

## Minutes for WANT general membership meeting 4/4/13

Mike Dies, president: introduction, announcement of membership raffle. Mike moves to waive reading of the last meeting's minutes, motion carried.

Call for volunteers – we still need someone to help with WANT's website, and a volunteer to help with newsletter distribution. And a reminder that the Garden committee always needs help on work days.

Treasurer's report from Cameron Krieger: at present we have almost \$13,000 in the bank. But we do have bigger expenses coming up later in the year; such as a donation to the farmer's market. We are also open to suggestions from members about other donations. We're close to reaching our goal for membership dues for the year, so financially we're doing well.

Terry Prorack (ph) – report on plans to develop portion of Rosehill cemetery as a park: Terry went to the last meeting of the park district setting out plans for a new park to open in about a year. Currently the plan calls for installation of a boat dock, with fishing stations, but visitors would have to provide their own boats. Some neighbors think the pond is too small to make any sense. There are also concerns that no additional parking or traffic signals will be provided. The next meeting is at CPD station at 5400 N. Lincoln, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

LUZ report from Phil Casagrande:

- re: future development at Edgewater Medical Center site, there was a meeting Feb. 7, and the proposed development has been agreed to by the planning commission; the WARE neighborhood association is also in favor. The number of units has been reduced (to 214), which the neighbors are happy about. The layout of development will include a 13 story mixed-use (retail and residential) building at east end of site, with a 1-acre park site west of that, but it's up in the air whose responsibility maintenance of site will be. The far western portion of site will be 18-21 single-family homes. There will be 15 income-based units in building, to satisfy TIF requirements (TIF to finance demolition of existing buildings). Question whether there will still be permit parking to accommodate extra cars.
- There is proposed development for Nelson's funeral home, which is closing, but no firm plans at present.
- LUZ approved proposed development for Ravenswood pub site, for a 6-unit condo or apartment building. Building will have 5 or 6 parking spaces, with open porches on front of building, just 2 feet taller than building adjacent to the north. There will be more landscaping in front and nicer design. They'll be looking to break ground sometime before September.
- Someone asked about property at 1721 W. Summerdale, apparently an abandoned 3-flat. Nobody mows or picks up anything. Mike Dies will give the owner a call and ask him what's going on with it.

- Dunkin Donuts is reportedly planning to move into the space currently occupied by Sabrina gift shop. Perhaps WANT could push a sign ordinance to prevent garish signage.

Trumbull school threatened with closing: no one from LSC made it to the meeting, but Mike Dies spoke with Trumbull reps earlier in the day. They reiterated that although CPS says the school is “underutilized,” the high proportion of special needs students means the school should have lower enrollment and high staff/student ratio. Trumbull supporters still have a few opportunities to protest closing: people can contact Aldermen O’Connor and Osterman; there will be community meetings at Amundson HS on Tues April 9 from 5-7 and Fri. April 12 from 5-7; and there will be a public hearing at CPS office on April 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Debbie Pope commented that WANT should take a position and oppose Trumbull’s closing because the school is a resource in our community, and past closings have not shown savings that were expected. Motion for WANT to declare opposition to closing Trumbull, motion carried. The board will draft email to O’Connor saying that the organization has voted to oppose closing.

Dena – annual yard sale. This year it will be Saturday June 29. Last year we had 55 households participating, we hope for similar or better turnout this year. Households who join WANT get free inclusion in yard sale.

Don Gecewicz – Next WANT meetup dinner is May 10 at Turkish Cuisine.

Discussion of problem with traffic in connection with Rogers Park Montessori, particularly at pick-up time in the afternoon. Mike Dies explained that a line forms along Ravenswood southbound north of Balmoral some time before pick-up, with parents and caregivers trying to get an early spot in the pick-up queue, causing a line of stopped cars, which through traffic has to go around, causing a serious safety issue. WANT has been talking with school to work out a solution. Claire Shingler, representing Bowmanville Community Organization, and an RPMS parent spoke to concerns; the school administration realizes the situation isn’t ideal and is looking for input to improve the traffic issue. A big part of the problem is that some parents line up before pick-up time to be early in the queue, and the school allows vehicles into parking lot before pick-up time. CPD has been in contact with school in response to community complaints.

- Someone raised concern about Asian Passages Charter school, which wasn’t on WANT’s radar screen before. Mike and the board will investigate.

Maryon: Garden committee report. Update on railroad construction along east side of Ravenswood from Foster to Berwyn: they’re going to be putting up a fence, about 2 feet east of the wall. Fence will be on RR property line. Going north, RR is going to build a wall from Balmoral north. If they don’t get it done before RPMS is back in session, it could create a traffic problem.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.