

Wicker Park Committee

Membership Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Held via Zoom

Introductions and Welcome

Mr. Sneed welcomed the public and began the meeting at 7:06 p.m. At least 27 members of the Wicker Park Committee and public were present. Mr. Sneed thanked all participants for attending the meeting via videoconference, to remain in compliance with the city’s social distancing recommendations.

Mr. Sneed provided a brief review of the Committee’s desire to implement virtual voting while meeting via videoconference. He advised of the membership vote taken at the Committee’s August Social Gathering, and advised that the vote to allow virtual voting during Membership meetings passed, 12-0.

Community Updates

Mr. Sneed further reviewed the neighborhood’s recent Peach March, as sponsored by local business, Helendora Framing, and reminded community members to complete the city’s Budget Survey.

Ms. Coorins reviewed an ongoing project to archive WPC items with the city, and requested volunteers to assist in cataloguing materials.

Ms. Weiser discussed the upcoming Equity Arts Workshops, including sessions on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Mr. Sneed reminded the Committee of the upcoming Board member nominations and elections to be held in November, and advised interested parties to contact Ms. Root and Mr. Drutchas.

Ms. Root discussed a potential event in the neighborhood to build scarecrows, as Boopalooza would not be held in 2020.

Treasurer’s Update

Mr. Menninger provided an update on the Committee’s current banking balance, and advised that the EOY income statement would be available at an upcoming meeting.

Business/Community Spotlight: The Night Ministry

Mr. Peso introduced himself and discussed the Ministry’s move into their current facility on Ashland Ave. He provided an overview of the Ministry’s efforts and services provided to the homeless and those in need.

14th District Update

Representatives from the 14th district provided an update on recent issues in the community. He encouraged community members to attend local CAPS meetings, and to follow the district on social media (Twitter) @chicagocaps14.

Business/Community Spotlight:

Ms. Neptune introduced herself and provided a review of the Social Equity Empowerment Network(SEEN). She addressed social equity in the cannabis field in Illinois in detail. She further encouraged community members to contact her for more information at: natascha.neptune@cannaempower.org

Preservation & Development

Mr. Sneed further reviewed the current zoning change granted for a cannabis dispensary at 1720 N. Damen, and advised that the WPC Board members were not in support of the zoning change for Verano’s dispensary, as the multi-state operator had not previously shown good faith effort in the past to address social equity. He also discussed the Committee’s stance on the zoning change, and requested a formal vote by WPC members.

A vote was conducted on the following:

*The WPC shall not support any recreational cannabis dispensary seeking to locate in Wicker Park until Social Equity Applicants are awarded licenses by the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago has held its lottery for locations in the Northwest District.  The moratorium on consideration shall not apply to recreational cannabis dispensaries seeking a location with the required zoning.*

The vote passed with the following votes:

8 Ayes

 0 Nays

 0 Abstentions

An additional vote was brought forward by Mr. Sneed:

*The WPC shall formally oppose Verano’s application to locate a recreational cannabis dispensary at 1720 N. Damen.*

The vote passed with the following votes:

 8 Ayes

 0 Nays

 0 Abstentions

Mr. Tamminga reviewed the recent demolition of landscaping at 1514 N. Hoyne, which was not in accordance with the Preservation guidelines of the neighborhood.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.