

EPIC Block Club
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
March 26, 2011

1. Vice President Lake, representing both President Michael Bergmann and Treasurer Bob Kaplan in scheduled absentia, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Other members of the Executive Board in attendance were joined by Alderman-Elect Harry Osterman, in transition from State Representative until May 16 following February's election win with 81% of the Ward vote.
2. Alderman-Elect Osterman addressed the group concerning topics relating to the CTA, Senn High School, and public safety along Thorndale. Possible initiatives include re-writing the anti-loitering ordinance struck down by the courts, creating a string of surveillance cameras unbroken along the path from CTA to Senn, and new aims to recruit more local business along Thorndale while promoting foot traffic in the neighborhood.
3. Alderman-Elect Osterman reports capital funding plans for the Armory, which will be closed during this summer while a running track is constructed through a cost-sharing agreement with Loyola University. An Early Childhood Center will also be developed there. Plans to construct a new library, on the existing lot with expansion northward, will resume in Public Building Commission hearings scheduled in April. Metra Station construction is expected in 2 – 3 years and renovation of the Fire Station along Ridge is being actively pursued.
4. Alderman-Elect Osterman aims to promote new community service opportunities through his ward office staffing prerogatives, through the health center already in operation at Senn, and through opportunities presented throughout the Care for Real relocation process.
5. Following his address, Alderman-Elect Osterman took questions from the audience, most of which concerned CTA plans for the Thorndale Station and local auto traffic issues. He observed that the new City Council makeup could become more "open" with 15 new members. Reducing 50 aldermanic wards to 25, however, might tend to close debate and become relatively easy to control by the Mayor or others, he added, while remaining open to the idea.
6. Rob Meyer, Chair of the EPIC Nominating Committee announced the names of those who were nominated to stand for election, as follows:
President - Bob Solomon
Vice President - Terry Opalek
Treasurer - Michael Frontier
Recording Secretary - Sarah Bornstein
Corresponding Secretary - Bob Kaplan
7. Nominations were called for from the floor, but none were made. The candidates were then given the opportunity to make brief remarks. Mr. Meyer then moved the slate as offered for election and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

8. Newly elected EPIC President Bob Solomon thanked the former Executive Board for their service, especially those demonstrating multiple terms of community service at EPIC. He congratulated the newly elected Board and said he looked forward to serving in this new role.
9. Announcements:
 - President Solomon encouraged all to stay in touch with neighborhood news via EPIC website, Edgewater Community Council, and Edgewater Development Corporation. Edgewater Buzz, an internet blog, was added to this comment for all to investigate.
 - Outgoing Corresponding Secretary Pierce noted that the 15th Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale will be held on the first Saturday in June. Visit the EPIC website for additional details as they become available.
 - President Solomon announced that the annual EPIC Spring Potluck will be TBA at 6:00 p.m. at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church at Magnolia and Thorndale. Visit the EPIC website for additional details as they become available.
10. Election of 2010-11 Nominating Committee: President Solomon asked for nominations for individuals wishing to serve on EPIC's Nominating Committee. Lynn Pierce, Rob Meyer, and Michael McCalley agreed to serve as members and George Diaz agreed to serve as first alternate. A motion to elect the nominees was made and seconded and with no discussion the motion passed unanimously.
11. President Solomon thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Peneff
EPIC 2010 -11 Recording Secretary