

South East Lake View Neighbors (SELVN)
General Meeting^[1]
October 10, 2016
Second Unitarian Church, 656 West Barry

Last month's meeting minutes [here](#).

Introductions

President Jan Sumrall brought the meeting to order at 7:00. President Sumrall introduced SELVN Board members Ted Argiris, John Blackburn, York Chan, Bob Clarke, Liz Cohen, Mary Davis, Mike Demetriou, Richard Eastline, Don Franklin, and John Rafkin, and welcomed the 35 or so members and neighbors in attendance.

Update, Congressman Mike Quigley

- Congressman Quigley noted that the last time the Cubs won the World Series was in 1908, with veterans of the Civil War in attendance.
- Toma Toma from the Congressman's office attends SELVN meetings regularly; they are there to help constituents with their problems and to facilitate constituents' visits to Washington, D.C. His email is Toma.Toma@mail.house.gov, his phone number is (773) 267-5926.
- Quigley supports more transparency in the Federal Government by having, for example, cameras recording the Supreme Court.
- Quigley is the only Democrat on the Appropriations Committee and the House Select Committee on Intelligence, overseeing the FBI, the CIA and the NSA. He's also on the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Sub-Committees.
- He observed that while lots of money is dedicated to nuclear silos, the budgets for the small moves that really keep us safe have been cut, due to sequestration.
- Quigley has voted 100% of the time against torture.

In response to SELVN members' inquiries and comments, Congressman Quigley responded that:

- For missing mailboxes, notify Toma with the address of where it was (see above.)
- Illinois has the worst roads and bridges in the country, while the CTA is exceeding its rider capacity. We need a 20-year transportation plan but it's a bi-partisan issue blocked by a small group. There are currently more Republicans in the House than at any time since the Hoover administration.
- Regarding the Cubs, "Anyone can have a bad century."

Report from Chris Jessup, Alderman Tunney's office, delivered by President Sumrall

- There has been an increase of 44 police officers in the Ward since 2015.
- Photographs of suspected crime perpetrators are available for viewing on the Alderman's website.
- Drivers delivering to Mariano's have been made aware that they may not unload from Broadway. All parking restrictions will be enforced.
- Residents are still unhappy about the parking garage ramps' lighting, the developer claims it's compliant and Mariano's says it's working on fixing it.

- Mariano’s managers Betty Jensen and Mark Zimboulis will enforce site cleaning.
- The parking garage will be locked as soon as the necessary equipment arrives and is installed.
- CDOT will be looking at the mid-block traffic light.
- The CTA has been changing bus stops across the city and will not be returning any of the pre-Mariano’s stops.

Report, Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, delivered by President Sumrall

- The 2016 Art Fair was very successful.
- The Chamber would like to hear residents’ comments regarding curbside cafés.
- Halloween Hoopla will take place on October 30 at Nettelhorst School; vintage cars and Elvis were at the Antique Car Show on 10/15/2016 in the Treasure Island parking lot.
- Lakeview East Gift Cards save money and support our neighborhood businesses, they are available [here](#).
- Business Closings: Q Barbecue and Panz, both on Diversey Parkway.

Update - 44th Ward - Alderman Tom Tunney

Controversial Properties:

- The Serbian Museum on Barry Street is orange-rated. The Landmarks Commission is reviewing it (*ala* 441 W. Surf St.), valuing it on its own merit. There may be a larger landmarked area including (non-contiguous) buildings on Pine Grove, Barry, and Wellington. A preliminary meeting is planned with the owners. There are differences of opinion within the Serbian community about the desired outcome. If the building is torn down, a single family home is the desired replacement. The zoning is R-5.
- The owners of the Wellington properties just west of Broadway seek their “highest, best use.” Two buildings are orange-rated, one is frame; all are for sale.
- The Cubs are winning, game logistics have gone well, and a World Series should not make the neighborhood suffer. Many police will be hired with lots of overtime paid for by Chicago’s taxpayers.
- An Original Pancake House is slated to open in spring in the storefront vacated by Panera Cares. Panera is seeking another (non-caring) location in Lakeview.
- Neighborhood safety is being enhanced with about 45 new officers, and hundreds more during Cubs games.
- Tunney is very concerned about a possible school strike.
- Nettelhorst School has a community garden; its back play-lot was resurfaced and the front lot's surface was repainted.
- The Waterloo “parklet” behind Mariano’s was an attempt to avoid a repetition of the Century’s disastrous “backyard;” trees have been planted, but not in the parkway.
- Liz Cohen reiterated that light from the garage shining into bedrooms is still an issue, and screens are needed. Tunney will meet with Mariano’s at the site at night to review the situation, and expects that eventually the trees will help.

- Roots Pizza lingers in Permit Hell. Another Roots Pizza is planned in the Ricketts development, which could affect the seemingly ill-fated Clark St. Roots.
- Don Franklin observed that the “People Places” on Clark St. don’t seem to be used much by people, perhaps because of their lack of shade in the summer. Gaby’s is said to like theirs. A \$600 fee was waived this year.
- During the Chicago Marathon, Wellington and Barry Streets were not blocked off at Clark St. and many cars drove in and had to turn back around.
- On Clark St. from Diversey to Belmont expensive landscaping is out of the question. The Lakota Group’s recommendations for Clark St. would cost \$1 million per block. Zoning for a pedestrian/retail street would bar new curb cuts from Diversey to Wellington.
- A discussion of the lack of official crosswalks in the locations where people actually cross the streets ensued. (A fatality occurred where Surf meets Clark.) The city doesn’t like to put stop signs on arterial streets. Crosswalk signs in the middle of the street cost \$600 each, and generally last only 6 weeks; a more permanent solution is needed. If there aren’t ramps, there can’t be a crosswalk. Is a stop sign what SELVN wants?
- The City assumes that the overall positive economic impact of the Cubs will offset the cost of police overtime.
- Jan Sumrall observed that already scarce parking on Diversey has been made even more difficult where Market Place was and in front of the Macon construction site on the north side of the street. No work is being done, yet parking is not allowed between 6am and 6 pm.
- TJ Maxx may be moving into the building at the SE corner of Diversey and Clark.
- Mike Demetriou asked which bank is moving into the old 7-Eleven.
- The proposed redevelopment of the 3115 N. Clark St. garage has not been approved, due to the developers’ attempt to substitute shoddy materials in place of Chicago brick, despite their promise to use “like materials.”

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

John Blackburn reminded all about Open House Chicago, during which the Brewster, the Elks Headquarters, the Church of Christian Science, and the Shrine of Mother Cabrini will all be open to the public from 9-5 on Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Davis,
Board member