INAUGURAL PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2015
HOST: **FISCHMAN LIQUORS**
7:00 PM

I.   INTRODUCTIONS

DIRECTORS, HELPING LEAD YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FORWARD:
Ryan Richter, Susan Ciastko, Jenny Anast Conlon, Kate Dash, Dennis Davis, Marie MacDonald, Rolando Rodriguez, Robb Van Hook, Marilyn Zavoskey-Davis

UNABLE TO ATTEND:
Heidi Osterhout, Duane Waller

NOTABLE ATTENDEES:
Representative Robert & Sharon Martwick, Alderman John & Jill Arena, Anna Sobor—*past president, Old Irving Neighborhood Association*, George Karzas—*President, Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce*

50+ NEIGHBORS IN ATTENDANCE

II.   WHY WE ARE HERE

Jefferson Park Forward was born from a wellspring of unheard ideas, concerns, and a strong desire to improve the community. Over the years many neighbors' voices and ideas came together and gained momentum, leading to our positive energy creating what we now call **Jefferson Park Forward**.

Jefferson Park Forward intends to be welcoming and pragmatic while we discover how we can work together in our community.

Regular meetings will be scheduled at various locations around all of Jefferson Park to highlight businesses and all areas of the neighborhood.

III. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

Input was gathered from all meeting attendees to the questions below. *Please note this list is not all inclusive.* Many more ideas were submitted in writing. All submissions are being reviewed and categorized.

a. What can Jefferson Park Forward do to build a vibrant welcoming neighborhood?
- Host group events
- Host shopping events
- Hold meetings at various businesses
- Welcome wagon
- Represent the residents of Jefferson Park in the media and in community meetings
- Webmaster activities, especially search engine optimization (appear at or near the top online when "Jefferson Park" is searched)
- Work with the Chamber of Commerce
- Family friendly
- Accommodate bicycles
- Identify and work with the changing demographic, average age may not be what we think

b. What types of events or activities would you like this group to do?
- Fund raising
- Welcome wagon
- Create area "captains" or "chairpersons" who are responsible for disseminating information within a specific area so all of Jefferson Park is informed and engaged
- Pub crawl
- Partner with other neighborhood organizations
- 45th ward "crash night" (i.e., planned group outing takes up entire theater, restaurant, etc.)
- Jefferson Park "meet up"
- Garden Club
- Beautification committee

c. What types of changes would you like to see in the neighborhood?
- More people spaces
- Make the area more about people than about cars
- Expand community space
- Divvy bikes

IV. NEXT STEPS

a. After sorting through every idea submitted at this meeting, preliminary committees will be named by the directors for presentation and discussion at the next meeting.
b. If you have the ability and interest to help with the following, please contact one of the directors:
      i. Newsletter
      ii. Governance
      iii. Non-profit formation
      iv. Webmaster
      v. Outreach
c. The next meeting will be in January. The date and location are to be determined and will be announced via Facebook, Twitter, and on the website www.JeffersonParkForward.org

V. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Participatory budgeting meetings continue:
    o November 18 at St. John Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner, 7 p.m.; November 19 at Schurz High School,3601 N. Milwaukee, 1:30 p.m.; Saturday, November 21 at Jefferson Park Library, 5363 W. Lawrence, 10:30 a.m.
- 45th Ward Christmas Party, Friday, December 4 at the Filament Theater. Tickets available online at http://45id.org/event/45th-ward-4th-annual-holiday-party
- First *Winter Market* on Sunday, December 13, at Fischman's Annex (one door south of the bar), 10a.m.-2p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The formal portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m., followed by a casual social. (NOTE: the intention is to follow every meeting with social time.)