

WEAR Annual Meeting
Thursday December 7, 2023 at 7 PM

2023 Board Members Present

Scott Fink, President

Charlie Parker, at-large

Bill Farmer, Treasurer

Suzanne Hoffman, Secretary

Becky Radoszewski, at-large

Guests:

- Mural Artist Cheri Charlton
- 20th District Precinct Commander James Baier
- Alderman Andre Vasquez, 40th Ward Attendees

Meeting Minutes

Opening and WEAR Update

- Scott welcomed residents and WEAR members.
- Scott introduced the mural artist Cheri Charlton who will be painting the mural in the Horst & Anna Wagener WEAR Garden in Spring. Scott noted that fund raising has gone well but folks can still [contribute to the project](#). It was also noted that when prep work begins in Spring that volunteers from the community will be needed.
- **WEAR Annual Dues.** Residents were encouraged to join WEAR and support the \$20 annual dues per household to support their advocacy, continued expansion of the park and community activities. Use this [link](#) to pay via Square or visit the WEAR Website for the address to mail in a check.
- WEAR Board members were introduced.
- Terms are expiring for three at-large Board members Charlie Parker who has decided to retire from the Board, Suzanne Hoffman and Michael Quinlan. Terms for Scott Fink, President and Bill Farmer, Treasure are also expiring as well as their officer positions. Both have served two terms in their officer rolls which is the limit according to WEAR by-laws.
- Three new Board members were welcomed into the group. New members and officers are:
 - Ann Regan -new board member and will serve as President.
 - Scott Fink – renewed to board and will serve as Vice President
 - Melinda Dunker – new board member and will serve as Treasure
 - Suzanne Hoffman – renewed to board and continue as second term as Secretary
 - Mike Lufrano – new at-large board member
 - Bill Farmer – renewed as at-large board member
- Scott asked for unanimous consensus to confirm the above and members responded in the affirmative.
- Scott then turned the meeting over to Ann Regan the new President.

- WEAR member Patrick McNeil requested to speak for a minute or two about the next upcoming CAPS meetings for Beat 2012 which encompasses WEAR, WANT and Bowmanville. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of even months at 7 PM.



- The new 20th District Precinct Commander James Baier was then introduced along with his Captain. Notes or questions discussed included:
 - The 20 District has the lowest crime rate in the entire City and has zero murders in the past year.
 - When asked does he have the resources needed he noted that the City has only finite amount of resources to allocate across the City. He noted that while he would like to have more, in the big picture we're in a pretty good place.
 - He discussed the strain on resources the migrant issue has had on the department, but they were insight of having most relocated out of the police stations to the housing.
 - He was asked about pan-handlers at busy intersections well after it was dark which creates a safety issue and could the police make them move on. His reply was the City policy is very hands-off to pan-handlers as they have a constitutional right to be there. The only time they will get involved is when it becomes aggressive where there is the risk of immediate harm to others.
- Alderperson Andre Vasquez was then introduced to discuss a few specific topics then opening it to general questions
- It was also noted that WEAR stayed in regular contact with Alderperson Vasquez's office to advocate for issues such as the park completion and the painting of the ComEd substation east side etc.

Ravenswood Master Plan:

- **Concern:** multiple issues of Ravenswood have been raised with the Alderperson:
 - Speed, especially north of Rosehill
 - Need for bump out in front of condos in 5800 block as delivery trucks blocking traffic
 - Parking on west side, gridlock south of Rosehill in front of Fireside when snow piles up alongside of the road

- Parking between Rosehill and the new Metra parking
- **Response:** The City has completed an “traffic smoothing” plan for Ravenswood from Foster to Peterson. The full plan is not ready for release but Andre will be scheduling a joint community meeting to present it to WEAR and WANT. The plan calls for speed humps, improved crosswalks and bump-outs and bike lanes.

Metra Train Station

- The Metra station is making good progress and should be ready in Spring.
- Concerns raised with the Alderperson includes who will be responsible to maintaining the landscaping long term and a plan for garbage cans and who will maintain them. It was noted that the Ravenswood station is frequently strewn with trash.

EMC Park Update: Alderman Andre Vasquez

- It was noted that the groundbreaking was a successful event and the construction is now in full swing. Construction should be completed in late winter so that plantings can occur in early Spring weather permitting.
- It was noted that the new owners of Andersonville Point have made a private donation to the Park District so that they can plant larger trees than what would have been budgeted for.
- A non-WEAR resident brought up the issue of the name of the park and wanted us to petition to have it named after the hospital’s founder. It was noted that WEAR has already done multiple surveys and the name settled on was West Edgewater Green which has already been formally presented to the Park District Board.
- This same individual also brought up her thoughts that the park needs to be planted with specific natives. While we appreciated the cause of planning natives which we focus on in the WEAR Garden, the focus at this point with the Park is to just get it done. WEAR is not going go push this cause which would result in delays.
- When the Park is completed, WEAR will form a Park Committee that folks outside the regular WEAR Board can serve on. The Committee will help coordinate community activities in the park. Even though planting will occur in early Spring, the center grass areas will be seeded, not sodded. Its not know how long it will take before the grass area is established and ready for activity.



Zone 65 Expansion

- Andre noted that he has been thinking about holding off submitting to the City Council for the changes that would impact the entire WEAR area, including the existing Zone 65, all of which will be Monday to Friday 6 PM to 8 AM. The only exceptions to that are the four streets that have successfully petitioned for alternative hours:
 - West Hollywood Ave from 1615 to 1629 W Hollywood on odd side of the street from 3pm to 9am - Monday to Friday
 - West Hollywood Ave from 1632 to 1676 West on both sides of the street from 3pm to 9am - Monday to Friday
 - West Thorndale Avenue from 1614 to 1775 West on both sides of the street from 5am-9am - Monday to Friday
 - West Rosehill Drive from 1600 to 1733 West on both sides of the street from 5pm to 9am - all days – However there was some questions if this was correct. Andre to follow-up with Suzanne Hoffman on if additional signatures were required.
- There was spirited discussion about Andre’s comments to hold off on introducing the changes. From the WEAR members in attendance the strong consensus was that he should not delay.
- Andre did note that for those in the existing zone that have concerns about enforcement that they should not call 911 but rather call the Ward Office. The Ward Office will then reach out to the Department Finance who enforces zone parking. That is outside of scope of what the police enforce.

People’s Budget

- Alderperson brought up the subject of residents voting for proposed project. Details are on the Ward website.
- Andre also noted a new service to request repairs through the People’s budget. This is for more basic items such as sidewalk repairs, street painting, potholes etc. Use this [link](#) to submit requests.

Misc.

- **Constituent Question:** Any progress on making Paulina north of Thorndale one way northbound?
 - **Andre’s response:** A traffic study was done and noted that it is possible, Andre to schedule a community meeting to discuss.
- **Constituent Question:** What is up with possibility of reversing the direction of Hollywood?
 - **Andre’s response:** This was raised as an issue by a few residents on the street with their concern of frequent drivers going the wrong way since the first 50 feet of the street is two-way up to the alley. Because of this request, a traffic study was performed by the Dept. of Transportation. Long term residents expressed their displeasure with such a change as they petitioned years ago to have it

changed to reduce the traffic that uses it as a short cut to Ravenswood. Andre noted that no decisions have been made and that future community meetings would occur first.

Ann closed the meeting by thanking attendees and asking residents to be in touch with a WEAR Board member if they have any additional questions, concerns or ideas.