



# Jefferson Park Forward General Meeting

September 15, 2016

## Meeting Notes

**Location:** The Windsor Tavern, 4530 N. Milwaukee Avenue

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Attendance:** 26 members

### 1. Welcome

Ryan Richter kicked off the meeting and welcomed the group.

### 2. Guest Speakers

- a. Mike Quigley, Congressman, 5<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois
  - i. Rep. Quigley discussed transportation and infrastructure issues, as he sits on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. He mentioned that his goal is to chair this committee should the Democratic Party control the House. Quigley also mentioned the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, stretching from Lake Michigan and Lincoln Park, northwest to O'Hare and south to Hinsdale. He represents some 750,000 constituents.
  
- b. Gayle Nelson, Executive Director, Hands to Help Ministries
  - i. Gayle Nelson met with JPF to discuss her non-profit organization and how it helps the homeless in the community. Hands to Help is based out of St. John's Church on Montrose where they run a food pantry. They have two full time staff and have been operating for 10 years. Donations and grants provide for social workers, who help to assist the homeless with housing provision and job placement services. JPF will work with Hands to Help to develop a partnership for support.
  - ii. Questions: what to do if we see someone homeless? We could give food, not money. We can also talk to them or refer them to Hands to Help.
  - iii. Questions: what to do with the homeless around the Jefferson Park Transit Center? Hands to Help can come out regularly to help the homeless but it costs money to do so. Six Corners currently funds Hands to Help via their Special Service Area (SSA) revenues.

### 3. Finance Update

JPF Treasurer Robb Van Hook provided a finance update. As of September 15, JPF has 56 dues paying members, including 40 regular members, 6 business members and 6 associate members. Membership

fees fund the administrative and business expenses of JPF. These expenses right now consist of website administration, marketing materials and office supplies. We eventually hope to have enough money to support local charities and pay for events.

Currently, there is around \$1,000 in dues collected. Dues and t-shirt sales are the only source of revenues for JPF, though we are examining grant opportunities.

#### **4. JPF Committee Updates**

##### **a. Community Development**

- i. Susie Ernst, Chair of the Community Development Committee provided the update. The CDC is supporting Open House Chicago, which will be held on the weekend of October 15-16. Sites in Jefferson Park include the Masonic Temple on Gale Street, Our Lady of Victory Church and the Copernicus Center.

##### **b. Fundraising & Services**

- i. Sam Wertime, Chair of the Fundraising & Services Committee provided the update. Fundraising has worked to bring in Gayle Nelson and is in contact with her to develop a partnership between Hands to Help and JPF.
- ii. The Fundraising Committee and JPF held an event at Carpe Librum, the pop-up bookstore in Six Corners on Thursday, August 25 to support Turning the Page, an educational nonprofit in Chicago.

##### **c. Livability & Attractiveness**

- i. Marie MacDonald, Chair of the Livability & Attractiveness Committee provided the update. The Committee planted the CVS on Lawrence and Milwaukee during the last week of August thanks to donations from Alderman Arena's office and Mendoza Landscaping. CVS replaced some sprinkler heads and their timer to make sure watering is adequate. Hardy perennials were planted as well as mums for the fall.
- ii. Livability is also developing a recycling guide to show where recycling can be done in the City.
- iii. Livability has been working with the Chicago Park District on pushing forward with a Dog Park in the northwest corner of Jefferson Park. We're getting a handle on scope, budget and responsibilities – including financial contributions.
- iv. A web survey is under development to gauge interest in projects for next year.

- v. A free library is in the works. JPF recently received an old Nadig newspaper box and is currently fixing it up to provide a lending library. Its location will be near Beaubien school.
  - vi. Friends of the Park Survey – conducted by JPF in June – winning playground (Landscape) is being installed now at Austin/Foster Park.
- d. Social
- i. The Social Committee is planning a Gale Street Inn happy hour tomorrow, September 16 from 4-7 pm.
  - ii. A Bowling and Costume Party will take place on Saturday, October 15 at noon at Habetler Bowl.
5. New Business
- a. Dan Pogorzelski, a staff member from Representative Robert Martwick’s office, mentioned that on September 28, hearings will be held for a vacancy relief bill that the Representative is sponsoring.
  - b. Dan Pogorzelski also mentioned that on September 22 free flu shots would be available at the Representative’s office at 5940 N. Milwaukee Avenue.
6. Adjourn
7. Next Meeting
- a. **Date:** Thursday, October 20
  - b. **Time:** 7pm
  - c. **Location:** Fannie’s Café (5044 W. Montrose Avenue)
  - d. **Guest Speaker:** Alderman John Arena on the progress of developments in downtown Jefferson Park