

**Observer Report
City Council
August 10, 2009**

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: All there.

Staff Present: City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz and department heads, transportation, legal staff and the chief of police.

Media Present: Bob Seidenberg and a couple of young kids.

Meeting Began. 8:36 pm

Meeting Ended: 10:26 p.m.

No. of Citizens in Attendance: About 60; 70% were boaters and the rest were residents near Las Palmas.

Announcements The mayor introduced Wally as this was his first Council meeting. She gave Don Woods an award as this was his 80th birthday and he has been in business 34 years. Others: The trash will be collected one day later than usual the week of Labor Day. The Community Picnic will be on 8/23 from 12 – 5 pm. Wally requested a special meeting to be scheduled in September for Goals and Priority setting.

Citizen Comment Eight spoke on Las Palmas outdoor café (4 pro and 4 con). Five spoke in favor of replacing the boat racks at Dempster St. Beach. Public art on the garage had one pro and one con from a member of the Parking Committee who said that that committee was bypassed at the end when they should have been involved. Sharon Eckersall objected to Human Services not approving her bills when all the documentation was certainly submitted – she's still going to out-of-town classes!! Jane Colleton thanked the Council for its support of selling the building to Chiaravalle. Rizzki came with a pink pig, said taxes should be raised and told Wally to ask a lot of questions.

Significant Discussions, Action Taken:

* Approved two organizations to get city stickers for next year: YMCA and Rotary since they both are celebrating anniversaries and Seniors Action Service and the Youth Baseball and Softball Association for 2011. Initially Grover recused herself since her husband is president of the Baseball group and she is a member of the Y; then Tendam did likewise since he's on the Y's 125th celebration committee. Jean-Baptiste then said he didn't think that was necessary and they asked for legal opinion. Kurze gave a very weak interpretation of the conflict of interest policy. Jean-Baptiste said they or their families were not personally benefiting by voting, so eventually all voted. There was a mention that Safety Town, which had withdrawn, could still apply in 2011.

* Boat storage. Jean-Baptiste spoke against this since we knew we were \$3 million in the red at the end of the first quarter, questioned why the rack had to be replaced rather than repaired and why it had to be all or nothing and then moved to have it placed on the table until the next Council meeting when the staff could provide more analysis. Rainey then moved to override the

motion since it was now or never for the 2010 season. The mayor then wanted to know if there could be discussion on the second motion; finally it was determined there could be. Other discussion included that this was a revenue generating operation (\$75000 per year now) and would increase if replaced because there would be more slots (about \$33,000). Wally was asked his opinion and he was for it. The cost increased from \$100,000 in the capital budget to \$392,000. Passed 7-2 with Jean-Baptiste and Fiske voting nay.

* Suspended the rules to allow the sale of the Chiaravalle building to be sold to the school. They are starting a capital campaign in the fall.

* Suspended the rules and voted to give Vinic Wine Co. (1509 Chicago) a Class Y liquor license.

* Suspended the rules and voted to allow The Ultimate Chicken Bar to have a license. Fiske objected since the 1700 block of Sherman is looking shoddy.

* Gave Las Palmas a license to have 3 outdoor tables from 11 am – 8 pm (weekdays) and 9:30 pm (weekends) for this year only. Fiske opposed because they would only be 8 feet from some neighbors' windows and she had other ideas to help the business.

* HOME funds was referred back to committee.

Call of the Wards

Fiske and Holmes announced ward meetings. Jean-Baptiste, Wilson, and Wynn praised Evanston Night Out.