

SOUTH EAST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS (SELVN)

General Meeting

12 January 2015

Second Unitarian Church,

656 West Barry St., Chicago IL

[http://selvn.org/South East Lake View Neighbors/Meeting Agenda and Minutes.html](http://selvn.org/South_East_Lake_View_Neighbors/Meeting_Agenda_and_Minutes.html)

MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The January SELVN General Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with approximately 18 current members (including 10 members of the Board), and a number of recently-lapsed or non-members present.

Introductions were made by President Sumrall. She encouraged all members to tell their neighbors to attend the next SELVN meeting as no business can be acted upon without a quorum, which is a minimum of 16 members, based on a current membership of 104 (as of 12/31/14).

II. BOARD ISSUES

SELVN Board Election for 2015-2016

President Sumrall noted that there are 14 SELVN Board members

The following individuals are completing the second year of their 2- year term: John Blackburn; York Chan; Mary Davis; Richard Eastline; Donald Franklin; Jan Sumrall; and John Yociss.

The following individuals were elected to a 2-year term: Bob Clarke, Liz Cohen, Mike Demetriou, Anil Kashyap, Mary Knoblauch, John Rafkin, and Anne Voshel.

Officers are: President Jan Sumrall; Acting Vice President John Rafkin; Treasurer Mary Knoblauch; and Secretary, Anne Voshel

III. WAL-MART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – UPDATE

Richard Eastline & Jan Sumrall are members of the Wal-Mart Advisory Committee. Last week's meeting was cancelled due to weather; it has been rescheduled for February 26, 2015.

The only issue that has been identified is noise from early truck deliveries. Wal-Mart has said the deliveries are from outside vendors', not Walmart's, trucks. Walmart has contacted those vendors and advised them to comply with the agreed-upon delivery schedule outlined in Wal-Mart's Good Neighbor Agreement and that they are at risk for fines if they continue to arrive too early.

IV. 44th WARD UPDATE

Erin Duffy, Director of Communications and Community Outreach – Office of Alderman Tunney

Mariano's groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for some time in February, 2015. An exact date has not yet been set.

Med-Mar is on the Zoning Board of Appeals ('ZBA') docket for the February 20th hearing. Alderman Tunney has advised the ZBA that he does not support the Med-Mar application at that specific location. MedMar deferred their application at the last ZBA meeting.

The Quinn administration didn't issue any cannabis licenses for any of the approved locations. This will be the responsibility of the Rauner administration.

The 508 W. Diversey building (AKA 506 W. Diversey) is being redesigned and the traffic study is in progress. They will commence demolition of the Far East Kitchen. The Yak-Zies building will not be demolished – the developer is simply using those air rights in the new development. It is not clear when they will present revised plans to SELVN.

The shared-cost sidewalk program opens up at midnight tonight. Residents can apply through 311 or email Sougata Deb in Alderman Tunney's office at Sougata.deb@cityofchicago.org.

Some catalytic converter thefts have occurred in the area (SUV's have been targeted). The police have caught 5 people in connection with the thefts. You will definitely know if your catalytic converter has been stolen – you will hear a very loud "lack-of-muffler" sound if it is stolen. Unfortunately, catalytic converters do not have a unique numbering for a specific vehicle, so even though the police have recovered some converters it is not possible to return items to individuals.

Liz Cohen noted that a spare tire was also stolen from a vehicle parked along Wellington

Anil Kashyap asked if the Alderman can request at least two (2) different traffic consultants can be used by the various developers along Diversey. Jan Sumrall noted that

- The Inn at Lincoln Park project is using a firm other than KLOA and
- The Market Place development is using KLOA for its traffic study, however KLOA's traffic study did not include the proposed development on the Walgreen's property or the 506 West Diversey property. Alderman Smith has advised KLOA that its traffic study must be updated to show the two proposed developments.

Some "no parking signs" had been incorrectly installed on Lake Shore Drive between Oakdale and Diversey; they have been removed.

V. OLD BUSINESS - None

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Broadway Youth Center ("BYC"): Renewal of the Special Use Permit with the Zoning Board of Appeals– presented by Michelle Wetzel and Imani Rupert

Last year BYC was granted a 1-year conditional Special Use permit.

