

Administration and Public Works Committee
February 26, 2007

Sue Brenner, Observer, filed the following report

The meeting began at 5:45 p.m. All aldermen who are members of the committee were present, as well as most department heads. The Evanston Review and Evanston RoundTable had reporters. Six citizens who were interested in the compost site presentation were there.

Significant Discussion, Action Taken:

The minutes were approved and Payroll and Bills put on consent agenda. Consent Agenda also included emergency purchase for security for the toboggan hill at Mt. Trashmore, increase in Class D liquor license for New Mandarin House at 819 Noyes St. and an ordinance amending various sections of the city code for issuance of permits including sidewalk cafe permits, raffle permits, Tag Day permits and Loudspeaker permits.

A resolution to transfer funds from the general fund to the fleet fund to cover FY2005-2006 deficit was held off the consent agenda and sent to the City Council for discussion.

The Department of Public Works gave a presentation on the future of the Compost Site at James Park. The smell there is terrible and neighbors have been complaining for years. The presentation explained what we compost (leaves only) and the process. It explained the cost of running the site was \$236,000.

They recommended

1. No change in collection
2. After collection leaves would be deposited at the compost site at James Park but would be hauled to a compost site within a week and the leaves would be composted there.

Pros:

The cost would be reduced to \$156,000.
Since the leaves would no longer sit on the site there would be no smell.

Cons:

There would be no free compost available to residents. (Neighbors say it is mostly landscape firms who take the compost).

The Committee members told staff to go ahead with the changes. It will take 3-6 months to get the permits to be a transfer station instead of a compost site.

People spoke about the terrible smell and wondered why it took so long to get a plan. They also were pleased with the plan but wished it would eliminate the smell now.

Meeting Ended: 6:35 PM