

WEAR Annual Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 5, 2019
St. Gregory's Social Hall

The meeting began at 7:10PM with current WEAR Board Member introductions and new board member nominee introductions. Annual dues were requested and collected on entry.

Current WEAR BOARD

Lisa Hand – President – Stepping down (not present)
Scott Fink – At Large Member – Becoming President (present)
Cecilia Horan – At Large Member – Stepping down (not present)
Ruthie Williams – Social Chair - Stepping down - (not present)
Cid Stanford Jarvis – Secretary – Stepping down (present)
Bill Farmer – Acting Treasurer – Remaining (present)
Charlie Parker – At Large Member – Remaining (present)

New board member nominees included:

- David Woolwine - Secretary
- Darrin Townsend – At Large
- Kearby Kaiser – At Large
- Michael Quinlan – At Large
- Susanne Hoffman – At Large

New officers nominated included:

- Scott Fink – President
- Charlie Parker – Vice President
- Bill Farmer – Treasure
- David Wollwine - Secretary

Vote was taken and all agreed to new members, expanding the board by one At Large member and the officers. Terms are for two years.

It was noted that the WEAR Board thanks for former Board members for their dedication and service to our neighborhood association.

Representing the Alderman's office was Geoffrey Cubbage, Policy director and Chad Whitney, community liaison. Alderman Vasquez was unable to attend but did meet separately with the WEAR Board earlier in the week on Monday at the Ward office.

- Scott gave an overview of items to be discussed in the meeting asking Geoffrey and Chad to provide detail from the Ward perspective
 - WEAR Garden – It was noted that the Board thanks all those who volunteer and that all residents wanting to participate next year are welcomed.
 - Water main line update
 - Metra

- EMC
- Zoning process and Communication
- Chad offered that the ward was looking for additional community events possible 311 training
 - WEAR member requested additional Shred Events
 - Chad said they were looking for two shred events in 2020 which would also include electronic recycling.

40th WARD UPDATES - Geoffrey offered:

Water Main

- Current water main work is complete in the North Side of WEAR
 - While most spots needing new trees were planted a few months ago, a few spots were missed. WEAR is working with the Alderman's office to facilitate the planting of new trees in all the remaining open spots on the impacted streets
- 5800 Paulina between Rosehill and Thorndale: Geoffrey state that no new water main work is currently slated through 2021. However, residents did express that that this block is full of potholes in need to repair
- Bryn Mawr between Ashland and Ravenswood is slated for water main work in 2020. Residents can track planning and developments at <https://chistreetwork.chicago.gov/map>

Mulch

- The City has a large compost of Mulch which is available free of charge from Streets and Sanitation at their facility on Western Avenue just south of the Rosehill Cemetery entrance. Open to the public during most business hours. Contact the Alderman's office for additional questions.

METRA update

- Contractor has not yet been allocated, expect groundbreaking to begin Spring 2020 with estimated completion Fall 2021 – subject to change
- Station will be an elevated platform on the north side of Peterson at Ridge
- Current Parking allocation 75 spaces requested – no word yet on whether this will be the final approved number. Spaces will be angled southbound on Ravenswood from Peterson to Thorndale – subject to change

ZONE approval and communication

- Geoffrey detailed that the Up-zone request on 1767 Rosehill (remaining vacant lot west of Candea development) was approved (though with modifications with a set-back for the top floor and that none of the units would look down into the new home on the adjacent west side). This was the dominate topic of the evening for a 45+ minute discussion.
 - The alderman's office noted that the positive feedback they received outweighed the negative feedback, in spite of WEAR Board recommendation.
 - It was strongly noted that the WEAR Board was not in favor of this approval. WEAR's long held position was to not approve up-zoning requests within the inner streets of WEAR outside of Ravenswood, Ashland or Ridge

- WEAR and the community present at the meeting strongly expressed that the WEAR Board feedback should carry greater weight than that of an on-line straw poll as the WEAR Board represents the entire WEAR community
 - Members believed that because they offered their opinions to WEAR Board members, they were not required to fill out forms online in order to have their opinions known
 - It was also noted that Alderman's office did not communicate to the WEAR Board that a decision had been made and forwarded to the full City Council for approval
 - Immediate residents close to the development site also noted that they never received paper notices as they had in previous administrations
 - While the Alderman's office did have an open community meeting at the Ward office to discuss this development, they did offer that in the future they are completely open to holding such meeting in other forums such as the forum where the annual WEAR meeting was being held. For such large scale developments WEAR will help facilitate such meetings.
 - Community strongly urged the Alderman to reconsider his position for this development as it goes against the community sentiment
- **SIDENOTE:** When the WEAR Board met with the Alderman earlier in the week, this was the main topic of discussion. The Alderman has committed to improving the communication with WEAR to ensure that similar situations do not occur in the future.

Ravenswood speed

- Neighbors were concerned about the recent tragic accident at the corner of Rosehill and Ravenswood and the impact that METRA will have on the traffic patterns
 - Because of the state IDOT classification of this section of road, speed bumps cannot be installed. It was discussed in the earlier Alderman meeting that they would research if that classification can be changed
 - It was also discussed with the Alderman about putting a cross walk at the north end of the WEAR garden with curb bump-outs as a way of slowing traffic

EMC update

- Physical development of the park is pending agreement between the City and the developer for what deeper layers of infill will be used which will pass IEPA requirements. New clay and top soil will be brought in to go over those deeper infill layers. No timeline when that work would start is yet available.
- EMC building update
 - Work permits issues have been sorted and work is progressing, but no detail was provided as to completion date
 - Community voiced their continued frustration with this project, as did the Alderman's office.
- Traffic pattern issues were raised by residents in attendance as to how drivers can drop off and return to Ashland or if they can circle the property through the new alley. No immediate answers were available at the meeting but the Alderman's office will refer the issue to CDOT for study.

50/50 sidewalk repair process

- Is a program where the City will fund 50% of the cost to repair sidewalks.
 - The community was encouraged to log onto CDOT website at 6AM on January 7, 2021 to request city funding. All requests must be online. Funds are limited and openings fill up quickly.
 - Neighbors were reminded that homeowners are responsible for the sidewalk upkeep – snow removal as well

Building south of EMC

- Neighbors questioned what was going in there as foundation was being poured
- No developer was identified but alderman's office thought it would be a 3 or 4 flat
 - No timeline or further detailed offered