

**Evanston City Council Meeting
March 26th, 2007**

Observer:Betty Papangelis

Alderman Present: Cheryl Wollin, 1st Ward; Lionel Jean-Baptiste, 2nd Ward; Melissa A. Wynne, 3rd Ward; Steven J. Bernstein, 4th Ward; Delores A. Holmes, 5th Ward; Edmund B. Moran, Jr., 6th Ward; Elizabeth B. Tisdahl, 7th Ward; Ann Rainey, 8th Ward; Anjana Hansen, 9th Ward .

Staff Present: City Manager, City Clerk, Department Heads

Media Present: Bill Smith, Roundtable, Northwestern Students,

Meeting Began: Promptly at 8:30pm; ended 9:40pm

Citizens Present: 10 – 12

The Mayor read two proclamations:

Fair Housing Month (April)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April)

Presentations were made to two policewomen for their help with the Special Olympics. City Manager presented an Honorable Mention award, won by staff members from the Association for Strategic Planning for Business Process and Technology's 2006 Strategic Plan.

Citizens Comments:

Ms. Pad Rao (?) spoke to her concerns about the alley paving project 1489 North of Noyes Street (she presented most of her concerns to the A & PW Committee earlier this evening, and at the A & PW Committee on March 12, 2007) The Mayor politely suggested that she get a survey of her land, after considerable complaining, and assurance that the staff had thoroughly reviewed this whole matter. The staff did say that the Condo Board would be asked if they wanted to keep the tree that was 70% on their land and 30% on city property. Alderman Hansen reviewed for the council, what A & PW had done in answering the citizen's complaints at their last meeting. Case closed (citizen was not happy)

Fran Seidman spoke on the brochure distributed by the city regarding the Civic Center Referendum. She felt that the brochure was slanted against remaining in the Civic Center, rather than moving.

Dr. Stomata Blanas of 1720 Maple presented a petition stating that residents in the 1720 building did not receive notices of the Planned Unit Development at 1881 Oak. (earlier the Planning Commission said NO to this proposal and then the council gave approval for an 18 story (I believe) condo building.)

John Kennedy spoke strongly in favor of having a dialogue on April 5, on local TV, between the council and the Friends of the Civic Center, to discuss the whole issue of the Civil Center Rehab, verses a new building verses costs, etc. Much discussion, including a lengthy presentation by Herb Hill, Assistant Corporation Counsel on the recent court hearing on whether the information in the brochure was misleading and /or confusing. The rulings were all in favor of City, to wit: The Council must present facts, not opinions, or positions.

Alderman Moran presented the Consent Agenda. Approval was given to City of Evanston, Bills and Payroll, and to various bids, contract renewals. Such as: Perry Park Renovation, landscaping and maintenance of the Central Business District, etc. Approval was given so that special permit applications will be reviewed and approved by the staff, and will no longer come before Council.

Alderman Wolin, Chair of A & PW Committee asked for and received approval of an Ordinance proposing extension (years) and expansion (area) of special services area 4. Ordinances were passed for Special Assessment Alley Paving for alley 1487 North of Kedzie and alley 1488 North of Clark Street, and ordinance 20-0-07 was approved, establishing Class 2 Liquor Licenses (for wine and beer tasting on the premises of a cooking school)

Alderman Tisdahl, chair of Planning and Development asked for suspension of the rules in order to introduce and vote to establish a moratorium on the issuance of building permits for construction on Green Bay Road from Isabella Street to Lincoln Street. Approved 9 – 0. Alderman Tisdahl announced that the Text Amendment Ordinance, to create a Mixed Use Zoning District is held in committee for further discussion.

There was no report from the Human Services Committee.

Call of the Wards:

All of the alderman welcomed the new Police Chief, Richard Eddington. And everyone of the alderman praised the work of Carolyn Brzezinski, Assistant Director Building and Zoning, who has resigned and is taking a new position at Oakbrook. Her work with the City was praised, and she will be missed.

7th Ward - Alderman Moran announced a ward meeting to be held on Thursday March 29.

8th Ward - Alderman Rainey invited all to a meeting on Thursday March 29 on the upcoming reassessment. She mentioned “an incident had occurred at Custer and Dobson”. Street camera’s have arrived and will be installed. She hoped these would bring safety and civility to some of our neighborhoods.

9th Ward - Anjana Hansen welcomed to the Police Chief, farewell to Carolyn.

1st Ward - Alderman Wolin reported that she and the Mayor attended the opening of a new Heart Center at St. Francis Hospital, she also commented that the number

of “sandwich signs” are blocking sidewalks for those citizens who are fond of walking.

2nd Ward - Alderman Jean-Baptiste said he looks forward to a summer plan from the Police Chief. He also announced a meeting for 2nd ward residents to meet the new Police Chief and hear what the City is doing to promote safety for all citizens.

3rd Ward - Alderman Wynne, welcome to Chief Eddington, and farewell and thanks to Carolyn.

4th Ward - Alderman Bernstein reminded the council that alternate parking for street cleaning begins April 2.

5th Ward - Alderman Holmes will have a ward meeting on April 19.

6th Ward – Alderman Tisdahl: Welcome to the Chief of Police, farewell to Ms Brzenziski.

The council was adjourned at 9:40 PM.