



**Wicker Park Bucktown SSA #33 Master Plan Update
Advisory Committee Meeting
October 19th, 2016**

Meeting Minutes

The Advisory Committee meeting on October 19th represented the 4th and final Advisory Committee meeting for the Wicker Park Bucktown Master Plan Update. The meeting ran from 8:30am to 10:00am and was generously hosted by Bru Chicago located at 1562 North Milwaukee Avenue. Scott Goldstein with Teska Associates opened the meeting and introduced the Draft Wicker Park Bucktown Master Plan, noting that many of the objectives and actions within the chapters build upon and support each other.

“The projects we are about to highlight shouldn’t come as any surprise – they are built on three major elements: the recommendations of the past plan, the valuable insights and feedback provided by you (the advisory committee), and the comments and ideas shared by the larger community via the workshops and online tools.” – Scott Goldstein

A brief overview of community engagement was provided which included advisory committee meetings and insights, two public workshops, coverage by local news outlets, extensive online engagement via the project website, and online quick polls, the collective votes of which tallied 4,000 hits in total. Following the overview on outreach, Erin Cigliano with Teska Associates, introduced the Arts + Culture Chapter, highlighting overall objectives as well as specific projects and actions.

The first objective of the Arts + Culture chapter is to support artists who live or work in the area. In addition to protecting the Flat Iron Building, which is one of the projects therein, an advisory committee member noted the desire to bring back Around the Coyote (ATC).

“Around the Coyote use to be rooted in visits to artist studios. This would be a great way to feature and support local artists.” – Laura Botwinick, SSA.

One idea met with support and curiosity was the idea of an annual parklet day event wherein a connected line of parking spaces could be rented and turned into creative spaces for any number of temporary uses. Parklets, also called people spots, could be rented by the SSA, Chamber, local businesses and artists to display art, sell local goods, do a test-run of potential public space improvements, or showcase creative fun. Photo examples of parklets were shown, which included mini putt-putt golf holes, dog runs, sculptural installations and kid-friendly art pods.

“I like it! How long could the spaces be used?” – asked Sam Marts, Bucktown Community Organization.

Parklet spaces could be rented for a single day (i.e. on Parklet Day, which is September 16th) or for an entire weekend as part of a neighborhood street festival.



Following Arts + Culture, Stacey Meekins with Sam Schwartz provided an overview of the transportation objectives. A variety of visuals and renderings were shown to demonstrate plan recommendations. From improving access points at and around the Clybourn Metra Station and creating a sense of place to re-envisioning Milwaukee Avenue. Potential enhancements to the intersection of Milwaukee / North / Damen included adding a crosswalk to extend from Damen to North, removing the existing slip-lane that allows drivers to make a right turn from Damen on to Milwaukee, and removing left turns in general.

“No left turns is asinine,” Steve Lipe, Bucktown Community Organization.

Stacey clarified that the plan recommends undertaking a temporary study to see if the reduction or removal of turn movements would make the intersection more efficient for drivers and safer for pedestrians.

“I think eliminating left turns makes sense, right turns can be problematic,” – Mike McElroy, SSA.

“UPS Trucks don’t make left turns because it is more efficient to do so,” – Sam Marts, Bucktown Community Organization.

“I’d like to see something colorful and bold here; something with visual interest that excites and invites you in.” – Brent Norsman, SSA Chair.

Another objective cited included the opportunity to consolidate loading zones and regulations therein.

“Loading is one of the biggest problems,” Steve Lipe, Bucktown Community Organization

“The Chicago budget office just proposed to roll out a pilot for variable-prices metered parking and user-paid loading zones in three downtown wards. If recommended for this area, Alderman Moreno can request to be included in the next roll-out.” – Jerry Mandukano, 1st Ward

After the presentation by Stacey, Scott discussed the Guide Development chapter. Highlights included design guidelines for each of the corridors – from linking major destinations along Damen to the 606 to a pop-up retail/ coffee / event space and pup park to activate the space beneath the Damen El stop along North Avenue; public space creation via underutilized areas in WPB was an idea supported throughout the process.

“We need funky, left over spaces,” – Sam Marts, Bucktown Community Organization at a prior Advisory Committee meeting.

“Let’s create something “other”,” – Brent Norsman during an interim project interview

An overall land use framework for the SSA was also presented that demonstrated what areas are ideal for TOD and higher density development, as well as where existing character should be maintained.

“What other incentives can we include to stop the loss of local businesses? We need to be specific and have stronger language to support such.” – Suzanne Keers, SSA



Joe McElroy, with McElroy & Associates, then summarized the objectives noted in the 'Clean, Green + Safe' chapter noting that furthering safety and quality of life in WPB is important. "Whether real or perceived, we need to ensure residents and visitors feel safe and comfortable." Objectives include furthering corridor maintenance and beautification to enhancing quality of life and safety via building strong partnerships with police officers, cleaning up graffiti and installing art alongside buildings to reduce tagging, and continuing efforts to ensure the neighborhood is well maintained relative to infrastructure, street cleaning, and recycling efforts.

The meeting closed with members discussing and providing additional input on objectives.

"Alleyways could be improved to become more than just alleys," – John Paige, Wicker Park Committee

"Development is causing things to change. We need to determine positive ways to attract and sustain local businesses that mirror the eclectic character of the neighborhood; we need to ensure WPB retains its appeal." – Laura Botwinick, SSA

"The underpass at Cortland / Ashland is a major corridor for many users including cyclists heading east-west. We need to take a comprehensive approach here that goes beyond aesthetics." – John Paige, Wicker Park Committee.

Following discussion, the November 17th Community Workshop that will be held at the Bucktown Wicker Park Library at 6pm was promoted. Advisory Committee members were all given copies of the Draft Master Plan and asked to return comments to the SSA by Wednesday, October 26th.



Meeting Attendees:

Laura Botwinick, SSA

Marcy Huttas, SSA 33

Suzanne Keers, SSA 33

Steve Lipe, Bucktown Community Organization

Elizabeth Neukirch, The Silverman Group, Inc.

Jerry Mandujano, 1st Ward Alderman Proco Joe Moreno

Sam Marts, Bucktown Community Organization

Mike McElroy, SSA 33

Brent Norsman, Chair, SSA 33

John Paige, SSA 33

Staff

Beth Sholtis, SSA 33

Jessica Wobbekind, SSA 33

Consultants

Scott Goldstein, Teska Associates, Inc.

Erin Cigliano, Teska Associates, Inc.

Joe McElroy

Stacey Meekins, Sam Schwartz Engineering