

## Minutes

**Location:** Fannie's Café, 5044 W. Montrose Ave.

**Time:** 7:00 PM

1. Welcome—Vice President Rolando Rodriguez welcomed the group which numbered almost 40. Fannie's owner Stephanie Rybrandt joined him and spoke about her business.
2. Guest Speaker: Will Agganis, of Columbia Care Medical Cannabis Dispensary gave a very informative presentation on Columbia Care and its commitment to patient care. Will spoke about the workings of the cannabis dispensary, State of Illinois requirements to receive the opioid alternative, and Columbia Care's commitment to assisting people who meet the state restrictions. Will stayed for the remainder of the meeting and a number of people approached him with additional questions.
3. Finance Update—JPF Treasurer Robb Van Hook reported that JPF has \$3098 in the bank. There are currently 158 paid members.
4. JPF Committee Updates
  - a. Community Development – Dennis Davis reported the following:
    - i. Participatory Budgeting is well underway with the completion of 5 neighborhood assemblies held by Alderman Arena where participants were able to brainstorm some ideas for how to spend \$1.3M for capital projects in the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward. The potential projects will be fleshed out and presented to Ward residents in the fall to vote on their preferences. Pete Czosnyka and Kate Wertime from JPF are on the group working with the ideas.
    - ii. Ainslie/Lipps Tower which is proposed to be built behind Veteran's Square adjacent to the railroad tracks and transit center was approved by the Chicago Planning Commission today. Mega Realty representatives Loukas and Maria Kozonis came to the last meeting of the CD Committee on 5/8 to talk about plans for the building. It will be an upscale building with a doorman, separate dedicated elevators for residents and parking. There will also be a private rooftop solarium for the residents with no public access. CD Meeting participants thought the building was lovely, but had concerns about the excessive amount of parking (200 parking spaces). CD participants expressed that they would like to see it smaller, to maybe lose a floor or 2 of the parking garage. Mega did ask for JPF reaction, so plans are to draft a letter to Mega expressing those concerns.

- iii. Our second salon will be held 5/30 at Galvin's. The first one in March discussed Walkability. The next one will be a discussion on "Tansition Town" facilitated by Pastor Jacki Belile with discussions about how can our community respond to the future challenges and opportunities of peak oil, climate change and the economic crisis.
  - iv. JPF has been involved in what we refer to as "Popeye's Alley," the alley between Popeye's and the building that will house the new Weston's Coffee Shop which is slated to open in June. We've been working with the Alderman's office and the City to vacate the alley to vehicular traffic and limit it to pedestrian traffic only. JPF will be making a modest contribution toward some additional renderings.
  - b. Livability & Attractiveness – Marie MacDonald gave an overview of the committee's projects for 2017. These include additional plantings at CVS and the Post Office which JPF initiated last year, and new plantings at the entrance to Jefferson Memorial Park. We have also obtained a "retired" newspaper box that the Chamber found for us. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art classes at Beaubien have decorated the box and we will place it in Roberts Square Park to be used as a free lending library.
  - c. Marketing – Rolando introduced Andrea Mitchell as chair of the new Marketing Committee. Andrea described some of the committee's strategy to secure new JPF membership, both from businesses and individuals.
  - d. Social – Rolando Rodriguez reported that our JPF picnic will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. Our First Friday Happy Hour will be at Rex Tavern on June 2. We are looking at a few other locations for the rest of the summer.
5. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 15, 7pm, at Windsor Tavern
  6. Adjourn