

Wicker Park Committee

Membership Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Held via Zoom

Introductions and Welcome

Mr. Sneed welcomed the public and began the meeting at 6:33 p.m. At least 33 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 welcomed community members, and provided a brief overview of the Wicker Park Committee’s mission within the neighborhood. He reminded members to renew their memberships online through the WPC website, and encouraged new members to join. Additionally, Mr. Sneed discussed a WPC sponsored Holiday Meal Drive, to match individuals and families in need with neighborhood restaurants, as well as a Toy, Boot, and Coat Drive through Helendora Picture Framing.

Wicker Park Business Spotlight: Chicago Makers Pop Up Shop

Mr. Sneed introduced Monica Nawrocki, co-owner of the Chicago Makers Pop Up Shop. Ms. Nawrocki reviewed the creation of the shop, and highlighted the 25+ makers’ wares available at the store. She welcomed community members to purchase holiday gifts from local artisans through the business, located at 1279 N. Milwaukee Ave.

State’s Attorney’s Office Community Justice Center

Mr. Sneed introduced Pauline Dengler, Diana Garcia-Camilo, and Aileen Bhandari, who provided a review of the State’s Attorney’s Office, as well as the legal process for an individual charged with a crime in Cook County. They further reviewed the procedures handled by the office post-arrest, as well as sentencing processes, and felony diversion programs. Ms. Dengler provided her contact information for anyone wishing to follow up on Justice Center initiatives: pauline.dengler@cookcountyil.gov; 312-325-9702.

Community members inquired whether the State’s Attorney’s Office works in collaboration with the 14th District, primarily regarding repeat offenders in the neighborhood who seemingly do not face charges that detour criminal activity. In response, Elizabeth Collazo introduced herself, and reviewed her role as Commander of 14th District with the Chicago Police Department. She discussed with community members being aware of their surroundings, and reviewed the top priority issues within the district to be addressed in 2021, including carjackings, robberies, and homeless population related crimes. She recommended that community members follow the district’s Twitter account, @ChicagoCAPS14, and provided additional contact information to report any tips or issues in the community: SDSC014@chicagopolice.org.

Preservation & Development:

Mr. Tamminga provided an update on upcoming discussion and consideration for community development projects, including the use of the former Café Cancale space for FoxTrot Market. He discussed the potential zoning change, and advised that further discussion would take place at an upcoming meeting.

Community members inquired as to a recent large-scale illegal party hosted at the former Bedford space on Division Street. Ms. Alani, journalist with Block Club Chicago, provided her contact information for those willing to be interviewed for future coverage on the issue: hannah@blockclubchi.org; 812-272-9377.

Additionally, Mr. Tamminga discussed the zoning proposal for the 1300 block of Western Avenue, to replace a car dealership lot with condominiums, as well as the potential side yard development on the 1500 block of Hoyne Avenue.

Open Discussion

Ms. Root discussed the WPC’s holiday drive to sponsor meals for needy families in the community, and requested volunteers to assist in coordinating the drive.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:54 p.m.