website that this trail project is planning to take over the Walsh dog park because of the need for an access point for the Trail. He was concerned that the entire information is not being presented to the community. He reported that the community worked hard to get that dog park and they want to keep it. E. Coorens reported that she had attended many meetings on this trail. She said they have been working on obtaining this land for 5-7 years and at this time there are no definite plans. The website includes numerous designs that are just ideas. **Action:** Status report will be given as new information is available.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Topic: I want I need

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

2. **Topic: Educational Institutions**

Discussion: **Josephinum Academy** discussed their upcoming fundraising event which includes a silent auction. Sister Martha Principal and Temple Lapp Director discussed the role of Josephinum as a Catholic Middle School and High School for girls with a long successful history in this area. If any businesses in the area would be interested in contributing to the silent auction, they would be appreciated. **Pritzker Beautification Project**-September 16 and 23 8am-1pm volunteers are being looked for to help with landscaping design and gardening to improve the curb appeal of Pritzker. Donations for new shrubs are also being requested. **Action:** Watch for flyers for Josephinum Academy's fundraiser. Contact Wicker Park Garden Club to volunteer for Pritzker. Wpgarden@aol.com or 773 278-9075 Doug Wood.

3. **Topic: Wicker Park Garden Club**

Discussion: D. Browning reported that the WP Garden Club 2007-08 Lecture/Workshop/Book Reviews is starting this month. **Action:** Flyers available for schedule or www.wpgarden.org

4. **Topic: Nominating Committee for November Elections**

Discussion: E. Coorens reported that elections for WPC Board will be conducted in November. Based on bylaws, there needs to be a nominating committee of 5-3 appointed by President and 2 needed from membership; and a slate needs to come to October meeting prior to the November election. Nominations from the membership were solicited at this meeting. **Action:** Jessica Peterson, Craig Norris and Paul Dieckman (all appointed by President); Bill Murray, Alfred(if agreeable)will be the nominating committee. If Alfred is unavailable, M. Tamminga will take his place. Nominating committee to provide election slate at October meeting.

IV. **PROGRAM**

Topic: STATE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD Discussion:

- **Fire Dept Capt Jim Purl**

Engine 35 has been in this neighborhood since 1885. Areas highlighted by Capt: home smoke alarm checks; carbon dioxide alarms; how to call 911; visible address signs on front of house and alley; have emergency escape plans; fire extinguishers in kitchen; proper electrical cords; fires from candles; mechanical room clutter; and dryer lint catcher fires. Numerous safety flyers and smoke alarms were available.

- **Alderman Manny Flores 1st ward**

Review of recent concerns:

*Community safety-bike patrols continue; additional police added to it; increased public ETOH use in park and area now controlled; drug activity was on rise but now decreased; and request for community participation in CAPS

*Additional lighting installed-Damen to Wolcott, Ellen St and Milwaukee corridor-asking for community feed back on lighting

*Blue light camera installed-Ashland/Div/Milwaukee; and Chicago/Ashland around Well High School

*Negative loitering on public benches-request for input, recommendations for Task Force that has been set up to address issue

*Development issues-Landmarking of Milwaukee should be done in 3-4 months-property owners now getting consent forms; community input was listened to for lot on Wolcott/Milwaukee; SW corner of Ashland/ Division under contract-zoning is already a 4 story building and owner was asked for an architectural design building for community; 2 lots across from Post Office-MB will build within zoning; the other owner-no plans have been seen or approved for this lot but will follow community review *Street cleaning in 1st ward-pilot program involving signs and light *Permit resident parking areas have been consolidated from 60 areas to 6 for a better balance *Alderman reported that he is not running for Congress-he withdrew his candidacy because he will not run against his friend L. Gutierrez. He was going run for Congress when L. Guitierrez had first said he was not going to run again for Congress.

- **14TH DISTRICT POLICE DEPT COMMANDER AVILA**

Review of WP status: decrease in all areas of crime in 14thdistrict for last 4 years; 3rd out of 25 districts in decrease in violent crime; 7 out of 25 in decrease in property crime; 7 out of 25 in overall decrease. current problems: grafitti related issues-70 arrests this year; prostitution in early morning hours; and homelessness issues. Violent crime is addressed immediately. WP Team hours have changed to handle these issues-6pm to 230am. Commander spoke of the importance of the Court Advocacy Program-need help for arrests. Flyers available or contact 14th District.

- **KATHY HERRMANN, CTA REAL ESTATE**

The CTA is designating parking spaces under the EI to rent out to increase CTA income. It is a gravel lot and additional lighting will not be provided. Month to month rents-\$75 for residents; \$85 for businesses. A resident issue was brought up re: car alarms going off

with the train. Followup would have to be done about this issue. More info on CTA website.

- **PAULA BARRINGTON, WP/BUCKTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Chamber is an advocacy agent for business owners and the community. It is trying to promote shopping, tourism, along with a community to live and work in. The Chamber is involved in maintaining the old landmarks and encouraging new businesses. The Chamber is included in the SSA, P&D.

It was a sponsor of the WP Fest that the Chicago Tribune voted as one of the best neighborhood fest for music venue. WP & Bucktown Community Guide were available.

- **JOHN HOYT, SSA #33**

SSA is currently promoting the Graffiti Rebate Program; Sidewalk Cleaning Program 3x/wk; landscape inventory. A master plan for the SSA is now being worked on and anyone interested in getting involved would be welcome. Meetings are open-2nd Tuesday of the month at 630pm in the Buctown/WP Library. Check out the SSA website.

- **ALDERMAN SCOTT WAGUESPACK 32ND WARD**

Meeting time was limited so Alderman Scott will be invited back. In his short time, he did review:

*Zoning and development guidelines have been working very well across the wards; they helped with 1600 Milwaukee, Orloff parking lot; Traffic, congestion and environmental issues are all being looked at with these guidelines in any further development *New 32nd ward superintendent was hired-Pedro-he worked with Alderman Flores.

*Storm damage-problems with sewers, rain blockers, alleys all surfaced during this recent storm and work is being done in these areas.

*Alderman Scott gave his thanks and appreciation to all those providing assistance to him during his setup time. He encouraged residents to stop by his office.

Adjournment time: 9:00pm

IV. MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR

Next WPC membership meeting is October 3, 2007. Location to be announced.

Pat Linnerud
Secretary

