

CITY COUNCIL OBSERVER REPORT
MARCH 12, 2007

Observer: Sue Brady

Aldermen Present: 8 Aldermen (Ald. Wollin was voting electronically from D.C. where she was at a League of Congress meeting). Ald. Ann Rainey is on a Hawaiian cruise.

Staff Present: City Manager not there; Asst. City Manager Judy Aiello took her place. All other managerial staff were in either the Council chambers or aldermanic library.

Media Present: Evanston Review and RoundTable

Meeting Began: 8:30 sharp!

Meeting Ended: 9:05!

Significant Discussion/Action:

Announcements (at least from a citizen's perspective) were most interesting

1. Evanston's water plant received a 'perfect' score from evaluators.
2. On 3/27 at 7:00 pm in Council chambers, consultants will report on their recommended re-design of Ridge Avenue, construction to follow next year.
3. There will be two free bulk pick-ups a year (furniture et al). Check City's web page for dates.
4. Street cleaning is changing from night to day beginning April 1st: every other week from 9:00 to 4:00.
5. Dennis Nilsson from the police department retiring after 37 years; many kudos from Mayor and Aldermen
6. Mayor thanked the community for all the expressions of sympathy she received from everyone on the death of her sister.
7. Only citizen comment from was from John Kennedy, head of Save the Civic Center. Note: there will be two advisory referendum questions on the April 17th ballot, both about the Civic Center.

Council Action:

1. All items were on the Consent Agenda, but those mentioned below were taken off, rules suspended and voted on immediately.
2. Islamic Center was approved for 2045 Brown. Sounds like a wonderful group.
3. Amended Inclusionary Housing Ordinance passed: mandates that in any Planned Development, 10% of units be either set aside as affordable units OR that developer make a payment-in-lieu of \$ 40,000 per affordable unit. (Mayor vetoed earlier version of this, which mandated units on site. This amendment allows a full payment-in-lieu).

Call of the Wards: Only noteworthy comment was from Eb Moran who asked staff to prepare a draft of a Housing Trust Fund Ordinance for consideration at the next P&D meeting.

Observer Comment: Wow, what a short meeting. League definitely should do an educational piece on two referenda questions-they are very confusing. One asks that the civic center building be saved AND that the city offices remain. The other asks whether \$ 31,000,000 (an incorrect figure aldermen acknowledge) should be spent on another site, but preserving the building if possible.