

WEAR Annual Meeting

December 9, 2020

2020 Board Members Present

Scott Fink, President

Charlie Parker, Vice-President

Bill Farmer, Treasurer

David Woolwine, Secretary

Suzanne Hoffman

Kearby Kaiser

Michael Quinlan

Ruthie Williams

Guests: Alderman Andre Vasquez, Geoffrey Cubbage, Policy Director – 40th Ward

59 Attendees

Meeting Minutes

Opening and WEAR Update

- Scott welcomed guests and WEAR members and provided an overview of the evening's agenda.
- WEAR Board members were introduced.
- Scott announced that Kearby Kaiser would be moving out of the neighborhood and leaving the WEAR Board, leaving two open board positions.
- Scott nominated Becky Radoszewski and Laura Bicchichi to join the Board as at-large members. Both were confirmed by unanimous affirmation.
- Scott provided an overview of WEAR activities for the past year and the coming year:
 - Meetings with Alderman and staff - input on train station development, park development
 - Because of COVID, most other activities limited to the continued improvements in WEAR Garden including Metra beginning to place large limestones in the Garden
 - 2021 – continued Garden improvements which includes the creation of a Butterfly Sanctuary in collaboration with classed from Pierce Elementary School, EMC Open House together with the Edgewater Historical Society, the possible return of social activity such as Garage Sales, and neighborhood garden tour.
- Scott announced that WEAR dues had been reduced to \$10 for 2021. They may be paid via Paypal at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/wearorg/10> or by mailing a check to:
WEAR Membership
(C/O Bill Farmer)
5911 N. Paulina St Unit 1E
Chicago, IL 60660
- Bill provided an update on permit parking issues on the north-side of the WEAR area.
 - A survey of various permitting options was conducted of area residents.

- o The conscious is that permit parking for some hours of the day (but not 24 hours) would be best. E.g., during typical business hours
- o The next step is to collect signatures of residents in the area impacted. Due to the COVID-19 virus, this may be delayed. Alderman Vasquez offered that there may be digital options for signature collection.
- o If the required number of signatures are collected, a formal request will be submitted to the Alderman, who will make a request to the city.

Alderman's Update

Post Office Issues:

- The Alderman has received many complaints about the delivery of mail in our neighborhood. Complaints are happening all over the city, but the situation is worse in our community.
- Given that USPS is a federal organization, he is in regular contact with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. She is working with USPS at the local and federal level on improvements.
- USPS states that delays are COVID-related.
- There are hiring 8 to 10 new positions at the Devon post office. If residents are interested in jobs, contact USPS.

People's Budget:

- Every year, the Ward receives \$1.3 million for Ward infrastructure improvements. The Alderman believes that deciding how to spend those funds should be a community effort.
- He uses a participatory budgeting process for neighbors to say where to allocate \$1 million - whether it be repaving alleys, repairing sidewalks, or creating a Dog-Friendly Area at Winnemac Park, etc.
- To vote on projects:
 - o Register to vote before December 21. Click on this registration link - <http://bit.ly/PB40Register>. *(Note: Once you're registered, you will receive an email confirmation with a voting code and instructions on how to vote. Expect voting codes within 24 hours of registering)*
 - o Let the Alderman know how you'd spend \$100,000 on future 40th Ward projects via the [PB project proposal link](#).

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program:

- Registration opens on January 11 at 6 AM.
- Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of participants is based on the availability of funds. The program typically reaches capacity quickly, so you are encouraged to apply early.
- The request website can be found here: www.cityofchicago.org/311.

Metra Station:

- A contractor has been selected. They are currently working with the city on permits.
- Major work should start in Spring 2021
- At the request of WEAR, the Alderman is working with CDOT on installing a pull-over area at Peterson Plaza (Corner of Peterson and Ravenswood) to help with traffic flow.

- Metra will provide 40 parking spaces. If needed, an additional 90 spaces could be added.

EMC Pocket Park:

- The property is just about ready to turn over to CPD, who will be adding 24" of topsoil and then landscaping.
- A high-level park design was approved by neighbors several years ago. Specifics will be decided later in the process.
- WEAR will facilitate community input on the name of the park.

Other:

- The Green Alley project has been approved.
- The Alderman's office met with Jewel to discuss removing the no-parking area along Ashland Ave. and improving the streetscape by replacing the double sidewalk with a single sidewalk and a parkway. No final decisions have been made.
- The city is considering making the temporary shared street on Catalpa between Ashland and Clark permanent
- Methodist Hospital has been sold, and possible redevelopment of the parking lot will occur. The Alderman will be soliciting community input.
- There is no news about the sale of the property owned by Temple Steel. It has been delayed due to COVID-19 concerns.

Issues/Questions from WEAR Members:

- *No Parking* signs have been removed along Edgewater Ave. by EMC construction crews. The Alderman will request they are replaced.
- *No Parking Here to Corner* signs are missing in some areas. WEAR will provide a list to the Alderman.
- The Alderman will investigate the status of the raised crosswalk, requested by WEAR, on Ravenswood to the WEAR Garden.
- A question was raised about tenant's associations. Who should they work with on issues particular to their building? The Alderman suggested calling his office and working with the Metropolitan Tenant's Organization.
- Scott reiterated that WEAR wants participation from renters and homeowners and is looking for ways to engage more renters in the neighborhood.
- Curb replacement on Edgewater Ave. is waiting on CDOT.
- The alley in the 1600 block of Edgewater is in bad shape. Alderman will ask EMC contractors to replace gravel now. Ultimately, it will be part of the Green Alley replacement program.
- A complaint about the vacant lot at 1767 Rosehill was raised. The Alderman will speak with Candea Development.
- Issues were raised about cars speeding the wrong-way down Hollywood Ave. The Alderman asked that residents email him with specifics.
- Drainage issues in the alley between Hollywood and Olive were raised. Residents asked that the city complete the work started earlier this year.

Scott closed the meeting by thanking attendees and asking residents to be in touch with a WEAR Board member if they have ideas of activities they would like to see WEAR launch.