

**Observer Report  
City Council  
July 23, 2007**

Alderman Present: All except Jean-Baptiste and Anjana Hansen

Staff Present: Many Firemen, Herb Hill, Police Chief, Jim Wolinski, Doug Gaynor, et al. Julia Carroll not here; Deputy City Manager sat in for her.

Media Present: Evanston Review,

Meeting Began: 8:55pm Meeting Ended: 10:20pm

The Deputy Chief Manager announced the hiring of new staff: a Sustainability Manager; Risk Manager Jeffrey Lahey, and Sol Anderson, a Youth Engagement Supervisor

The Fire Chief made a presentation to the Fire Department Chaplain; Father Ken Simpson, who is being moved to Lincoln Park after 11 years of service here in Evanston.

Doug Gaynor, Parks and Recreation, spoke of the excellent management of the Ethnic Arts Festival by City Staff and announced that the Arts Fair will be on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Gaynor also spoke in glowing terms of the International Cycling Race that was held over the weekend, and there was a presentation by the owners of Turin Bicycle, who managed the event and who hopes to make it an annual event.

Citizen Comment:

Five citizens spoke.

The first was George Mitchell, president of the NAACP. He protested the use of “City of Evanston” on web sites set up by aldermen. (It developed that his concerns, as well as two other that followed, were directed against Alderman Rainey. Rainey had made remarks about the poor reading scores of African-American children at Oakton School, which were insulting to parents)

The second was Terri Shepherd who spoke of her many years of service as a community activist and volunteer, and protested her being called a “meddler” by Alderman Rainey.

The third citizen was Judith Treadway, also a long time community activist and volunteer. She also objected to being called a “meddler” and having Oakton parents being called “failures” because of the below average reading scores of 60% of third grade African-American Students.

Next came Mr. Riski, a perennial protester, who felt that the Council is ignoring crime in the city.

Mr. Travis Millar, Chair of the Downtown Merchants, spoke to the need for Transparency of Evmark activities in the city.

Police Chief Eddington reported a criminal arrest over the week-end, and clarified the use of DNA material - a question had been raised about this earlier.

Alderman Eb Moran presented the Consent Agenda, which was approved by the Council. Tennis and Basketball Courts at Bent, Larimer and Mason Parks will be improved. The Liquor License for Nine Fish Restaurant will be held off until the manager (to be hired) has completed BASSETT Training.

The Solid Waste Franchise Ordinance requires reworking and is held off until the August 13 meeting.

#### Planning and Development Committee:

Amendments to Mixed Use Zoning District Ordinance were approved (6 – 1) and to the Zoning Map Amendment, and then the ordinances were approved.

The request for additional \$126,865 in HOME funds for ECDA's Condo Conversion at 736-38 Dobson was approved.

#### Human Services Committee:

No report

The Mayor announced the resignation of Pat Casey, who has taken the position as City Manager of West Milwaukee.

#### Call of the Wards:

Every Alderman spoke of their regret at Pat Casey's leaving, praising his work for the City over the past 11 years.

Alderman Holmes, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, congratulated the City, and all who had worked to make the Ethnic Arts Festival such a great success. She invited fellow alderman and citizens to attend the continuing meetings on "Partnering for a Safer Evanston"

Alderman Moran, 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, reviewed a newly developed bike plan for the City.

Alderman Tisdahl, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, protested the dumping of chemicals into the lake by BP Petroleum Co. and asked that Evanston join with Chicago in protecting the lake

Alderman Rainey continued with her concern with the low reading scores at Oakton School (although a group of Oakton parents were right in front of her, she addressed the Council, never looking at the citizens in front of her)

Alderman Wollin reported that Oakton Community College has received a \$125,000 grant for a “Shifting Gears” program for developing health care personnel. She also called attention to the booklet of courses and activities at ETHS, which are sponsored by Oakton Community College.

The meeting ended at 10:20pm