



# West Old Town Neighbors

## West Old Town Neighbors Meeting Minutes

**6:00-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
Eva's Café, 1447 North Sedgwick, Chicago, Illinois**

### **MINUTES**

1. **Introduction.** The WOTN regular meeting convened at 6:00pm at Eva's Café at 1447 North Sedgwick. The agenda is attached. Those attending signed a roster and made brief introductions.

### **2. WOTN Committee Reports**

a. *Parks and Green Space* - (Aaron Andrews/Debra Singer/Melinda Kramer) - Aaron reported the following:

On February 4, 2019, a community meeting was held at Stanton Park to discuss the planning of the Near North Park. A framework document for the park was provided by the Chicago Park District. Highlights are summarized below:

- The park is intended to be open to the neighborhood and include open space, track, mixed use areas, and small dog friendly area. Some areas that are still being assessed are hours of lighting, type of field turf and a few other items.
- The environmental assessment indicates that abatement of soil will be needed and will probably take at least 6 to 8 months.
- The Stanton Park Advisory Board will be working with the Chicago Park District. There will be some Stanton Park Advisory Board meetings in the future and residents are encouraged to attend to provide input on Near North Park.
- The 633 W. North Avenue development may include cross access and plaza improvements north of the CTA. There is a need to coordinate with development to discuss plaza, maintenance, and function. Explore if the DFA area be elongated under CTA tracks to provide for a longer run for dogs and provide connection to the North/Ogden potential plaza.
- There was discussion of a seamless connection from Orchard Park into the Near North Park site.
- Some other discussion at the meeting included a walking path width is 8-feet, width to accommodate 2 by 2 running in both directions, use of a rubber surface for running, possible outdoor fitness stations, site elements such as a drinking fountain, benches, and trees, etc.

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- The park should make sure that place making is created in the park that reflects the community.
  - The configuration and use of Blackhawk Street is to be decided.
- b. *Development Committee* (Paul Gaudette/Dominic Schwartz) Paul and Dominic reported the following:
- 633 W. North Avenue Development - Ian Tobin disclosed at the Near North Park community meeting that OTMRA has been negotiating with the 633 Developer regarding a Community Development Agreement. Alderman Hopkins and his staff had previously stated that WOTN and the community would be participating in these discussions and that it would be a transparent process. The committee will look into this matter and report back.
  - CHA Development - The Development Committee is attempting to gather updated information on the master plan for the proposed CHA developments, street grid, etc. for dissemination to the community.
- c. *Public Safety and Crime* - (Kim McBride/Tom McBride) Tom McBride provided the following information prior to the meeting.
- Security Survey - The committee is putting together a summary of recommendations provided by the CPD during the security street survey.
  - The Chicago Police Department has also mentioned providing training for the formation of Block Clubs, more on this at the next meeting.
- d. *Marketing and outreach* - (Melinda Kramer) - Melinda is working on several ideas to increase neighborhood outreach.
3. *Next Meeting Schedule:*  
WOTN regular meeting  
6:00-7:00pm  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
Eva's Café, 1447 N. Sedgwick, Chicago
4. *New Business* - No new business
5. *Adjournment*

Respectfully Submitted,

West Old Town Neighbors