



Newsletter

Edgewater Glen Association

Fall 2005

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Neighborhood Meeting Reports

Zoning on Broadway: A Report from EGA President, Steve Meiss
Alderman Smith's "Broadway Leadership" group—a committee of resident group leaders, developers, and other organizations formed to consider the zoning classification for Broadway under the City's new zoning ordinance—met for more than three hours on November 10. At this highly contentious meeting, the Edgewater neighborhoods west of Broadway lost this round in a battle for a zoning classification that would keep the population density of the neighborhood low and limit the number of buildings over four stories tall. The group lead by developer interests is in favor of one zoning classification for both sides of Broadway from Foster to Devon. This side prevailed at the meeting.

EGA has joined with Edgewater Neighbors North and the Lakewood Balmoral Resident Council in the fight for a zoning plan that reflects the difference in character between Broadway's east and west sides.

Most parcels on the east are 250 feet deep and back up to the el tracks. All lots on our side, the west side, are 125 feet deep and are backed up by residential properties.

One more community meeting will be held in January and then the alderman's committee will vote. It is up to all of us to work together to help the alderman understand that we should decide on the zoning for our neighborhood, not real estate developers or other groups outside our neighborhood.

We believe that putting our fate in the hands of this committee will lead to zoning that diminishes the beauty and quality of our neighborhood. Thus, we are making plans to mobilize and may need your help to take part in these efforts. Our next EGA board meeting is December 5 at 7 pm at 6044 N. Broadway, the Edgewater Community Council offices. Come to the meeting, or let us know that you are ready to help by sending me an email at smeiss@ameritech.net. The future of our neighborhood is at stake.

Edgewater Community Council Meeting with the Aldermen
Aldermen Mary Ann Smith, 48th ward, and Pat O'Connor, 40th ward, addressed several neighborhood issues before a near capacity audience at Raven Theater on Monday, October 17. The Edgewater Community Council sponsored the meeting, and topics of particular interest to EGA residents included traffic, crime and commercial development.

- If residents on the 1200 and 1300 block of Glenlake would like the size of speed bumps reduced, Ald. Smith requested letters from those residents as well as the EGA pressing for this action.
- Responding to a request for a left turn lane at Granville and Broadway, Smith said she'd like to hold a "walk through" to view rush hour traffic congestion there before taking further action.
- Answering a question about a left-turn arrow on southbound Clark onto Ridge during rush hour to reduce congestion, Smith said she would work on it.
- Smith also pledged to examine the double left-hand turn lane on southbound Broadway at Hollywood. Residents offered the idea of making the second left-hand turn lane into a "turn or go straight" option, contending that many drivers do this already.
- Smith's office will have an updated report on Armory repair work by February of 2006 that will detail next steps for the building, which could include a library Thorndale and Broadway as well as a senior citizens center and parking east of the building.
- The construction of the regional firehouse at Peterson and Clark is expected to begin in the spring. Preliminary plans call for parking on the south end, the firehouse in the center and a training facility on the north end of the block.

For more information about the meeting or the questions, contact the ECC at 773.334.5609 or edgecc@core.com.

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Update on Area Issues and Projects

Loyola Marina Site Removed from Park District Consideration

More than 300 people attended a recent Chicago Park District public meeting to learn more about locations being considered for a 300- to 400-slip boat marina. The only residential neighborhood option for this facility was just north of Rosemont (6300N). Other sites include Navy Pier, 31st Street, Jackson Park, and 87th Street at the former US Steel site.

The Park District removed the Edgewater location from consideration shortly into the meeting as the crowd registered their disapproval of this choice. Illinois State Representative and Edgewater Glen neighbor Harry Osterman admonished the Park District for even considering a facility like this in a high density neighborhood that already has problems with traffic, parking, and beach closings. Harry encouraged the Park District to begin a community planning process to formulate a vision for our parks and beaches that serve more than a few hundred boaters. The Rogers Park Conservancy will work with the Park District to sponsor a series of forums on this topic starting in February. For more information, visit www.urbsinhorto.org

Since the meeting, Park District Director of Lakefront Construction Rob Rejman has stated that while no additional planning for a far north side harbor will be developed as part of this study, it does not mean that there will never be a harbor on the north side.

