



MINUTES

September 14, 2005

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. There were 25 people in attendance, including President Chris Lawrence, Treasurer Sue Morales, Secretary Mari Colello.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 13, 2005, meeting was unanimously approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Sue reported the account balance is \$728.55. Motion was made to approve \$40 fee for web site (ETNABC.org). Seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Business

"Welcome to Edgewater" Sign: Tom Green has designed a new "Welcome to Edgewater" sign that will replace the current sign at Hollywood and Ridge, which has become worn and is falling apart. The new sign is a polymer blend that will withstand harsh weather and will be higher for greater visibility. The sign costs \$2,500. ECC, EPIC and BARGE have raised a little over \$1,000. Chris asked members for a suggested amount for ETNA to contribute towards the sign. Motion was made for ETNA to contribute \$200 towards "Welcome to Edgewater" sign. Motion seconded. Passed unanimously.

The owners of Hollywood Pantry, a new convenience store that opened at Hollywood and Wayne, donated \$500 towards the sign.

Adrian Colak, the owner of 5692-94 N. Wayne (Hollywood, Ridge & Wayne) notified members that he will need community approval for an alleyway permit. He wants to turn the backyard of the building into a parking lot. Chris asked if he could come back next month with plans to show members.

Garden Committee Proposal: Susan Darnall contacted the Chicago Public School System over the summer regarding the trees that needed watering at the Pierce school parkway and grounds. She and another person were watering throughout the summer but they needed help. Meanwhile, the trees are young and will not survive the winter without water. Susan found out that school principals are responsible for directing school engineers to maintain grounds and water plants. The floor was open for discussion of various methods to maintain the grounds, including environmental clubs and after-school programs. Because the trees ultimately are paid for by taxpayers, and the campus parks are also used by the community, Joe Teller recommended that a petition by the block clubs requesting the school to maintain the property be sent to the principal. Sue Morales offered to work with Susan to develop such a petition.

Victoria St. Cul-de-Sac Proposal: Resident Patricia Hendersen witnessed a few "near misses" incidents where pedestrians were nearly hit by cars speeding down Victoria near the alley next to Gethsemane. She met with the alderman's traffic coordinator Tom Samuels, Gethsemane's owner and ETNA president Chris Lawrence to come up with some solutions to slow down traffic. One solution was the possibility of making Victoria a two-way street and putting in a cul-de-sac by the alleyway. This would block through-traffic that is speeding through the alleys as well as cars speeding down Victoria. Gethsemane's owner suggested that he could then make the area into a parkway and possibly install a fountain.

The floor was opened for discussion. One Victoria St. resident noted excessive speed was the cause of an accident at his end of the street where a car missed the sharp turn and ended up hitting the light pole. Another resident thought parking congestion was a bigger issue than speeding and that the cul-de-sac would only add to the congestion. It was also noted that if Victoria St access to Clark St. is blocked, traffic will increase on the surrounding streets.

A motion was made to form a committee of Victoria St. residents who would try to determine what traffic issues the residents thought were high priority and what solutions would be acceptable to residents. Motion passed. Committee members will bring a drawing of the cul-de-sac to visually show where exactly it would be placed.

ECC Fundraiser: Chris reminded members that ETNA usually buys an ad in the booklet for ECC's fundraiser. This year ECC celebrates its 45th anniversary. Money for the ad must be in by October. Chris will find out the amount for a half-page ad.

Old Business

Firehouse Usage: Chris mentioned that ETNA members should contact Doug Frasier in the alderman's office to say they want to serve on a committee to come up with viable ideas for using the firehouse on Ridge when it will be vacated. ETNA needs to reach out to BARGE members as well so the community can determine what they think will be the best use of the facility. Motion was made for ETNA members to form a committee and contact Doug. Motion seconded and carried. There was 1 abstention.

Clark Street TAP Presentation: Joe Teller reported that The Urban Land Institute is holding a meeting with Clark St. residents and business owners at Raven Theater. The ULI panel has 14 people, eight of whom are local. On the agenda will be such topics as what needs to happen to make development happen and what is the long term vision? Clark St. from Ainslie to Devon will probably be broken down into block segments like the Broadway report was.

CTA Safety: The Thorndale and Bryn Mawr "L" stops are being painted. However, better lighting, security cameras and signs are also needed. Also, garbage cans where bombs can be hidden, should be removed.

Open Discussion

Graffiti is on the rise again, particularly in alleyway between Victoria and Edgewater.

There is a bad smell coming from the sewer at Hollywood and Glenwood.

A sinkhole has still not been repaired on Victoria St. in front of 1525.

The Turkish restaurant North of Bryn Mawr does not clean up their sidewalks and garbage from the can overflows especially on weekends.

What is the status of 5616 N. Clark? This is a blight on the neighborhood. Can't the city purchase under a TIF?

Chris noted that the community does not have any leverage with the owner in regards to private property.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Colello
Secretary
