**Meeting Notes: Economic Development Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 12th 6:30 PM**

**Chicago Public Library, Jefferson Park Branch**

**Attendees:**

Dobra Bielinski

Susanna Ernst

Jerry Galvin

Joan Gorrell

Zach Hoffman

Ryan Richter

Rolando Rodriguez

**Meeting Overview:**

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

1. PB-45 Update (Wertime/Czosnyka)
   1. Kate provided up front input on PB-45: “Although one million dollars are up for vote for PB45, typically roughly $550,000 goes to street resurfacing each year, based on how the public votes… Voters will be asked to pick four projects + a percentage of the whole towards street resurfacing. There is value in JPF voting in a block for the top four projects of value to JPF = $450,000.  
        
      “Additionally, some of the projects on the ballots can technically be funded with TIF money (such as ornamental lighting on Lawrence and the improvement of Avondale Ave north of Lawrence), but it costs us as taxpayers more to do the same work via the TIF, due to the tacked on fees for TIF administration. Also, we still don't know if the TIF funds will be pulled for the schools. This means that as of a certain date, any TIF monies not allocated towards a specific project will be swept out of the TIF and allocated to other taxing bodies according to the same percentages as are shown on your second installment property bill.  
        
      “Finally, trees … are sure to win. So really, JPF just needs to come up with three projects that they encourage everyone to vote for. I believe there are thirteen total projects on the ballot.  
        
      “…I do want to clarify that … "decorative trash cans" … are the wrought iron permanently installed garbage cans with the plastic inserts. Once installed, they get added to the Streets & San rotation. It's not like there is an option for a "non-decorative" trash can.”
   2. Clarified that someone from the alderman’s office will be bringing placards to the next general JPF Meeting, Thursday, April 21.
   3. ED Committee will review the full proposals at that time and collectively discuss (and reach a consensus) on what makes the most sense for JPF (a ‘top down’ approach.) Committee will recommend voting bloc for JPF in the week after that meeting. This will be based on JPF mission and feedback heard throughout organization, especially ‘live’ at the general meeting.
   4. Push for PB-Voting will be a JPF push and most important communication through May 7th.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Web Education: Ryan will manage an ‘Education Section’ of the current website. These will be development/growth/planning resources for our committee, membership, and the general JP public. These are for e-books, paper books for trade/borrowing, videos, websites, and any other resources to help educate the general public. Committee to send any pertinent materials to Ryan.
2. Yelp Drive: Kate started us thinking about a ‘Yelp Drive,’ which would promote local businesses. She wrote up an overview of the proposition and sent to Ryan. It will be posted on our website and posted on FB as a collected effort/drive right after the PB-45 vote (Week of May 8.) It will be our main JPF mission and task during that time.
3. Calendar of Important Events: We are working on creating a collective calendar with all events on them (both JPF and General Community, delineated by color.) Initial thoughts are Google; Jerry will start to look into this.
4. Jeff Fest Update: Jeff Fest runs July 29-31. They are looking for volunteers; hoping to get JPF involved. We could serve in two hour shifts at the Beer tent and all tips would go to the organization or a charity of our choice. Other volunteer activities will be identified. Rolando is the JPF representative and more information will be coming next month.
5. Fringe Update: Fringe Fest takes place August 31st - September 11th. Opportunities will exist to volunteer for the festival. Tentative date for the fundraiser is May 19th at the Filament. Mark your calendars!
6. Open House Update: October 15-16, 2016. Final sites announced in July, Copernicus and Our Lady of Victory are strong candidates. Mark your calendars!
7. Jefferson Park – Clean and Green: JPF Volunteers to meet at Copernicus or the CTA, 10-2 on Saturday, April 16th.
8. On to 2050: - Ryan spoke to CMAP; potential for a meeting with them and a broader group later this year
9. Jefferson Park Master Plan: More details coming this summer

**New Business:**

1. Organizational Structure for Committees: We are undergoing changes to the JPF Committee structure; the Economic Development Committee is merging with the Livability and Attractiveness Committee
   1. New name: “Positive Growth and Livability” Committee
   2. Many of the objectives overlap and/or can be complimentary
   3. A livability subgroup will exist within the broader group
   4. New communication method to be established
      1. Short term: Closed FB Page
      2. Longer term: Zach to research ‘Slack’ for broader/better communication in the group.
2. Pub Nights / Book Club (Placemaking / Tactical Urbanism); Potential way for us to get out in an informal setting and discuss / debate key city/JP planning issues. Includes tactical urbanism such as alley parties and parklets. Susanna to start scheduling.
3. Discussed continued Metro clean-up and how we can be a part of it. We’ve alerted all authorities we can dream up; now we need to keep pounding.
4. Lero Building to potentially house Gift Theater – in planning phases
5. Costa Café is open for business and now knows about JPF
6. Dobra leads the Economic Development Committee for the Chamber; she can make a great liaison and give updates on economic issues in the community.

**Other:**

May meeting is not scheduled yet; it will most likely need to be in a larger venue as the group is expanding. We are checking into the Eden’s Church. Next meeting TBD.

**Next steps and Action Items:**

1. ALL: Send all your resource materials and information to Ryan for publication on website (Educational forum). RYAN: Collate and post when ready
2. ALL: Start thinking about PB-45. If you can’t be at the next general meeting, try to visit the displays/placards this weekend to be educated about them:
   1. Saturday, April 16, 12:00pm - 3:00pm, Fischman's Annex, 4778 N. Milwaukee Ave.
   2. Monday, April 18, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Las Tablas, 4920 N. Irving Park Rd.
3. ALL: Start thinking about businesses to review for Yelp in May
4. JERRY: Maintaining a new calendar for collective use. ALL: Send important community events to Jerry
5. ROLANDO: Provide update for Jeff Fest at next meeting. ALL: Mark your calendars to volunteer in some capacity. 7/29-7/31
6. SUSANNA: Follow up on Fringe Fest volunteering. ALL: Mark your calendars to volunteer in some capacity. 8/31-9/11
7. ALL: Mark your calendars for Open house. Potential volunteer activities may exist; Start thinking about ways to spruce up the neighborhood before the masses descend on us. 10/15-10/16 (Susanna to FU with any potential volunteer activities.)
8. ALL: Participate in Chicago Clean and Green 4/16
9. RYAN: Follow up with CMAP for potential activity later this year
10. ZACH: Research ‘Slack,’ for broader/ better communication in the group
11. SUSANNA: Start researching venues / scheduling book clubs/ pub nights for urban issues in JP.
12. DOBRA: Provide Chamber Economic Development updates as needed.

***“Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody." - JJ***