

# West Andersonville Neighbors Together

Minutes of the Spring 2018 General Meeting  
March 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Members present were Josh Bucher, Dianne Daleiden, Karen Hardy, Julie Nelson, Deborah Pope and Miguel Trujillo. 24 people were in attendance.

Welcome, Minutes and Introductions – Debbie Pope welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. She asked how many people had become aware of the meeting through the posted signs; more than half raised their hands.

Background and Presentation on Trumbull/Waldorf Transition – Presenter Luke Goodwin, Administrative Director at Waldorf, gave a history of the process involving the Trumbull building and how Waldorf was able to buy it. He also gave a brief history of Waldorf: The school is 44 years old, has been in Rogers Park since 1995 and is the first Waldorf School to become a “homeowner”.

Mr. Goodwin also spoke about Waldorf’s plan for the move and opening. The work being done involves health and safety issues, including fire alarms, electric and ventilation. There are no proposed changes to the outside of the building due to its landmark status. There will be no renovations to the playground this summer, but in the future, one-fourth of the playground area will become a community organic garden. Parking (about 25 spaces) will remain as such, for faculty use.

Drop-off by parents will be on Foster, at the southwest corner of the property line, near the church. Four faculty/staff members will be there to supervise. The same process will be followed for pick-up.

There are currently 360 students. Since the school’s a capacity is 450, at most 90 new students will be added. Presently, 100 students are high-school age; this is expected to increase to 150-160. 40% of the students are on financial aide, accounting for about 25% of the budget.

Waldorf will allow WANT to use the building to hold our meetings.

Metra Construction – Metra will be doing on the east side of the tracks what they did on the west side of the tracks last year, namely track work and rebuilding the bridges. Debbie and representatives from BCO have been dealing with the alderman on this issue and will be meeting with representatives from Metra regarding the gardens. The main concerns are the starting date, their plans, possible damage/destruction of our garden and the possibility of traffic disruption.

Garden Report – As a result of the upcoming Metra work, some of the trees at the beginning of the garden (at Balmoral) may be destroyed. We are hoping that they will reimburse us.

Website Presentation and Discussion – Karen made a presentation about our new website. We are in the process of transferring the content of the old website to the new one. We have also started Instagram and Twitter feeds.

An issue was raised about the difference between a “block club” and a “neighborhood organization”. It was also brought up that perhaps some of the older residents are not computer literate. This led to a discussion of the demise of the printed newsletter.

The new website will allow readers to subscribe. Once they do, they will receive an email every time that new information goes on the website.

Land Use and Zoning Committee – The developer that was interested in the Neumann Center property is no longer interested. There seems to be no other interested parties at this time, possibly due to price.

Yard Sale Plans – The sale is set for Saturday, June 30, 2018. As is traditional, it will be the last Saturday in June. Volunteers are needed.

Old Business – Sewer Drains - Alderman O'Connor requested a list of the problem addresses. The list previously compiled will be given to the alderman. The corner of Paulina/Farragut was added to the list, as were the corners of Paulina/Berwyn and Paulina/Catalpa.

New Business – Nena A. brought up the neglect to the area along the tracks on Ravenswood between Balmoral and Rascher. A Go-Fund-Me page has been created to develop gardens along the tracks on the blocks between Foster and Berwyn and between Balmoral and Catalpa. Dianne suggested to contact us again after the construction work is done.

Dianne motioned to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting; Karen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment – Karen motioned to adjourn; Dianne seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.