

HPWNA Board Meeting -- Aug. 13, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order -- 7:35 p.m.

In attendance: In attendance were Jonathan Sweeney; John Friedmann; Gretchen Helmreich; Mark Jones; Libby Karier; Mark Mullen; Erin Engstrom; Kathryn Pensack

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July 9, 2014, meeting approved with amendments.

3. Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 31: \$1,588.13

Outstanding deposits: none

Outstanding payments: payment of \$42.57 to Gretchen for printing the Summer Kickoff Party flyers; payment of \$18.03 to Mark Dilling for printing the neighborhood block party flyers

4. Meetings Attended

a. CAPS – Beat 1724

i. There has been an increase in gang tagging lately. The faction of the Latin Kings that had claimed the area around Lawrence & Kedzie apparently has lost power, so other gangs are trying to moving into their area.

ii. There have been a lot of calls and activity at 3239 W. Cullom (just west of Kedzie) about narcotics sales. Apparently a leader of the Familia Stones lives there. The police are aware of it but the officer leading the CAPS meeting this month couldn't provide a lot of detail.

Just keep an eye out for graffiti and keep reporting it to the city and the 17th District.

iii. There was a semiautomatic gun fired on Montrose near California. A car was shot up; no one was injured. Police recovered about 15-20 casings. There was no other assault with a weapon in the 3300 block of W. Cullom involving a semiautomatic weapon and another on the 3000 block of Montrose in which one person was injured.

iv. Ruby's Dry Cleaning was broken into. No details.

v. The non-permitted garage sale is continuing. Mark M. said he has called the police several times and the police have responded. Mark didn't know the outcome of those visits, but said the garage sale was up and running again shortly after each police visit. Gretchen will follow up with CAPS.

vi. Next CAPS meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

b. 33rd Ward TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee)

- i. There was a walk-through of the Manor with the alderman to look at the continuing problem of the corner of Manor, Wilson and Mozart, and other traffic problem areas. No update on the results.
- ii. The Ecuador parade was Aug. 10. Several board members reported much quieter traffic in the area due to the redirecting of traffic by CDOT. There were some missteps, and it was difficult to get out of the neighborhood at times, but alleys and side streets were much quieter than in past years.
- iii. Ald. Mell is trying to get several blocks in the ward (including Montrose in our area) designated as pedestrian friendly . The streets are: Montrose from California to Kimball; Lawrence from Sacramento to Central Park; and Kedzie from Montrose to Lawrence The pedestrian street (or p-street) designation is a zoning regulation intended to preserve the character of streets and intersections that are pedestrian-oriented shopping districts and to promote transit, economic vitality, and pedestrian safety and comfort.
- iv. John F. has not been able to make the TAC meetings; Erin said she would try to attend.

c. HPAC (Horner Park Advisory Council)

No meeting in August.

- i. The farmers' market is a success not only as a market but also as a place to meet with neighbors.
- ii. The Dog Friendly Area committee continues fundraising efforts.
- iii. The riverfront work is continuing. There was a walk-through with the alderman. The alderman and HPAC continue to push the Army Corps of Engineers to widen the lower walkway to 4' from 2'. The ACE is pushing back, saying it can't be done for several reasons (including costs) but the alderman, park and civics continue to push for a wider walk. Peter S., the president of HPAC, has written a letter to the ACE pursuing the path issue. The issue with the water flowing out of the park has been resolved. While there will not be a waterfall, there will be a second vernal pool with a rock slope that will drain into a single chute. The steps, while modified slightly, will not be changed from how they now appear.

d. Bateman LSC

The principal has taken a new position; an interim principal has been named while the LSC begins the process of finding a new one.

e. NRC (North River Commission)

- i. On Oct. 7, the North River Commission will be holding an education forum. It is surveying area local school councils and schools about issue with funding and other areas. The results of the survey will be the base of the agenda for the Oct. 7 meeting. The location is still to be decided.
- ii. On Aug. 19, the Bon Appetit Restaurant Crawl will be held on Kedzie/Lawrence/Foster.

5. Committees

a. Social

i. TGIF will be at Libby's in September (Sept. 5) and at Jenny and Cory Ryan on the 4100 block of Mozart for October. It was proposed that we continue this for at least November.

ii. Block party. Saturday Aug. 16. Organization is well in hand. The city apologized but apparently never received the e-mail requesting the bouncy house, so the board voted to approve spending up to \$250 to rent one.

b. Beautification

Cleanup will be Sept. 13 and will cover Mozart and California.

The October cleanup either will circle back to Sacramento, or just focus on the 4300 blocks of all 5 streets.

c. Forward Progress/Economic Development

i. No progress on the vision board (although the alderman's push for the p-street designation will help).

ii. Windy City Playhouse is auditioning for its first plays. So they definitely are moving in.

iii. Burgers & Barley Pop, has opened to mixed reviews. Burgers are said to be good; service is variable. Jonathan said it didn't offer anything different from Leader.

iv. High Five Resale – despite reopening after the fire – has closed. The landlord raised the rent and they couldn't come to an agreement.

v. Kathryn said that Ald. Colon was sending out feelers about keeping Independence Library in its current building (Irving Park and Central Park) but with major renovations. The re-opening of the Albany Park library is rumored to be mid-September, but that isn't confirmed. Kathryn said the Public Building Commission has the funding available to put solar panels on the roof of the new Albany Park Library; she was to give Gretchen the contact info so HPWNA could write a letter in support of that effort.

d. Communication

i. activity is still up on Wiggio; Gretchen has been posting on Facebook generic block-party photos to build up interest for this weekend

ii. Website. There is a beta site. Gretchen will be sending out passwords to all the board to get content loaded.

iii. Libby got approval to share the HPAC table at the Farmers Market. Most likely won't be able to do so until Aug. 30.

6. Old Business

none

7. New Business

- i. T-shirts. Gretchen suggested we get our logo to a shop like One-Hour Tees – rather than dealing with set-up costs and minimum shirt orders. If we do it the way the farmers market did theirs, we just provide the logo, the shop keeps it on file, and people go in and buy their own shirts. It was suggested that we get them especially for the clean-up crews – it would have our logo on the front and ‘Clean-Up Crew’ on the back.
- ii. Kathryn asked if we would be sponsoring an aldermanic forum/debate. Gretchen said the leaders of the civics in the 33rd ward had been talking about doing so; John said NRC was talking about holding a mayoral forum.

8. Adjourn -- 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: Sept. 10, 2014