

# West Andersonville Neighbors Together

Minutes of the Fall 2017 General Meeting  
Thursday, September 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. Members present were Josh Bucher, Dianne Daleiden, Deborah Pope and Miguel Trujillo.

There were 29 people in attendance. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

Recap of Coffee in the Garden – Josh thanked everyone who assisted and attended the Coffee in the Garden, and acknowledge Karen who “Did a ton of work.”

Treasurer’s Report – A total of \$9950 is left in the account after writing a \$1000 check to BCO.

Dave from BCO confirmed that as of this date, BCO owns the property on the West side of the railroad tracks, but they still need to do more fundraising.

Garden Committee Report – Maryon reported that 22 individuals came out to help in the garden the last time. The next dates for working to maintain the garden will be September 30 and October 27. Next year, the focus will be on path-making.

Land Use and Zoning Committee Report – The property at 5348 N Ashland is to be demolished and a new 3-story building will go up. There are concerns that the new building will block sunlight to the Edgewater Historical Society’s garden. The contractor did a study and the alderman’s office has approved the zoning change. The new building will consist of three residential units and will have three parking spaces.

Dorothy explained the history behind the fact the so many structures along Ashland are built right at the property line. This is a consequence of the widening of Ashland Avenue. There is a concern that the lot-line to lot-line buildings increase density.

Another concern was brought up about graffiti and vagrants in a vacant, foreclosed building in the 1600 block of Gregory. Shannon from Alderman O’Connor’s office said she will look into it. Questions were also raised about the empty lot at 5347 N Ashland.

Newmann Center - The Newmann Center building, at the corner of Ravenswood and Bryn Mawr, is being sold. The alderman thinks that residential use is not a “Good fit” for that space; it should be used commercially. The alderman will consult with WANT and WEAR. Debbie reported that Alderman O’Connor would like to see small businesses using the property. We do not want a replication of the Rosehill/Hermitage building.

EMC - Shannon explained that the asbestos issue has been remediated, but the city needs to come up with a plan for the appropriate removal of lighting and mercury. TIF money will be used for the park; this has gone to the City Council.

A question was raised about how the city will deal with the potential rodent problem when the building is demolished.

Demolition can be done through the winter, which is environmentally better.

Board Elections – Josh thanked Dorothy and Dena for their efforts in recruiting candidates.

The candidates slate consists of Debbie Pope for president, Karen Hardy for vice-president, Miguel Trujillo for secretary, Dianne Daleiden for treasurer and Josh Bucher and Julie Nelson for members at large, with one member at large position remaining vacant.

Julie nominated Trista Janzen to fill the vacant position. Dianne seconded the nomination. Trista has been in the neighborhood for two years and has volunteered in the Ghostly Garden. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Crime in the Area – Shannon reported that there have been robberies in Andersonville, burglaries in Bowmanville and a “Grabber” in Lincoln Square, but that Andersonville is statistically one of the safest neighborhoods in the city. Everyone was encouraged to attend the CAPS meetings.

Ghostly Garden - The Ghostly Garden will take place on Saturday, October 28 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the garden. It is geared to children five years old and under. Volunteers are need to set-up and clean-up, as well as to assist during the event. It is also an opportunity for older children to volunteer. Donations of pumpkins is also encouraged.

Neighborhood Clean-Up – There is a possibility of a Spring Clean-Up Day, most likely on a weekend in April. The alderman’s office will supply us with garbage bags, shovels, etc.

Someone indicated that there is an unusually high amount of dog excrement in the parkways. Maryon stated that in East Andersonville there are posted signs encouraging pet owners to clean-up after their pets. Josh will talk with EARC. Debbie announced that the board will take this matter under advisement.

Old Business – None

New Business – Gerhart suggested that our website have a link to the Edgewater Senior Village at the Broadway Armory. Maryon recommended that Forward Chicago also be linked through from our website.

Josh announced that he and Karen Hardy were in the process of building a new WANT website.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.