

WPB SSA #33

Guide Development Committee Report

February 3, 2012; next meeting scheduled for **March 16th, Sam Cafe de Lucca**

The Guide Development committee met at 8 a.m. on February 3 2012, at Caffè de Lucca. Present: John Paige (Chair), Laura Weathered (Co-Chair), Jessica Wobbekind (staff), Suzanne Keers (member), Wendy Kauffman-Stachowiak (member), Anjuli Maniam (non-member).

1. **Façade Rebate** – Two façade rebate applications were considered. The Committee recommends Commission approval of \$10,000 for the two façade applications (1630 and 1632 North Milwaukee Avenue) submitted by the Urban Living Room, LLC for façade rebates. Major façade reconstruction is being completed at the two addresses, totaling \$139,525.00. The Committee also recommends Commission approval of changes in the façade rebate policy in response to recent clarifications needed. Jessica Wobbekind will provide the details of the changes proposed. Two motions are asked of the full SSA33 Commission:
 - a. **Motion** - To approve the Façade rebate applications of the Urban Living Room totaling \$10,000 from line 5.01 (Façade Enhancement Programs) for 1630 and 1632 North Milwaukee Avenue.
 - b. **Motion** – To approve changes in the Façade rebate policy to clarify Program Eligibility and Ineligible Improvements (see below).
2. **The Lakefront Sculpture exhibit** - WPB is now included in the City's target area for the Lakefront Sculpture Exhibit. The Committee considered this program and voted that the full SSA33 Commission approve sponsorship of three (3) sculptures and sites in the WPB area, each sculpture sponsorship costing \$3,500 (total \$10,500). It is understood that the Commission's Arts committee will choose the three sites. One motion is asked of the full SSA33 Commission:
 - a. **Motion** – To approve \$10,500 from line 3.04 (Public Art) for sponsorship of 3 sculptures in the WPB area as part of the Lakefront Sculpture Exhibit program.
3. **Metzger Court** - The Committee continues to work on this project. A matrix of ideas is being developed and soon will be available for consideration. A recent proposal by the City of Chicago called Make Way for People ("people's plazas") may provide a way to facilitate implementation of projects for Metzger Court, easing or streamlining ordinance or permit procedures. Projects in the Make Way for People program include features like public seating, kiosks for local merchants and artists, and public wifi. The Committee also would like to partner with the Polish Triangle committee regarding the City application. Jessica Wobbekind will be preparing an application on behalf of WPB SSA33.
4. **Live-Work Ordinance** - The Committee discussed the pending live-work ordinance introduced to the City Council by Alderman Moreno. The Committee supports this legislation as a way to effectively increase use of vacant storefronts in the WPB area. Toward the goal of helping implement the ordinance, the Committee will pursue the following actions:
 - a. Issue an announcement of the passage of the ordinance via WPB newsletter, web site, and blog.
 - b. Hold an informational workshop/forum, to include the Alderman, a real estate agent, a property owner, and Laura as Co-Chair of the GD Committee. Two workshops may be possible, one in the neighborhood and one at Creative EXPO, March 22/23, 2012.
5. **North Avenue Parking** – Paige will draft a petition asking building owners on North Avenue to support a proposal to institute 24 hour parking on North Avenue from Ashland Avenue to Western Avenue. Currently parking is removed during the morning and late afternoon rush hours, making the

high pedestrian oriented North Avenue a dangerous 4-lane expressway. The WPB intern will be asked to walk around the petition to get signatures.

6. **Adoption of the Master Plan** – After a meeting with Bennet Haller of the City, Paige agreed to draft a new Executive Summary of the WPB Master Plan, with an emphasis on updating some of the information to reflect the five years that have elapsed since the Commission’s approval of the plan and to clarify some items that seem to be misrepresented or missing in the current Executive Summary (e.g., historic preservation, zoning recommendations, arterial proposals.) Haller agreed to work with Paige on this Executive Summary with the intent of advancing it to the City’s Plan Commission for adoption.

Amendments to Façade Rebate Policy:

Program Eligibility

Owners and tenants (with owner’s written consent) of street level commercial/retail property, located within WPB’s boundaries, may apply (map included at the end of this document). All applicants must submit property PIN to verify eligibility.

Each physical address **or PIN** is eligible for one **façade rebate in any five year period**. If a business owner applies for and receives a rebate at one address and then relocates within the district, any subsequent applications under the WPB Façade Rebate Program will be considered on a case by case basis.

If any change in the ownership of the property or business participating in the program occurs during improvements, the application will be suspended until a meeting with WPB staff and new ownership is completed and any changes to the original application are approved in writing. There is no guarantee that new ownership will be approved for the same rebate amount as the previous owner. All such applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

Ineligible Improvements

- Roof Replacements
- Rear or Alley Façade
- Routine Maintenance and Repairs (painting, **glass replacement, caulking, sealing or other** minor repairs unless part of larger project)
- New Construction

Billboard Installation