

## **Graceland West Community Association**

2022 First Quarter Meeting Notes

March 31, 2022, 7:00 - 8:15 PM

The Piggery, 1625 W Irving Park Road

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Council members in attendance: Colin McLeod (meeting leader), Bruce Braun, Brad Pierce, Joanne Yonan, Janice Horwich, Joel McFarland

Guest speakers: Lake View High School STEM Coordinator Ageshe Crockett and Assistant Principal Dania Saleh, 47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin and Constituent Services Director Michael Sewall, Charlie Roth from Congressman Mike Quigley's office

Graceland West neighbors in attendance: 15 (excluding council members)

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Council member Colin McLeod opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and introducing the rest of the council. GWCA members in attendance voted to approve the minutes from the December 2021 meeting, award Lake View High School a 5-year gift membership, and re-elect council members Laurie Gillman and Joel McFarland. Brad Zerman did not run for re-election and there was no third candidate, resulting in a vacancy on the council. In other council business, the "Golden Rake" was awarded to Liza Shore for her outstanding contributions to the Fall 2021 leaf cleanup event.

Council members Joanne Yonan and Janice Horwich provided an update on green committee activities and encouraged neighbors to plant native plant gardens and use permeable pavers to increase stormwater absorption and reduce flooding.

Council member Joel McFarland discussed the upcoming neighborhood cleanup day, which will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM at Lake View High School. The event will focus on cleaning up litter on the Lake View High School Campus and surrounding streets, and cleaning leaves and other debris from storm drains at flood-prone intersections on Greenview. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Council member Colin McLeod discussed the upcoming Yard and Garage Sale, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This event is being held earlier in the summer than in previous years. The rain date is Sunday, June 5.

GWCA member Donna Forsberg discussed the annual GWCA Garden Walk, which is now in its 40th year. The 2022 Garden Walk is scheduled for Sunday, August 7 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM.

Lake View High School STEM Coordinator Ageshe Crockett introduced herself to the community and spoke about the school's new Innovation Lab, which includes a 3-D printer. She emphasized that the STEM program's purpose is to create pathways to financial independence and encouraged neighbors who work in STEM fields to contact her about opportunities to collaborate. In addition, Assistant Principal Dania Saleh was in attendance to thank GWCA for their annual scholarship award.

The Council welcomed our neighborhood's alderman, Matt Martin of the 47th Ward, to provide an update on Ward news and talk with neighbors. Alderman Martin briefly highlighted planning underway to improve the Western Avenue Brown Line plaza, collaboration with Lake View High School students on the allocation of improvement funds, and recently completed resurfacing work on Irving Park Road. He emphasized neighborhood flooding, Cubs game day parking, and public safety as topics of concern for 47th Ward residents. In particular, he praised the violence interruption work being done by One North Side and emphasized the need for job training and mental health counseling as long-term solutions. Neighbors in attendance asked questions regarding street sweeping schedules, rat abatement, storefront vacancies, tax revenue, and improving pedestrian safety across Ashland (especially Ashland and Cullom).

Charlie Roth, a staffer for 5th district Congressman Mike Quigley, spoke briefly about services offered by the Congressman's office, including troubleshooting and assistance with federal programs and paperwork such as social security and passports. Neighbors in attendance asked questions about the conflict in Ukraine, inflation, and marijuana decriminalization.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.