Safety News

Several muggings took place in Edgewater in September and October. One pattern is two or three youths on bikes attacking from the sidewalk; another is a single individual hiding in the alley and striking from behind with a blunt object. The Edgewater Community Council (ECC) has published a safety webpage at edgewater-safety-network.org. to provide residents with accurate information.

Despite being in one of the city's lowest crime areas, it is important to remember that we still live in a large urban area. You can help deter crime:

Pay attention and if you see anything suspicious, always call 911 at once.

Turn your front and back porch lights on daily—and early—and leave them on until morning. Police report that after a lot of noise, this is the next best deterrent for would-be home intruders.

Participate in our Community Policing Beat #2433 meetings. These take place at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of every month at the Edgewater Library, 1210 W. Elmdale. The next meeting will be December 7th.

Hayt Elementary School Thanks You

This summer, many Edgewater Glen residents contributed to the Hayt Elementary School Book Drive and Sale. As a result of your generosity and the hard work of many neighborhood parents, the Edgewater Education Initiative donated \$585 and approximately 300 young adult and children's books to the school. Daniel Gomez, interim principal of Hayt, stated that

the donation was a welcomed surprise and will be spent in supporting the students at Hayt.

The Edgewater Education Initiative is a group of parents working with community leaders and the Hayt administration to help the school serve as an attractive education choice for all children who live in the area. For more information about the movement, contact cavitt1420@sbcglobal.net.

\$1.5 Million for Senn Park

Alderman Mary Ann Smith has announced a redesign of the west end of Senn Park. The Lincoln statue will be moved to the Ridge side and the teachers' parking lot will be reconfigured, lowered below grade, and bermed. More sports fields will be created and possibly a tennis court. A baby park for toddlers learning to walk will be added to the playground. The plan to put a dog friendly area at the corner has been dropped.

Granville Revival Underway

The Granville, an 11-story, 160 unit mixed-use building will be built soon at Broadway and Granville on the northeast corner. Ten percent of the units are designated as CPAN (affordable housing) units. Four retail business sites are planned, and the developers are approaching Trader Joe's and Staples as tenants. Trader Joe's is very interested in Edgewater but has not decided on a site. Staples seems to be very likely.

Plans to add an extra story to the building for a 24/7 gym facility have been dropped. The Edgewater Chamber of Commerce opposed the opening of a gym at this location because of its proximity to two independent gyms: Edgewater

Swim & Athletic Club and Cheetah Gym, as well as a Curves facility. The Chamber stated that these businesses took a risk in coming to Edgewater and deserve support for their contributions to the neighborhood's rising vitality.

City Services

City of Chicago's "50/50" Sidewalk Program

Recent reports in the Chicago Sun-Times suggest that the City's 50/50 Sidewalk Program needs a new name. Under the program, the City bills residents at \$2.25 per foot of concrete and pays the balance due to the contractor. Because of the low rates of the specific contractor used for the program in the 48th Ward, residents who participated paid 52.94 percent of the cost. The typical difference between 50 and 53 percent would be about \$20 dollars \$30. Despite the somewhat inaccurate name for the program, neighbors who participate pay significantly less than if they paid a private contractor directly. For more information, please call Greg Harris, Alderman Mary Ann Smith's chief of staff, at 312.744.6860.

Keep Leaves Out of the Streets

It is fall and that means leaves, leaves and more leaves. But don't sweep, blow, or rake them in the streets! It is against city ordinance. Leaves swept into our streets often clog up sewers, cause odor as they decay, and make snow removal more difficult. Please be sure to let your private landscaping workers know this, too. Use the leaves for mulch in your yard or place them in bluebags for pickup by your garbage hauler.