Michelle Wetzel, BYC General Counsel handed out a summary of the BYC programs and noted:

- BYC's programs and hours are the same as last year.
- BYC intends to file for a (non-conditional) Special Use Permit by the end of this week or first part of next week.
- BYC will be issuing legal notices to the neighbors shortly thereafter.
- BYC doesn't know if they will be on the February or March ZBA agenda at this time.
- There have been minimal incidents in the past year – most of which occurred when a patron or the BYC had called the police
- BYC will have some form of a good neighbor agreement, and will be working with Alderman Tunney to modify the existing agreement – primarily to modify the monthly meeting requirement(s)
 - BYC initially had office hours at the church however only one neighbor ever showed up – and not with an issue.
 - A few months ago it was agreed the monthly meetings would be held 1 hour prior to the SELVN meeting at the back of the church – however no one has attended these office hours either

- BYC takes this as a good sign, and would like to consider meeting with constituents upon request, rather than requiring a monthly meeting.

Imani Rupert discussed BYC's accomplishments in the past year:

- The BYC GED Program – 2 people graduated this year. It should be noted that the test was changed in the past year. Previously, 7,000 people typically passed the GED; in 2014 only 600 passed the GED. BYC graduated 0.3% of the total City's graduates.
- Youth Participants' accomplishments:
 - 41 have found more stable housing;
 - 94 have engaged in leadership activities;
 - 12 have become peer advocates at BYC – which is something they can add to their resumes;
 - 1 got accepted to the Deeply Rooted Dance Theater troupe
 - Several entered college – 1 is at Northwestern and graduates this Spring.
- Staff has been working with the neighborhood agreement (between Alderman & BYC)
 - Would like to modify the monthly meeting requirement
 - They always have staff outside when the drop-in time is over to assure patrons aren't "hanging around".
 - They've had a struggle getting volunteers to maintain the neighborhood patrol –folks tend to hang around outside more in the warmer months.
 - During drop-in a staff member in the pink vest is directly outside and assures patrons move along after drop-in is over.
 - BYC attends the CAPS meeting every month.
- **SEVLN Member Questions/Comments**
 - John Rafkin asked what BYC's long-term occupancy plans were:
 - Ms. Wetzel noted that Wellington Church is not ideal, but they haven't been able to find an affordable alternative
 - BYC's ideal space would be
 - Free-standing space (not part of another building)
 - Less residential, more commercial setting
 - Close to public transportation
 - The old police station would not be suitable, since it is primarily senior housing.
 - Rafkin acknowledged that there have been incidents, but they have been handled. However, Rafkin prefers a year-to-year renewal, rather

than a permanent Special Use permit, as there's no teeth in a permanent agreement.

- BYC was asked to provide an example of the incidences. BYC stated:
 - Police have been called 6 times
 - Largest incident was August 22 – young people ran out of the church, caused a commotion so nearby residents called the police.
 - 15 minutes later another, separate incident occurred, but employees had de-escalated the situation and moved the patrons back inside BYC.
 - The police arrived in response to the neighbor's call from the incident 15 minutes prior and a BYC employee told the police that BYC wouldn't allow the police inside 'without a warrant'. This response is contrary to BYC policy.
 - BYC retrained all staff that police are always welcomed to enter BYC at any time.
 - Official policy with the police: BYC works with police.
- Will a Good Neighbor Agreement ("GNA") accompany the Special Use?
 - Michelle Wetzel believes BYC has proven themselves and would like to operate without a GNA.
 - It was noted that Wal-Mart operates under a GNA, as do all liquor stores. Also, Alderman Cappleman requires all social service agencies in Uptown to have a GNA
 - Based on this information, Michelle Wetzel committed that BYC and Alderman Tunney will work to craft a GNA to accompany the Special Use.
- **Alderman Tunney is strongly encouraged to complete the GNA ASAP so SELVN can review it before SELVN votes on the Special Use at the February 9 meeting.**
- BYC would prefer to have a permanent Special Use, as there is an expense in filing for renewals (e.g., legal notices, filings, etc.)
 - John Rafkin suggested a year-to-year conditional Special Use as there are multiple, large changes that will occur in the coming year or 2 which could result bigger problems with loitering, such as Mariano's new store along Broadway and the Pocket Park along Waterloo Court.

- BYC will be on SELVN's agenda next month for a vote. President Sumrall encouraged everyone to renew their membership, if it has expired, and encourage their neighbors to attend the February 9th meeting to assure we have a quorum so we can hold a vote on this issue at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

Aldermanic Candidate's Forum

There are 3 candidates for the 44th ward Alderman's position. Would SELVN sponsor a candidate's forum for the February 21st aldermanic election?

- Creating a productive forum is a lot of work, and it is not clear this is the appropriate role for SELVN.
- Erin Duffy noted that Hawthorne Neighbors & Southport Neighbors are hosting Aldermanic Forums. SELVN may want to note these activities on SELVN's website.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next SELVN General Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, February 9th.

The first board meeting of 2015 will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Voshel

Secretary, SELVN

The next SELVN general meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, February 9, 2015.