



May 2013 Update

A meeting of the Sauganash Community Association was held on May 22, 2013 at Sauganash Elementary School.

President Renee Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

The minutes for the April 30, 2013 meeting were approved.

The President welcomed the public to the open meeting.

The principal, Christine Munns, also welcomed the public to her school. She mentioned that the school is going to a Common Core Curriculum. There will be a rigorous new evaluation process for teachers as well.

Alderman Laurino gave an extensive report. She stated that her staff is working with Paula Fitzgerald on the mural project. She said that her office is working with the traffic committees of both schools to come up with some ideas to help with the issue of crossing Peterson Avenue. We need to keep our children safe. Additional streetscaping will take place at Peterson and Cicero. She reported the status of the bike trails. The Weber Spur will extend all the way to Skokie and some work will be done during the next couple years. The North Branch Trail will connect all the way to the Botanic Gardens.

Laurino also said that more houses are now being put on the market - a good sign for the economy. She said that there is interest in both the vacant property north of Whole Foods and also the property at 4300 W, Peterson. Due to the recent storms Illinois has been declared a disaster state and a FEMA office will open at North Park Village for people to file claims. In response to a question regarding the Bell Fuel property the site is being added to the Chicago acquisition list.

Police Lieutenant Joe Porebski, of the 17th District addressed the group. He said that there are traffic concerns along Peterson Ave. because there are long uninterrupted stretches with no traffic controls. Consequently some cars generate serious speed problems.

Sauganash is a target for burglaries because it's an easy target with good payoffs. . One of the best defenses is being a Good Neighbor. Recently a perpetrator was apprehended do to the vigilance of a neighbor who called 911 because of suspicious activity. Know your neighbors and. Call 911 if you see anything suspicious,

Auto thefts are an ongoing problem. The police have new technology for locating stolen cars which allows the police to scan for stolen plates as they patrol streets and alleys. Nissans and Hondas are the most stolen makes.

Use your car alarm, lock your doors, and don't leave purses, wallets or other valuables visible in your car. If you have portable GPS, don't leave the suction cup on the window when you hide the GPS unit. It is an advertisement that you have a GPS unit.

A presentation was made by the Save the Ash Tree Coalition, and a rep from ArborJet, which is a tree injection firm used by the city of Chicago. They reported on the emerald ash borer.

The bad news: Chicago has 3 - 4 million ash trees, and 100% will become infected. They will all die if not treated. 20% of Chicago's street trees are ash. The good news: The city embarked on a treatment program this year. One half of the street trees in each Ward will be treated, and a medallion will be placed on each tree for identification, The other half will be treated next year. It costs \$1,100 to remove the average ash, while injection treatment costs \$46 per application, with treatment needed every three years. Only parkway trees will be treated, The public is responsible for treating trees on their own property. TREE-age®, the chemical used by the city is 99% effective in killing emerald ash borer. The Save the Ash Tree Coalition is disappointed that the Chicago Park District opted not to treat their 35,000 ash trees. Visit the non-profit SaveYourTrees.org to determine if you have ash trees on your property and to review treatment options.

Paula Fitzgerald thanked the public for their support of the Sauganash Mural Project, Without their support this project would not exist. The project is on schedule for completion this July. She said that the children of Sauganash School have each created a ceramic piece of art for the mural walls and pointed out a table showing colorful examples of their work that had been done with the generous help of art teacher Deanna Kelly with full support from Principal Munns. She also reported that the children of Queen of All Saints School have completed drawings for the basilica facade. Currently a group of volunteers are creating a replica of the Sauganash Community Church window. She held up a sample of a portion of a window that is near completion. Volunteers and tile donors will be the first to be notified in June of a sign up opportunity to work on the walls. Everyone will be invited to sign up to help out at SignupGenius.com.

Andy Ginnocchio reported on the O'Hare noise problem. The O'Hare Modernization Project is a Federal Aviation Administration proposed change to landing and take off patterns that is due to take effect in October 2013 if we are not successful in stopping it. The project will drastically increase air traffic over both northwest Chicago and the near northwest suburbs by shifting current plane traffic, now arriving from many directions, into landing and take-offs from only two directions directly over the northwest side of Chicago and near northwest suburbs. In addition the project intends to shift 85% of all nighttime landings to routes directly over the northwest side.

Contact Representatives Mike Quigley and Jan Schakowski and urge them to have flights more fairly distributed around O'Hare and more wisely positioned to avoid wasted fuel and flight time. Also sign the FAA petition. A link can be found at the SCA website., Sauganash.org.

A slideshow presentation for the new website for the SCA was given. It will be up and running in a few more weeks.

The list of SCA officers and directors for the coming year was presented for a vote as follows.

President, Kelly Leggett, 1st vice president Dave Seglin, 2nd vice president Karen Hand, treasurer, Sue Williamson and recording secretary Maureen DeRose. One new director was proposed Anthony Murphy. A motion was made and accepted to accept the slate.

The Snowplowing and Mosquito Abatement Committee reported that the first spraying should take place around July 1st unless the mosquito problem is severe, and then it will be done sooner.

It was noted that Nyra Gay an important asset to our community has passed away.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.