

**Observer's Report**  
**Evanston City Council Meeting**  
**April 23, 2007**

**Observer:** Carol Mullins  
**Aldermen present:** all  
**Staff present:** City Manager, Department Heads, City Clerk  
**Media Present:** Roundtable, NU students

**Meeting began:** 9:05, ended about 10:50

**Citizens presents:** many (25-40) pro civic center group and group favoring and opposing Evmarks' SS Region 4

The Mayor (tired from an all night plane ride from Alaska, seeing her granddaughter) read proclamations for: Public Service Week and Volunteer Week. Congrats to city employees and to ETHS, NU, and ECF volunteer activities.

Dave Jennings presented 2007 maps for construction work, parks, alley paving, etc., they are available for citizens' viewing on city's website.

Jay Terry presented Virginia Stanton with a volunteer award for 20 years' of service via AARP for income tax assistance to seniors.

Award Presentations: Paul D'Agostino presented award from National Tree City USA to Evanston for the 23<sup>rd</sup> year for our good urban forestry program. Linda Lutz from Environmental Center introduced the President of her board who gave environmental stewardship awards to: Nate Kipnis, architect, for being a "green leader"; Joel Freeman (and his little daughters) who is chair of the Energy Commission; Dave Cook, Evanston Municipal Facilities (architect); Evanston Roundtable-Mary Gavin; Jan Laughlin, Environmental attorney, EPA; Julie Hamos. Commitment via her state representative status to sustainability with legislation for food farm and jobs; Julia Carroll, City Manager, promotion of Kyoto protocol for Evanston,

Citizen comments were numerous, about 15 or 18, some good, some tiresome. The Pro civic center group was out in all its flower, offering to plan for the rehab of the civic center with its group of architects...more were there to favor or oppose the Evmark Special service area #4. Many small business owners were there to ask that Evmark make board meetings more open and include small business people on their board. Howard Kain, representing Evmark, and President of Evmark and Turin Bike were there to advocate for improvements to city scape via Evmark.

The comments were related to the Special Service #4 hearing, which is the required meeting for consideration of the ordinance to expand the Evmark service area. Residential buildings have been removed from the tax assessment. One man spoke from a rental building which is being assessed since it is income property. Anne Rainey thought that should be investigated as it seemed unfair to tenants. Aldermen are not to respond to public comments, based on Council

Rule #6. Herb Hill explained that the public now has 60 days to respond to this hearing about the proposed, expanded Special Service Region #4.

The Consent Agenda was passed with a few items being pulled out: sewer contract and consulting services for downtown plan. Lease for the south branch library was approved.

Committee Reports: given by Wollin, APW, a few comments, no report from Tisdahl (P&D) and Holmes (Human Services)

Calling of wards: Rainey: 8<sup>th</sup> ward meeting re: gangs and drugs, Levy Center May 8<sup>th</sup>; Wollin, congrats to Mary Gavin for Studs Terkel award for journalism, to NU Volunteer night, including an award for Alice Kreiman; Holmes, 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of church and Pancake Day at Family Focus, Moran-acknowledge citizens for Central Street plan.

10:50: Adjourn to Executive session for discussion of litigation and real estate.