

WANT General Meeting, March 8, 2021

Virtual via Zoom

(Karen Hardy- President, Amanda Dykema-Engblade- Vice President, Maia Rigas- Secretary, Tisha Sandberg- Treasurer, Betsy Kane-Member at Large)

#### Proposed Calendar with dates

- updated on website Next general meetings: June 8, Sept 14, and Dec 8
- Proposed garden swap dates: June 12, October 9
- Summer yard sale? Vasquez is optimistic; should know if we can apply for permit in a couple weeks. Maybe last Saturday in August 28, rather than June 26. Motion by Karen Hardy to move event to Saturday, September 18. Seconded Tisha Sandberg. Adopted in favor by majority vote. Karen will update website.

Review of bylaws: three meetings where members can review and discuss. For final presentation on June 8: March 23, April 16, May 4. Current bylaws are online. Some issues need to be amplified: voting, committee roles and structure, overall modernization. Members in good standing since Dec 1, 2020 meeting to be invited to attend.

Committees will also publish preliminary dates for their meetings in 2021, will need to update board, come to board meetings to report for good communication between committees and board.

#### Normal updates from the Board

Treasurer-Tisha report:

- \$1,307 expenditures for 2020. \$5,200 in the account. Projected budget for coming year: just shy of \$1,994.00—including Garden budget of \$1200. Motion to adopt by Marion Gray, Seconded Debby Pope. Adopted in favor by majority vote.
- Banking: Northside Federal; we want to change banks. Need one that uses Zelle. Chase, US Bank, Fifth Third Bank. Opposition.

#### LUZ update- Phil

- WANT residents received notification of Special Use application for Hardware Crossfit space in Bowmanville: request to expand into the empty parking lot. No new construction, just different use. There will be hearings, but nothing for WANT.
- Evoke Tattoos, LLC: Lawyer contacted WANT requesting support of Special Use application for body art service business; request for WANT support in vacant tenant space above former Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark: Body art business on second floor. Will build it out with eight stalls/stations where they'd do body art. LUZ position in past was that happens on Clark Street is more the Chamber's issue. Evoke wants a letter of support from WANT. They have become members of the Chamber. The City will have a meeting with them. Motion to provide letter in support by Shiela Adams, Seconded by Marion Gray. Adopted in favor by majority vote, none opposed.

- Debby Pope: Ravenswood between Rascher and Catalpa, developer who is buying up SFH properties. Phil: Developer did make a request for a six-flat on adjacent lot; LUZ voted against it. We should have a proactive statement that we don't support that kind of development.
- Nikki Kuehl: 5315 N. Ravenswood: development (loft building) has been going on about 20 years. What is going on? Suspicious activities possibly occurring on site, possibly abandoned building, recently observed strange excavation work. WANT to investigate status and direction.
- Committee: if anyone who like to join? Always welcome for new members.

#### CAPS update

Virtual meeting. Mid-Dec to Mid-Feb: thefts and burglaries were done. Increase in service calls. Next meeting: mid-April. Watch for unemployment scams.

#### Garden update

Madeline Rasner: Ravenswood Parkway project. Extends from Berwyn to Foster on the west side, to beautify it. Walls up against the tracks, walkways and landscaping. challenge is that there's a small overlap with WAG land. Bill Coons will meet with them about their design, and the flow into WAG.

#### 40<sup>th</sup> Ward Updates- Karen

- Letter from Edgewater Historical Society about the name of the new Metra station, want it to be Edgewater Station. Alderman says no decision has been taken.
- Rhona, retired nurse, Vaccine Brigade: volunteers?
- Pedestrian safety: crossing Ashland at Balmoral and Catalpa, also Berwyn and Ravenswood. We can apply for money through FY22 Participatory Budgeting proposal. More posting on the website about this when information available.
- Vaccination supersite on north side! 40th, with two other wards pushing soon. Should be happening, watch Alderman's newsletter for official details.
- Looking into ongoing post office issues, reached out to union of postal workers as well to understand issues with postal deliveries. Trying to hire other postal workers as well as temporarily bringing in workers from out of state. Former neighborhood carrier "Scott" says things are getting better, people are coming back to work.
- Jameson recently had COVID pod go into quarantine after positive case at in-person learning. Principal is confident process is working as it should, remains cautious
- Passages averted a strike of workers and reached agreement on safeguards. Passages wanted to open without any restrictions. Now, a model that mimics the district, to work remotely when there are no students. Safety committees at every school.
  - Debby Pope: Pods have been closing down since kids are back in the building. There is a covid tracker. If there is a case in a pod (15 students), the pod is shut down. If three or more unrelated cases in several weeks, then the school is shut down.
- Forestry group. No place to dump snow within the ward in future, will need to identify before next winter.
- Working on legislation to down zone former 5<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Bank parcel at Lawrence/Western Avenues to prevent major development "by right"

- Major concern on continued congestion and traffic management on Peterson Ave and surrounding side streets. Car washes: backup of cars around Clark Ashland Peterson. Residents concerned new METRA station will enflame already bad situation

Open issues:

How many members does WANT have? Gerhard: strategies to expand membership.

Marion: House at Balmoral and Ashland. Two retired guys have purchased it to move in.