Around the Neighborhood

Neighbor Recommendation: St. Andrew's Inn

EGA Board member Kim Kaulas and her husband Mark enjoyed watching many White Sox games this summer and fall at the Ole St. Andrew's Inn at 5938 N. Broadway. They report that the air quality is very good, thanks to several large ventilation machines. The inn offers a variety of seating, from barside to tables at the front window to family-style tables toward the rear. The food offerings stand above typical bar food, with appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and entrees in the \$6 to \$12 range. Specials often include fried smelt with honey mustard dipping sauce, which Mark has declared the best he's ever tasted.

Car Share Program Has Convenient Edgewater Locations

Need a car just once in awhile? Avoid parking hassles and reduce other auto-ownership expenses with the I-Go Car Share program. Cars are locally available at the Thorndale el stop, and the Jewel-Osco Stores on Clark and Broadway. For more information, check out i-go-cars.org.

Comedy Hour at Edgewater Historical Society

On Sunday, December 18th at 2 pm, the Edgewater Historical Society will host another hour of comedy from the Golden Age of Radio, performed by Chuck Shaden's Those Were the Days Radio Players, Chicago North Division. The show will feature the comedy and holiday atmosphere of 1940s and 1950s radio and the Bob and Ray spoof of Christmas in

Garish Summit. The program is free, donations are always welcome, and there will be books available for purchase. Stop by: 5358 North Ashland.

Book Sale at Edgewater Library

The Edgewater Library book sale will be held from 10 am to 4:30 pm on December 10 at the Edgewater Library, 1210 W. Elmdale. The bargains are unreal: hardcover books at just 50 cents, paperbacks at 25 cents. Stock up for the winter ahead!

St. Gertrude's Christmas Bazaar

St. Gertrude's will host a Christmas Bazaar on December 3, from 10 am to 4 pm at the corner of Granville and Glenwood—a great chance to get ready for the holidays.

Protecting Your Trees

Posting with String or Tape

A neighbor has pointed out that flyers are best tied or taped to trees, rather than stapled or nailed. Staples and nails wound trees, which increases the risk of decay and death. Thanks for the tip on keeping the trees healthy and our houses safe.

Dry Summer Calls for Winter Watering

Trees and shrubs in yards and parkways had a tough, dry summer. Help them go into winter with lots of moisture for their roots. Water as late as possible. If we have a dry winter, you might want to put ice cubes around the bases of your newly planted evergreens. And protect them with all those leaves you don't sweep into the street!

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Join the Edgewater Glen Association Today!

For thirty years, the EGA has been vigorously preserving and improving the great qualities of the Edgewater Glen neighborhood. The EGA represents residents' interests at public forums, maintaining and improving relationships with the area's elected officials and acting as an area advocate on critical issues.

The EGA serves residents of Norwood, Glenlake, Hood and Granville bounded by Clark on the west and Broadway on the east and continues to work toward creating "The Perfect Chicago Neighborhood."

I would like to join!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

E-mail _____

- \$10, Individuals and families
- \$25, Institutions and businesses

Please enclose check with you name and address and mail to:
EDGEWATER GLEN ASSOCIATION
1409 West Norwood Street
Chicago, IL 60660

The EGA has great opportunities for members to volunteer! Help work toward a better neighborhood by donating your time. Take advantage of the opportunity to join your neighbors as a volunteer member of the Board of the EGA or as an elected officer.

EGA meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7 pm at ECC at 6044 N. Broadway. The next meeting will be December 5. All EGA members are encouraged to attend.

Stay on top of neighborhood goings on by including your e-mail address. Our webmaster will keep you posted on local meetings, activities, 48th Ward Office notices and other valuable information.

Please disregard this notice if you've already renewed.

We encourage submissions to this newsletter. Please email them to Kim Kaulas at kaulas@rcn.com.