

Graceland West Community Association ("GWCA")
Community and Council Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2008

7:00pm Lake View High School Auditorium

GWCA Council Members Present: Ellen Romano, Michael Kailus, Mark Nehring, Donna Forsberg, Julie Gross and Kesh Sorenson.

GWCA Council Members Absent: Doug Dinnella, Steve Bines and Ann Bines.

Others present: approximately sixty residents of the Graceland West and Uptown communities.

On behalf of GWCA, Michael Kailus invited Alderman Schuler and his chief of staff, Dan Luna, to attend the meeting, but they declined. In addition, Peter Bernard of 1447-49 West Belle Blaine was invited to speak at the meeting to explain the variance sought by 1447-49 West Belle Blaine in connection with the addition of parking spaces in the back of such building. Peter Bernard did not speak to the audience at the meeting.

Ellen Romano chaired the meeting.

The first order of business was a presentation to the GWCA membership by Judy Glazebrook and Katherine Boyda of the Uptown Neighborhood Council ("UNC"). The UNC presentation covered the following:

- UNC is a neighborhood organization whose focus is to monitor the proposed development of Wilson Yard. The plan for Wilson Yard has been significantly altered since the original plan was proposed in 2001.
- UNC is concerned with the evolution of the plans for Wilson Yard, whereby the original plan included five separate developers and called for mixed income housing along with a Target store and movie theater. The revised plan now includes only one developer, Holsten, and calls for all low income housing, without a Target or movie theater. The revised plan will leave Uptown with one of the largest concentrations of dense subsidized low income housing in Chicago, at a time when elsewhere in the city there is evidence (such as the demolition of Cabrini Green) that this model has failed. While the revised plan for Wilson Yard is being driven by TIF money, UNC does not feel that the revised plan will do anything to spur economic development or improve safety in Uptown.
- The ultimate concern of UNC is that the revised plan for Wilson Yard will ultimately result in the creation of a slum in Uptown.

- UNC has engaged two law firms to fight against the revised proposal, Davis McGrath and Ramsdell & Associates. with the hope of commencing legal action to stop the proposed development of Wilson Yard.
- UNC indicated that they were looking for donations to support their legal fund.
- UNC opened the forum to questions from the audience, at which time questions were posed by (i) several Graceland West residents, each of whom apparently opposed the revised plan, (ii) one Uptown resident who expressed support for the revised plan, and (iii) another Uptown resident who expressed concern that original plan was abandoned.
- UNC urged GWCA members to visit www.uncchicago.org to learn more about the Wilson Yard project and www.fixwilsonyard.org to learn more about the Wilson Yard lawsuit.

After conclusion of the presentation by Uptown Neighborhood Council, Ellen Romano redirected the meeting towards GWCA-specific matters.

Upcoming GWCA events were discussed, including:

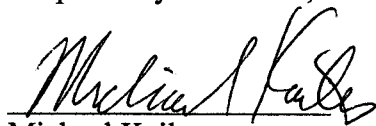
- Summer's Eve Party, Saturday, August 22 at 6pm at Warner Park & Gardens,
- GWCA Fest, Saturday, September 6, 11am – 5pm at 4200 block of Greenview, and
- Halloween Fest, Sunday, October 26, 1-4pm at Warner Park & Gardens

Budgets were approved for the following events in the amounts indicated:

- Summer's Eve Party, \$850, and
- GWCA Fest, \$6000.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Kailus

Secretary of the Meeting