

Observer Report Form

Council or Committee: City Council

Date: 8/13/07

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: All present

Staff Present: Normal group (Carroll, Aeillo, law staff, Gainer, et al)

Media Present: Review and RoundTable

Meeting Began. 8:55 pm
not stay for Call of the Wards)

Meeting Ended: 10:35p.m.+ (I did

No. of Citizens in Attendance: About 50. Most with the Animal Shelter/C.A.R.E. program (consent agenda: the Shelter will get \$\$ for rehab and the city will hire C.A.R.E. to run it).

Announcements/Citizen Comment

Mayor announced that NU is now part of the Big Ten Network, which covers news of all the Big Ten schools. Lakeview Cleaners was selected by a manufacturer for its first installation of a “green” cleaning machine.

Louis Jordan of the Cook County Housing Authority addressed the assembly – Evanston receives \$500,000 in rent subsidies for Section 8 vouchers each month. (Note: Jordan also made a presentation to the Ev. Alliance on Homelessness – the Authority is doing a lot of PR lately.)

Two men spoke in favor of the proposed Real Estate Transfer Tax to be earmarked for the pension funds.

Significant Discussions, Action Taken:

EvMark Exec. Dir. made a presentation on the activities of EvMark. A resolution was passed to have the manager implement an agreement for the Special Services District #4. However, they will change their bylaws to mandate residential membership on the board, the agreement will call for measurable goals (the term of the evening was “metrics”), and there will be an annual review attached to annual funding.

Hole on Davis FINALLY there are plans to develop a one-story retail building at 605 Davis (next to the bank drive-through). However, since ZBA voted 2 – 2, nothing can be done until staff drafts an ordinance, which they were instructed to do.

Township Bills Deleted \$400 for dues to Rotary International.

Real Estate Transfer Tax Moran stated that there was plenty of time to move forward and the Council should wait until after the Special Council Meeting on September 5 when Carroll's entire proposal will be presented, that the dollars from the increase would be meaningful for affordable housing but not for the pension funds and that the City now had a workable affordable housing plan – one of the biggest concerns of voters last fall. Tisdahl countered that it was necessary to move forward and that the people who need affordable housing – our police and fire persons – would also benefit from having a funded pension fund. Baptiste moved to hold the motion until after the September 5 meeting and that was seconded.

Your comments, impressions; is League action needed? Should we evaluate the RETT as it fits into the affordable housing mix and the need to meet our pension obligation? It's a conundrum.

Note: I will plan to attend the September 5 meeting and can make a report.