

Wicker Park Committee

Membership Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Held via Zoom

Introductions and Welcome

Mr. Sneed welcomed the public and began the meeting at 6:03 p.m. At least 25 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.

Updates and Announcements

Mr. Sneed advised of the recent release of the city’s Budget Survey, as well as an upcoming community conversation with the 14th District Police Commander. He further discussed an upcoming event to be held in Wicker Park, Scarecrow Fest, and encouraged community members to volunteer for the event.

Mr. Sneed reviewed the Committee’s formal opposition to Verano’s application for a marijuana dispensary in the community, and advised of the conversation held regarding the matter at the previous membership meeting.

Ms. Coorins discussed the Committee’s work to transfer files to the Chicago History Museum for record keeping.

Wicker Park Non-Profit Spotlight: Wicker Park Lutheran Church

Mr. Sneed introduced Pastor Jason and Pastoral Intern Bethany Ulrich to the meeting. The pastor shared the Church’s low-cost rental spaces available to community groups, and opportunities for community members to engage in community service hours. He further advised of the Church’s intent to increase and reconfigure the spaces available to community members, as well as the anticipated costs related to the updates. Community members discussed the Church’s presence in Wicker Park in detail, and thanked the Pastor for the Church’s continued involvement in the neighborhood.

SSA #33 Spotlight

Mr. Sneed introduced Garret Karp, from the WPB Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Karp discussed the Chamber’s work in the community, and described the intent of Special Service Areas, including the tax levy to assist in SSA projects. Community members discussed the local SSA projects in detail, including the reinforcement of safety rebate programs for glass replacement due to recent unrest within the city. Mr. Karp encouraged community members to contact the Chamber for further questions at garret@wickerparkbucktown.org.

State Representative, Delia Ramirez

Mr. Sneed advised of Ms. Ramirez’s absence, and her desire to attend a future meeting.

Preservation & Development:

Mr. Tamminga discussed the property at 1628 W. Division, and advised of recent publicity surrounding the property and its developer, Robert Mosky with RDM Development. Mr. Tamminga discussed the P&D Committee’s objection to the establishment of the development plan, as well as former Alderman Moreno’s introduction of the project to the City Council for approval. A vote was conducted for the following:

*The Wicker Park Committee membership, along with the Preservation & Development Committee, reaffirms its objection to the establishment of Planned Development #1441, which includes the property at 1628 W. Division, and requests that Alderman LaSpata introduce legislation to reverse the PD and re-establish the original B3-2 district.*

The vote passed with the following votes:

 11 Ayes

 2 Nays

 0 Abstentions

Community members discussed the timing of the next membership meeting, and advised of their intent to begin the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on November 4, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:16 p.m.