

WANT General Meeting

June 28, 2023

Secretary Maia Rigas

Mike Simmons, 7th District State Senator (Andersonville, West Ridge, North Center, to Rogers Park, west to Lincoln Square)

1. rundown handout (bills passed, etc.)
2. office: on bryn mawr (at red line stop): service oriented office for anyone in crisis
3. priorities
 - a. bills: increase access to health care
 - b. streets safer for people not in cars
 - c. access to affordable housing, concern for rentals and also long-term home owners
 - d. economic insecurity (food pantries, pandemic issues), childcare stuff... for immigrants, seniors, youth, access to schools, mental health. Intern Justin in attendance, will be senior in high school

Support for retail corridors in a priority: Western, Howard

Diplomat Hotel: reports say that this will be for women in crisis in Lincoln Square

Karen: talk to Morgan in Andre's office

Broadway Armory: repurpose for new arrivals? Debate on this. July 27: will be public debate

Question: newly elected school boards, based on newly drawn districts. Members will be elected.

Mike: people can reach out to his office and make positions known. If area, schools should be kept together, etc. ill.senate.redistricting.org: there is a draft map.

Justin: they keep logs of all contact.

Question: street problems? potholes etc. Answer: better to reach out to the Alder.

Wants to demystify state legislators. Instead, welcoming district office and be transparent.

state legislators: vote on budgets that bring money. He votes on roads that are state roads: parts of Foster; Peterson, Irving Park.

Question: bike lanes. They do save lives. Speech on public transit.

Bomanville Garden Walk: July 15 9AM to 4PM

Patrick McNeil (CAPS):

We are in 20th Police District, Beat 2012

CAPS Second Wednesday of even months: August is next

St. Gregory Gymnasium.

Police District Council: second Monday of every month. Locations vary—check Andre's website. Next meeting: July 10

Tuesday Aug 1—Winnemac Park, 6 to 8 PM—event on bringing police and community together

Phone number on Google listing for WANT:

there is a phone number listed at 1700 West Farragut. Karen asks that we all request an edit to the Google listing.

Debbie Pope—efforts for new arrivals

Needs that people have for basic amenities (toilet paper, women's sanitary needs, etc)

Collect supplies, funds? maybe timed with our yard sale or block party?

Suggestion that we pilot a collection, and go to other block clubs and ask them to contribute.

Opportunity to collect things, clothing, or money.

Motion: Debbie take lead to form a committee to help the refugees. Motion passes.

Events

July 29: WANT block party. Have a permit. Bouncy house will come early

On Ravenswood from Summderdale to Balmoral

Hopefully School of Rock

Yard Sale--still looking for a coordinator

Sept 23 –same as last year

Usually 40 to 50 families.

Treasurer's report:

Vacancy—we need a treasurer!!

\$4827.20—current balance

LUZ—jean sends regrets.

Karen reports: things are all moving along as expected.

Catalpa plaza: waiting for next CDOT meeting to be set.

Community vote on installation stuff like benches etc.

Trader Joe's: no formal answer from Alder office on whether he supports it. Main issue is a zoning change: the drivethrough for the ATM that the bank wants to retain. Justin (intern): there's been a step back in the plan.

Question: Steven Christie's plans? Nothing happening on that. Suzanne: they were not going to maintain the garden, and had not raised money.

Article recently about DOT (density-oriented transport), which was an idea floated a couple years ago. Could conceivably change zoning requirements for WANT because of proximity to busses on Ashland and new Metra station. However, there is NO legislation on this, so nothing to be done. If concerned, contact Andre.

Tree-measuring initiative through EHS: Madelon attended meeting as representative

Nominations/vacancies

Entire board is interim; board members needed

Time commitments for positions, quarterly: president, 4-6 hours; vice president, 3-5 hours, treasurer, 3-5 hours, secretary, 2-3 hours

Comment: no Winter quarterly meeting, no recent posts to website. Group looks like nothing is happening.

Comment: Garden email chain always links to WANT and encourages WANT membership. Someone contacted them that the website was out-of-date. Karen: links to membership are active and up to date.

Suggestion: should WANT disband, or join another group? Karen: group is nowhere near that stage

Comment (me): WANT committees are OK (LUZ, Garden, Ghostly Garden, Block Party), it's just the board where we have difficulty

Comment: people maybe don't know that volunteers are needed? Suggestion to email group

Member/board recruitment at Block party idea!!

Karen: bylaws allow for appointments to the board under the circumstances.

Suggestion: send an email blast asking for volunteers.

Suggestion: there should be nominations, elections

Motion to have nominations and elections:

vote: most in favor, 2 opposed

