

Campbell Avenue

Block Club Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2022, 2pm – 3pm, Calumet Memorial Park District

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order – 2:15pm
2. Welcome/Introductions – Everyone was welcomed and thanked for attending our first block club meeting. Each resident introduced themselves and shared how many years they have resided on Campbell Avenue, including the Hoxie Avenue block club representative. Unfortunately, there was not a good turnout for our first meeting even though flyers were distributed door-to-door and follow-up phone calls were made. Fourteen (14) residents and three representatives confirmed their attendance. Nevertheless, the meeting proceeded as scheduled.

The residents in attendance were also disappointed that our 2nd Ward Alderwoman was not in attendance especially since she made the announcement via text message and at the 4/12/2022 City Council meeting. However, the residents were informed that the Alderwoman has been having some health issues. The residents felt her presence, if not then the first man (her husband), at our meeting would have shown her support in establishing an official block club in the 2nd Ward for the other blocks to follow. In fact, Calumet City Park District Commissioner resides on Campbell Avenue and was also not in attendance.

3. Purpose/Goals of the Block Club
 - Communicate - stay informed on what is going on our block, community, and Calumet City. Platform to provide and share information at the block club meetings, through emails and/or texts.
 - Unity – get to know your neighbors, establish a strong block of residents concerned about the welfare of Campbell Avenue, support the upkeep of property currently and years to come which helps the value of our property and just helping out each other.
 - Family Orientated – Campbell Avenue block to be maintained as a family orientated block, children can play together on the block,

neighbors can network, the block can have get togethers or just enjoy activities together on the block.

- Maintain a Safe Environment – neighbors looking out for one another, see something say something, attend monthly Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings the first Monday of the month, establish relationship with the police and fire officials. No one at the meeting had ever attended the above meeting before.
- Give Back to the Community – As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, we can invest and give back to our community, help our future generation, have book drives, donations for our Campbell Avenue kids during holidays, fund educational scholarships by having block club monthly dues, etc. This is our time to really make a visible difference in our community.

4. Organizing the Block Club

1. Develop a sub-committee with standing position were agreed upon by the attendees. The positions will be the following: President, V. President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Chaplain
2. The residents who are interested in a position should submit their name and the position they are interested to Rolex22@icloud.com via email by May 1st.
3. If a position has more than one person interested, a vote will be taken.

5. Create a Name/Colors for our Block Club

The following suggestions were provided for a name and colors (tee shirts) to represent our block club. Please vote on the name and color you choose to Rolex22@icloud.com by May 1st.

Names

- United Campbell Avenue
- Courageous Campbell Avenue
- Superstars of Campbell Avenue
- Unstoppable Campbell Avenue

Colors

- Purple/White
- Purple/Gold

- Blue/White
- Red/Black

6. Issues/Comments

There was a lengthy discussion on issues/comments from the attendees.

They are as follow:

- Vehicles speeding down Campbell Avenue ignoring posted stop signs. Unsafe for the children on the block that are crossing the street and or playing outside. Although speed bumps were discussed, it was understood that they are only temporary. Nevertheless, this is a big concern of Campbell Avenue residents, especially since summer is around the corner.
- Residents have observed dogs on the block without a leash or supervision running loose. This is extremely unsafe for our residents and children but also those residents who walks their dog on a leash.
- Overgrown trees and vegetation growing off bike path located on the side of the residents' fence and backyard is an issue. Residents are not able to access the bike path from their backyard due to all the vegetation that has grown and at times, has grown all over their fence. These conditions present bigger issues for the residents when it comes to the coyotes and rodents (field mice, garden snakes, etc.). These are also unsafe conditions for individuals that use the bike path to run or walk their dog because anyone or anything could be hiding behind these overgrown bushes or trees and attack.

On 4/3/2022, Mayor Jones addressed this concern. He had spoken with the Forest Preserves and stated they would be out in Calumet City each week to clean the area. No one at the meeting has seen the area behind their home cleaned-up. In fact, one of the residents informed us that he pays the people who cuts his grass to clean that area behind his home. A follow-up email will be submitted to the mayor requesting an update on this issue.

- Mayor Jones also addressed Cleveland Park located at the end of our block. He spoke with the Forest Preserves about the lot next to the park where trees exist. The Forest Preserves will put this matter on their upcoming agenda. Meanwhile, the City will start to draft an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide the property to the Forest Preserves. This issue will also be included in the follow-up email to the Mayor for an update.

- Trailer trucks illegally parking on Campbell Avenue – The Mayor has ordered the police department to monitor any trucks parking at the location (Campbell Avenue). There are also trucks parked at River Oaks West in which signs have been posted and were towed recently. The Mayor will place a motion on the next agenda and have Public Works put up signs. To date no signs have been posted on Campbell Avenue. This issue will also be included in the follow-up email to the Mayor for an update.
- Outrageous taxes in Calumet City. The attendees were informed that it is not the City who is raising taxes but other entities such as school districts, county, etc. The residents need to get involved with what is going on with the school districts. The children have no crossing guards, school buses, etc. so where is the money going? Campbell Avenue residents, it is time we get involved!
- The attendees were also disappointed about all the negative publicity occurring amongst our elected officials in Calumet City. They expressed that these conflicts in City Hall have taken over and the concerns/issues of the City and the people that elected them have been placed on the back burner. Whatever happen to “and government of the people, by the people, for the people...”?

7. Next Meeting

Saturday, June 4th at 2:00pm, location to be determined. At the request of the attendees, they would like to invite Mayor Jones to attend our next block club meeting.

8. Prayer – One of our residents ended the meeting in prayer.

9. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm