

**Evanston City Council  
Observer Report  
October 8, 2007**

**Observer:** Frances Seidman

**Aldermen Present:** All present

**Staff present:** Fewer than usual, probably due to short agenda. Jay Terry made comments, as well as David Jennings.

**Media present:** RoundTable, Evanston Review, Daily Northwestern

**Meeting began:** Approximately 8:40 p.m. even though P & D ended early

**Citizens present:** fewer than usual, probably due to nature of agenda

**Announcements:** The meeting began with the Mayor's announcement of a proclamation honoring The United Way of the North Shore, and the presentation of a plaque to two representatives of the United Way.

Mayor Morton then read a letter from a Vice President of Presbyterian Homes to the City, referring to the services they had been able to provide to their neighbors and to the community during a recent storm, and offering their help during any future period of crisis affecting Evanston. Presbyterian Homes was recognized by the Council as a good neighbor to the City.

The Mayor also read a letter from the Illinois Arts Council, recognizing Evanston as an "Arts Friendly Community".

David Jennings announced that street cleaning and yard waste pickup would end on 12/13, and that the leaf blowing ban begins on 12/14.

**Citizen Comment:** There were no citizens signed up to make comments.

Alderman Moran read the Consent Agenda. A and PW items passed by a vote of 9 to 0. P & D items passed as well, despite Alderman Rainey's strong objections to the ordinance presented in the P & D Committee, relating to funding for the rehabilitation of 1929 Jackson, currently being undertaken by the Housing Opportunity Development Corporation. She had commented that this was the last project of this kind that she would agree to fund, because she feels there are other, better ways to provide affordable housing.

There was discussion of the items on the Human Services agenda, the first being the Evanston Township annual audit. The budget now includes funding for an accounting position, to conform to new requirements specified in new statute.

Next item was the Nuisance Premise section of the City Code. Alderman Rainey moved an amendment to include zoning violations. She recounted a situation in the 8th ward, where a landlord grossly mistreated a tenant, in order to be able to continue to use a basement apartment that violated the Zoning Ordinance. This did pass, with the amendment, despite some concerns of other aldermen.

There was lengthy discussion of the amendments proposed to the Indoor Clean Air Ordinance, mainly involving the provision permitting smoking in Long-term Care Facilities. Our ordinance was to amend our City Code to reflect recent state legislation,. Apparently, the enforcement of the state law was suspended, pending clarification of some sections. Alderman Bernstein was strongly in support of permitting smoking in Long-term Care facilities. but the outcome of his amendment was not clear to me. At any rate, Alderman Moran moved passage of the ordinance as amended, and it passed unanimously.

Alderman Jean Baptiste moved to hold the item related to the property at 1817 Church Street which passed unanimously.

There were 15 names presented for appointments to Boards and Commissions, far more than at recent meetings. There were also seven names for reappointment.

In the Call of the Wards, several Aldermen praised the new art work that was dedicated at Sherman and Davis, very enthusiastically. Also there was mention of an upcoming event in honor of the Mayor at the Orrington Hotel. Also mentioned was the ground-breaking at the ather.

**Meeting ended:** Earlier than usual--probably about 9:45 p.m..