


GWCA

1st Quarter 2026 Community Meeting

Date and Time: Mar 10, 2026 7:00 PM

Location:  Quantum LEEP Academy

Highlights

- **Leadership Transition:** Newly elected and current Council Members were formally introduced to the community.
- **Legacy & New Tradition:** The Warner Park & Gardens board let us know they are raising funds now for a sculpture in memory of Georgie Yost, which will be dedicated in 2026. They began the new tradition of “Winder Wondeland” lighting this winter.
- **Education Focus:** The meeting highlighted upcoming initiatives at Lake View High School, including the annual scholarship and this weekend's STEM Day.
- **“Lake View Township” and Uptown History Deep-Dive:** Author Robert Loerzel captivated the audience with a historical journey through The Uptown movie palace and the origins of the Green Mill Gardens, highlighting the neighborhood's unique history and its architectural and cultural legacy.

Notes

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

GWCA Business & Committee Updates

- **Call to order:** Colin chaired the community meeting and introduced himself and other council members
- **New Council Members:** following the virtual vote, new council members TJ and Lorell were introduced and a new term was announced for current council member Brad.
- **Budget Approval:** the 2026 budget was formally approved following the virtual vote.
- **Block Reps:** Janice provided updates regarding block representation and volunteer needs.
- **Garden Walk:** Linda shared the initial outlook for the upcoming Garden Walk committee.
- **Kids Halloween Party:** Colin discussed early planning and volunteer recruitment for the annual party.
- **Warner Park & Gardens:** Janice and Linda shared details from the Warner Park Board about a 2026 dedication of a new sculpture by Charlie Yost, created in memory of his wife, Georgie.
- **LVHS Scholarship:** Landon Arnold and Julie Van Vliet and Janice updated the group on the Lake View High School Scholarship fund.
- **LVHS STEM Day:** Julia Van Vliet reminded members that STEM Day is this Saturday, March 14 (Pi Day), from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Guest Presentation

- **Introduction:** Brad introduced guest author **Robert Loerzel**.
- **Topic:** *The Uptown: Chicago's Endangered Movie Palace* and *The Coolest Spot in Chicago: A History of Green Mill Gardens*.
- **Presentation Details:** Robert's fantastic presentation covered the history of our area...from Geologic time to present and everything in between. Did you know that before homes were built, half of Graceland West was a farm owned by Conrad Sulzer (namesake of the Lincoln Square public library) and the other half was owned by Graceland Cemetery before it was forced to sell the land to Lake View Township? There were so many fantastic nuggets of information that it'd be impossible to do it justice in our meeting minutes. Catch Robert on [his website](#) as well as [WBEZ](#), especially this Curious City piece: [Why Are There So Many Music Venues In Uptown? - WBEZ Chicago](#)
- **Conclusion:** The presentation was followed by a Q&A session and a book signing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

