

**March 23, 2009
City Council Report**

Observer: Sue Brady

Meeting Began; 8:40

Meeting Ended: 11:35

**All Aldermen were present
Roundtable & Review present
Room totally filled with citizens**

Proclamations/Announcements

- **Proclamation honoring NAACP 100 year anniversary**
- **Proclamation stating that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month**
- **Announcement that street sweeping and yard waste pick up begin 4/6**
- **City Clerk stated that as of late today, 368 early voters, 323 absentee ballots**

Citizen Comment

- **Sixteen people spoke to the 708 development, only one in favor (Chamber of Commerce)**
- **Two people from Network for Evanston's Future spoke to the need of amending and clarifying LEED process for 708 development**

All items were approved on Consent Agenda except for 708 Church

708 Church

- **Three formal motions were made by Bernstein and lost 6-3 (increasing contribution to City from \$ 1,000,000 to 2,000,000-for Fountain Square), insisting that developer build either on-site or lease in perpetuity 35 parking spaces for retail establishments, decreasing back to 12/31/11 from 12/31/13 the time that developer has for pulling permit**
- **One amendment passed unanimously that changed LEED application standards to date of beginning of development instead of day ordinance was passed i.e. today**
- **Bernstein, Wynne and to some extent Tisdahl spoke often and forcibly about problems with development**
- **Moran, Rainey and Baptiste-in final argument-spoke in favor**

Comments: It was a spirited debate with neither side budging. It verged on becoming rancorous among several aldermen. As a person who has not followed this debate in detail, I was sorry that the issues raised were not discussed (apparently) in earlier negotiations. Both sides made telling arguments. I still cannot figure out who, from the council's perspective, did the final negotiations as I think it would have been possible to have consensus on this project.