

Minutes of the EPIC Annual Meeting

May 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Sarah Bornstein at 10:10 a.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church.

The meeting opened with brief introductions from all of the EPIC members present.

The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Alderman Harry Osterman's Chief of Staff, Dan Luna. Dan's first item was to thank members for their patience during the Water Main Restoration project as it nears completion.

Schools and Parks District: The Alderman's office highlighted the achievements of neighborhood public schools Swift, Senn, Peirce and Goudy as they continue to improve. Swift School will host an Open House to celebrate its Centennial on Thursday, May 29th at 6pm. Dan announced the opening of the Broadway Armory Culinary Center, which will also host an Open House on May 29th 2014. On Sunday September 28th, the Ward will host a Back to School 5K run/walk. The proceeds from the race will benefit the schools in the neighborhood. The Alderman's office is shooting for 1,000 participants and will close Sheridan Rd for the race.

Traffic and Transportation: Dan Luna answered EPIC member questions on several items outlined in the Ward's Transportation Master Plan. A concern was raised about whether there is a plan to divert traffic from Sheridan to Broadway and Dan indicated that there is no plan to put more traffic on Broadway than there already is, that portion of the master plan is outlining a need to explore ways to address traffic concerns in our ward as commuting cars pass through. The Metra station planned for Peterson and Ravenwood is still on its projected timeline. More announcements on the station will be coming in the fall, but construction is expected to start in 2015 with a completion date in 2016. Modernization and improvements to the Red Line are in the planning phases with a renovation to tracks to make the trains quieter, and a renovation to the Bryn Mawr station suggested, though no solid dates were presented. Dan gave the welcomed news that there are no plans to close the Thorndale Red Line station at this time. An EPIC member brought up the fact that the Thorndale station still needs some improving in the stairwell and Dan indicated that the Alderman's office was aware, but also encouraged members to email the office with service requests. The "No Turn on Red" at Elmdale and Broadway will become a "No Turn on Red, 7am to 7pm".

Businesses in the EPIC area: Dan Luna also updated EPIC members on business activities in the ward. MB Financial will be moving into their new location on the corner of Broadway and Thorndale at the end of May 2014. The storefront of the old MB location has not yet been leased, but a company has expressed interest in the location. The Alderman office would like to continue to hear from the community about suggestions for the old MB financial space. Little Corner Café Restaurant will renew their license for an outdoor patio this summer. There are several parties interested in opening new businesses in the former location of St. Andrew's Pub. The Alderman's office is also working towards

filling the empty storefront on the corner of Thorndale and Broadway (formerly a beauty supply store) and would love to see a business such as café go into that space. Whole Foods will take over the old Dominick's location and is currently expected to open April or May of 2015.

Safety: Dan Luna discussed holding absentee landlords accountable for illegal activity in their buildings and mentioned some upcoming court dates. He also highlighted community attendance at these court dates and thanked Lynn Pierce, chairman of The Thorndale Action Task Force for her presence at court proceedings that concern community safety. Lynn Pierce then gave an update on the Task Force and highlighted the incredible success the program has had in deterring illegal activity on the street.

Dan Luna closed his presentation with an invitation to EPIC members to sign up for Ward updates and encouraged an open dialog with the community and the Alderman's office.

The next item of business was a review of the 2013-2014 EPIC Annual Meeting minutes and approval of the minutes. Next, Treasurer, Marsha Holland gave the Treasurer's update indicating that finances are sound and the number of member households was holding, but not growing. A motion was presented and approved to donate funds to Bethany Church as a thank you for the use of their facilities for EPIC meetings and events. Another motion was presented and approved to increase the amount EPIC will donate this year from \$50 to \$75.

Clare Lake thanked all block captains for their work during the 2013-2014 year and asked for volunteers for the 2014-2015 nominating committee.

Election of the EPIC officers. Clare Lake, for the nominating committee, presented the following slate:

President	Nancy Lewis
Vice President	Robert Solomon
Recording Secretary	Elyse DeVries
Corresponding Secretary	Lynn Pierce
Treasurer	Willard Duncan

Volunteers for the Nominating Committee are Marsha Holland, Clare Lake and Sarah Bornstein. Mary Stoner will serve as the Nominating Committee's first alternate.

2013-2014 Board President Sarah Bornstein gave an overview of the EPIC events from last year and a review of the activities planned for 2014-2015 which will include the Neighborhood Garage Sale on Saturday, June 7th and the EPIC Summer Pot Luck on Saturday, June 21st

Representatives from Bethany Church and Faith Victory Ministry gave updates on their congregations and the Chicago Friends School to EPIC members. A Motion was raised and approved to explore ideas to increase membership in the block club and Recording Secretary, Elyse DeVries agreed to take over the EPIC Facebook Page as part of this effort.

The meeting closed with a presentation and introduction from new Board President, Nancy Lewis. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.