

ASCO Report to PTCA Board July / August 2021

July 13, ASCO meeting via Zoom:

ASCO had a final discussion of the “revised” plan to construct a 5-story rental apartment building on the Wing Hoe site at Sheridan & Balmoral. The original plan for a 4-story building was redesigned as 5-stories after concerns from nearby residents, across the alley, regarding loss of sunlight. The 5-story plan is “set back” from the alley 30’ to alleviate these concerns. This resulted in yet another controversy concerning building height. The 5-story design is 63’ tall. The 4-story design capped off at 50’. That extra 13 feet became a sticking point for residents at The Metropolitan. Some long-time ASCO members also voiced concerns stating that, in 2003, in an attempt to avoid a “canyon effect” on Sheridan Road—from potential construction of additional high-rise buildings—ASCO filed for and received a zoning restriction from the city of Chicago limiting the height of new construction on Sheridan Road to 50 feet. None-the-less, there has been new construction slightly over the limit that ASCO has supported. See 5430 Sheridan at 7 stories built in 2006. Also, there is a proposal to build a 6 or 7-story building at 5950 Sheridan across from Emanuel Congregation. After final thoughts, the ASCO Board voted 7-1 in favor of the revised 5-story design. Our PTCA Board remained neutral on this matter.

Senator Michael Simmons of the 7th District “Zoomed” with ASCO the same evening. Michael is highly motivated to serve and eager to represent residents of the 7th District. He conveyed fond memories of growing up in the area of Foster & Lincoln Avenues and currently lives in the area of Windsor & Hazel Street. He is very personable and emphasized that he has an “open & accessible office” located at 5533 N. Broadway. Phone calls/emails are welcome and answered within 24 hours. Michael is the successor to Heather Steans who resigned from the Illinois State Senate January 31, 2021. Michael’s current term ends January 2023.

ASCO also met, via Zoom, with Alderman Osterman to discuss the Sheridan Road resurfacing project. The consultant for CDOT, Eric Kohl, was also on the call.

Highlights of improvements and street paving between Bryn Mawr and Devon / **west** Sheridan Road to Winthrop:

- new curbs, gutters and ADA ramps
- curb-cuts for delivery trucks and emergency vehicles
- solid 10” concrete bus pads at bus stops
- grinding the current street surface, putting down the 1st layer of asphalt followed by a final layer expected to be completed between middle and end of August.

Additional information:

- construction between the hours of 7a.m. and 4:30p.m. “generally”
- east side of the street first, followed by the west side
- some trees need to be taken down
- pavement markers to be completed sometime in October
- drainage & sewer connections to be cleared and cleaned *before winter*, to avoid standing water, in an attempt to prevent compromising all of this work
- with high traffic on Sheridan Road, weather conditions, and utility construction the estimated duration of the new surface is expected to last between 5-8 years.

If you want to receive Alderman Osterman's weekly newsletter, and timely updates on the resurfacing project, go to www.48thward.org to sign up.

There will be no ASCO meeting in August.
Report prepared by Catherine Kestler