

October 20, 2009
Hyde Park Kenwood Interfaith Council Fall Quarterly meeting
at Ellis Ave. Church

Attendance: Darud Akbar-CTA, Jonathan Friesen-Ellis Ave Church, David Hatch-SOUL, Laura Hollinger-Rockefeller Chapel, Elsie Holzwarth-Rockefeller Chapel, Allan Lindrup-First Unitarian, Kyohei Mikawa-Meadville Lombard, John Modschiedler-University Church, Rodney Morris-University of Chicago, Lala Rodgers-University Church, Susanna Rudofsky-St. Thomas the Apostle, Peggy Sanders-Ellis Ave Church, Lamarr Scruggs-Ellis Ave Church, Will Tanzman-SOUL, Linda Thisted-SOUL, Pat White-St Thomas the Apostle, Mae Wilson-4th Ward/ Ald. Preckwinkle's office

6pm dinner, blessing by Rev. Jonathan Friesen

7pm Program on Public Transportation

Linda Thisted from SOUL-Southsiders Organized for Unity & Liberation. Even though Chicago didn't get the Olympics, density of population on South Side, upcoming housing development (Michael Reese spot will still be developed), and cultural and business institutions on South Side call for improved transportation options. Gold Line proposal to run every 10 minutes (similar to a CTA El line) on Metra tracks. Social justice/ equity: South Siders have longest commutes in the city. Cost/ ridership compares favorably to recent Pink Line investment. Less expensive than building new rail. Money has been awarded for a feasibility study.

Rodney Morris (and Debbie Garfy)-Interim Director of University of Chicago Transportation office. U of C Runs buses in neighborhood that are sub-contracted to CTA. Also run shuttles for students. Wants to hear community concerns and bring them back.

Representative Sue Purrington from Ald. Hairston's office:

Chicago at large has good public transportation; Gold line can only add to this. Concerns about lay-offs, possible cuts of CTA service, loss of express buses; there can be a 2-hour wait for #14 at night. Public should attend budget hearings: Nov. 3rd at 6pm at South Shore Cultural Center.

Mae Wilson, Ald. Preckwinkle's Chief of Staff, Supports idea of connecting neighborhoods, also supports high speed rail. Lake Meadows: 1200 to 1500 affordable units will be added.

Mr. Akbar-CTA Government & Community Relations Dept.

2010 budget

\$300 million budget short-fall: stemming from 30% loss from public funding, a short-fall of funding from sales and real estate taxes. Possible furlough days, lay-offs, service cuts. In total, bus service will be reduced by 18% and rail service by 9%. Proposed fair increase to \$3.00 on

all rail service & 19 express bus routes. Senior fare card (riding free) had \$30-40 million impact, IL legislature is reviewing this.

Question and Answer:

Far south-east side missing transit options: does CTA have plans to expand options in this area? No. There are 4 major extensions planned: red line to 130th, yellow line to Old Orchard Mall, an orange line extension, and a circle line to connect all major lines together: all federally funded projects. All major alternatives have been explored: now into public scoping period and environmental impact study.

University of Chicago buses:

Day time routes: students are free, community residents can ride for a fee. Evening routes: should be affiliated with the University in some way, but buses have never turned anyone away, can be waved down from corners. New buses running into Woodlawn.

Regarding CTA, Concern about less frequency combined with late buses. Recommends use of bus tracker, call 1-888-yourcta to report long wait times.

Suggestion of painting line down middle of Woodlawn Ave. to guide people to stay on their side of the street

Regarding the Gold line, what does Metra think?

Metra was invited. They declined to send a representative, but said they would respond to our concerns in letter form. View themselves mostly as suburban commuter rail line. Big obstacle is Metra and CTA working together. Will take using local elected officials, lots of meetings, etc. Suggestion of gathering more student support for Gold line.

Why only service span changes for bus and not rail?

Majority of usage is on rail. Frequencies of some rail will be reduced. Trying to reduce impact of the cut-backs during peak hours for both bus & rail. With X55 possibly being cut, would 174 (express) bus be brought back?

Though 174 was fully subsidized, CTA charged for it, but it still did not break even; not enough student ridership to keep it going; willing to revisit it if X55 is cut (but that does not mean it would be re-instated) What do we need to do as neighborhood/ faith communities to push Gold line? Next steps?

Publicize it among our constituencies

8:15pm Business Meeting

President's Report: Rabbi Elliot Gertel

Website is doing well, Interfaith dialogues continuing strong, Council is relocating to website and PM Box rather than a physical office. New phone no: 312-458-9313. New Address: 1448 E. 52nd St, PM Box 117, Chicago, IL 60615. Ellis Ave. Church housing Interfaith Council file

cabinet. Sounds of Faith concert that Council is co-sponsoring: Nov. 15th at RMC. Good With and Without God panel program on Oct. 27 at 8pm, Divinity School, 3rd FL lecture hall. Program at KAM with author Mitch Albom on Friday, Oct. 30th.

Treasurer's Report: Allan Lindrup

Some income (contributions) came in September. Space rental & PM Box rental that we had not budgeted originally, but telephone will be cheaper than budgeted. Program expenses budgeted \$10,000: had potentially budgeted for start of a PADS program, but a PADS program will not start this winter.

Thanksgiving Committee: Pat White

Moving along nicely: Theme: The Joy of Sharing, almost all spots on program are filled in, aiming to shorten it a little (keep closer to one hour), reduce Litany of Traditions by one tradition by representing some faiths in other ways. Children's Choir, Rabbi Appel: preacher, James Evans to introduce Litany, Kyohei to do offertory, Laura to do Welcome, Freddie Washington to do Sending Forth, hymns chosen. Dancer/ drumming still not confirmed. Allan coordinating ushers. Hoping to get better clergy participation for processional.

Homeless Concerns Task-force: Allan Lindrup

About 8 members from 6-7 different congregations on the Task-force.

PADS: would need at least 3 congregations in order to proceed, our faith communities have expressed interest in volunteering, but getting sites has been difficult. St. Paul and the Redeemer would be willing to be a site, First Unitarian 50-50% chance of agreeing to be a site. Some congregations still have not responded to the survey. Perhaps create a Homeless Service Center which could be incrementally created: perhaps something in place for winter of 2010-2011. Working on increasing social worker time available at Kenwood UCC (currently have social worker 1 day/ week: Tuesdays 10am-12noon)-Advocate Health-care as potential funder. Preventing homelessness: job training program (to be added to our web site and subsequently updated social service brochure); Community Mapping Project

Closing Prayer: John Modschiedler