



PUBLIC MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

MEETING HOST: Fischman's Liquors and Tavern

7:00 PM

SOCIAL HOST: Fischman's Liquors and Tavern

8:00 PM

50+ NEIGHBORS IN ATTENDANCE

- I. WELCOME** – *Gus Karamaniolas from Fischman's Liquors and Tavern kicked off the meeting with a warm welcome for the group. Fischman's is proud to be the local craft beer emporium with a strong commitment to Jefferson Park. Fischman's continues to bring successful events and food trucks to the neighborhood.*

Congratulations to Fischman's on celebrating their 20 year anniversary this year!

- II. COMMITTEE REPORTS** – All Committee meetings are open to the public. For a detailed description of each committee, meeting dates and notes, go to www.Jeffersonparkforward.org

BYLAWS	Currently gathering data and advice from established groups. Develop governing documents and non-profit status during the spring and summer months.
COMMUNICATIONS	Need volunteers to maintain web, social media, PR, newsletters. Regular tasks for individual volunteers as opposed to committee work.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Developing a mission: work with Chamber of Commerce, participate in RTA plan, Alderman's Participatory Budgeting, develop community level education plan, Jefferson Park marketing plan and brand
GROW JPF	Building volunteer base. Activities of this committee mirror other committees and this committee's work may be folded into the other committees.
LIVABILITY & ATTRACTIVENESS	<i>Twitter campaign compelled Metra to take care of their property and remove trash at the Jefferson Park stop – congratulations to all that participated! Great job team!</i> "Clean and Green" in April. Investigating potential dog park. Looking for ways to fill empty planters throughout the neighborhood. Next Meeting, Thursday, February 25.
SOCIAL / EVENTS	JPF first social event, "Brunch at Fannie's", 5040 W. Montrose, 11am-2pm, BYOB, adults \$15, kids \$8; "Forward March" pub crawl being planned coming this spring.
FUNDRAISING & SERVICES	Plans to raise funds for JPF and external organizations. Creating a survey for JPF interests coming soon

III. Speakers: CYD SMILIE, ARTS ALIVE CHICAGO, ALDERMAN JOHN ARENA

CYD SMILIE, ARTS ALIVE CHICAGO

The tenure of two sculptures is ending in Jefferson Park at the end of March (Milwaukee & Lawrence and outside of RepChi). Arts Alive Chicago is seeking donations to total \$3,500, the total cost to install and insure one sculpture, including a small stipend for the artist. Donations can be made via PayPal at: <http://artsalivechicago.org/> (please note "JPF" or "Jefferson Park" in the 'purpose' section of the donation page). BONUS: if the goal is met by April, TWO sculptures will be placed in the neighborhood. Please contact the Alderman's Art Liaison, Cyd Smilie, Arts Alive Chicago, with questions via the Arts Alive Chicago website. A collection box was circulated at the meeting for the sculpture program and approximately \$100 was raised during the meeting towards this goal.

ALDERMAN JOHN ARENA

Real Estate Developments in Jefferson Park-update

Two new residential developments are proposed for downtown Jefferson Park, a four story building at 5201 W. Lawrence Avenue (Lawrence & Laramie) and a 12 story building at 4850 N. Lipps Avenue (Ainslie & Lipps). Alderman Arena described the appeal of these buildings for 20-somethings, as well as empty-nesters. Situated near the transit center, cars are not necessary for everyone, at least not for every trip. 20-somethings rent to get a start, buy a single family home, staying for schools and parks, and bring new vitality and buying power to the area. Empty-nesters leave single family homes for simplified living and want to stay in their neighborhood. Currently, there is a resurgence of home buying in Jefferson Park, which is driving development all along Milwaukee Ave.

“Gateway” building at 5201 W. Lawrence

- 39 residential units
- 10,000 square feet for retail
- 41 parking spaces
- Input welcome on how to “activate” the public space at the north end of the small parking lot bordered by Lawrence, Laramie and Avondale, which will have some public space provided along Lawrence Avenue. Send suggestions to ward45@cityofchicago.org
- Tentative building timeline: Planning Commission in March, permits, break ground by May.

4850 N. Lipps

- 6 residential floors with 96 units
- 255 parking spaces
- Changes to original concept include step-down style building (12 stories, to 10 stories, to step down to transit center)
- Approximately 10,000 square feet of commercial space on ground floor along Ainslie Street.
- Planned Unit Development zoning code allows developer (Mega Properties) to correct issues related to Veterans Square, particularly the removal of Veterans Square dumpsters from the public sidewalk on Lipps Avenue.
- Residential entrance moved to Ainslie Street

Open Forum/Discussion:

- CTA Project – “Your New Blue” -- improvements from Grand Ave. to O’Hare. Jefferson Park terminal improvements include: replacement of entry canopy, new lighting, new paving. Station improvements include new escalators and stairs, new lighting, and refinishing of all surfaces. Platform improvements include new canopy skylight system, new lighting, and repairs and refinishing of all surfaces. Installation of public art. Altogether, this represents a \$25M investment in the terminal.
- RTA Study: The Alderman’s Office was successful in obtaining a planning grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to conduct a transit-oriented development (TOD) study around the Jefferson Park Transit Station. This \$100k study requires a 20% local match, which is being acquired from the Jefferson Park TIF district. The project should kick off in Summer and will have opportunities for public input. JPF has expressed its desire to be a stakeholder in the plan.
- CTA and CDOT are working together to stripe Milwaukee Ave. from Lawrence Ave. to Foster with crosswalks and bike lanes.

- Old firehouse building at the south east corner of Lipps and Ainslie being studied for potential Gift Theater location
- Three new Divvy bike stations are coming to Six Corners this summer at Old Irving Park, Irving Park and the Grayland Metra Station. Divvy Stations are placed by “building” on themselves and must be no further than ½ mile from each other.
- \$60,000 allocated by the city for striping bike lanes on Milwaukee from Addison to Lawrence as part of Participatory Budgeting.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- Representatives of JPF attended the February Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Of note, the Small Business Improvement Fund has funding available for area businesses’ physical improvement. For example, The Copernicus Center acquired funding for roof repairs and solar panels. Interested businesses can contact Ed Bannon in the Alderman’s Office for more information at 773-286-4645, or send an email to ward45@cityofchicago.org.
- Neighbors are concerned about people that are homeless in the area. The city and Hands to Help Ministries are in contact with people needing help to connect them with resources, including the recent arrival of a man on Montrose at the Metra tracks. Many neighbors expressed concern about him are advised to contact Hands To Help Ministries at 773-599-9370 or www.handstohelpministries.org. Neighbors can also call 911 and ask that the police conduct a well-being check on any person who is homeless.
- Victoria Benson, founder of CJ Protects, is holding their first public meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 7pm at Fannie’s, 4050 W. Montrose. CJ Protects works to increase awareness and community education of Autism. Please “like” their Facebook page.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- JPF will hold all regular monthly meetings on the third **THURSDAY** each month
- The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 17, 7 pm – *location to be determined*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- The formal portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m., followed by the social hour.