

The Business Association Council (BAC) is a meeting between the leaders of business districts and representatives of the Village of Oak Park staff. Of course, all business owners are invited every week and should reach out to BAC Chair Anne Pezalla, [anne@livelyathletics.com](mailto:anne@livelyathletics.com) if they have any questions.

Summary of the September 25th meeting:

1. The Madison Street Project is coming along. They're paving and striping now, and anticipate the striping will be done in 2-3 weeks. More information here: <http://www.madisonstreetconstruction.com/index.html>
2. The Lake Street Construction Project will begin in spring of 2020 and continue through fall (it's hard to pin exact dates on it, as construction schedules depend on the weather). The Village has done an amazing job communicating with business owners throughout the project, and we discussed how the village will be painting sidewalk posters in select locations to remind people that the businesses need support during construction. More information is available at <https://betterlakestreet.com/>
3. Marijuana. Starting January 1, recreational marijuana will be legal. The Village Board decided to allow businesses to open by permitted use in retail districts. One will probably open on 1/1 in Downtown Oak Park. It's unclear if more will open, as the state laws are fairly strict about where they can be. The laws around consumption are strict, stricter than alcohol. The idea of marijuana cafes (like cigar bars) was discussed, but it's a grey area and the policy just isn't there yet.
4. Business district updates: things are booming in the Arts District, and it looks like the former Nature Yoga Sanctuary is leased! The Hemingway District is excited for the opening of Fairgrounds Coffee, the annual Halloween Parade on 10/26, and the Come to Papa Membership Party on 10/10. They were sad to see the closing of Sanem's.
5. The Chamber of Commerce reminded everyone that the Spotlight Awards are coming! 10/15 at the 19th Century Club. An amazing annual celebration of local businesses.
6. There were conversations around the future of the BAC and how best to serve as a conduit between businesses, business districts, and the Village of Oak Park. If anyone has feedback, please let BAC Chair Anne Pezalla know ([anne@livelyathletics.com](mailto:anne@livelyathletics.com))

Our next meetings are 10/23 at 8a and 11/27 at 8a. All are welcome.