

**Observer Report
Planning and Development Committee
March 23, 2009**

Observer: Nancy Bashook

Aldermen Present: All were present

Staff Present: Dennis Marino, Bill Dunphy, and others

Media Present: Evanston Now, Evanston Review

Meeting began: 6:50 pm

Meeting ended: 7:30 pm

Items for Consideration

(P1) Consideration of Federal HOME Fund Request from Over the Rainbow Association for Rehab of Hill Arboretum, 2040 Brown

Consideration of a request for \$366,254 in Federal HOME funds for rehabilitation of Hill Arboretum Apartments at 2040 Brown. The 33 unit rental building provides affordable, barrier-free, wheelchair-accessible apartments. Funds will be used for kitchen renovations, heating repairs and improvements, and tuckpointing. This item was introduced to City Council on March 9, 2009, and returned to Committee for additional discussion.

Holmes said there was a discussion at A&PW. Talked with neighbors and others and made recommendations to work out issues on parking, etc. This is underway.

Motion unanimously approved.

(P2) Consideration of a Plat of Re-Subdivision for 101 Hamilton Street and 1212 Lakeshore Blvd.

No discussion

Motion unanimously approved.

(P3) Consideration of a Request for a 27-Month Extension for the 318-320 Dempster Street Approved Planned Development

Ordinance current expires March 24, 2009.

No discussion

Motion unanimously approved.

**(P4) Foreclosure Prevention Strategy for HOME-Assisted Development at 241 Callan
Recommendation to substitute \$60,000 in Affordable Housing Funds for HOME-funds previously disbursed for rehabilitation of the five-unit condo conversion and reduce the number of HOME-Assisted units. This will provide more cash flow to support rental operations for up to two years until units can be sold.**

Rainey complained that she first found out about this on Sunday by reading the computerized text and said this is extremely disrespectful to notify an alderman in such short time.

Motion unanimously approved.

- (P5) **Request from Connections for the Homeless for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Funds for the Evanston Alliance on Homelessness**
Request for matching funds for HUD-funded Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managed by Connections for the Homeless on behalf of the Evanston Alliance on Homelessness. The \$11,035 will be funded through the Affordable Housing Fund.

No discussion

Unanimously approved.

- (P6) **Resolution 18-R-09, Designating the Portion of Emerson Street between Dewey Avenue and Jackson Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign “Leon Robinson Street”**

Recommendation of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee on Public Place Names. The approximate cost for the street signs is \$350. Funds for honorary street name signs are budgeted in the Traffic Decision’s materials account.

Aldermen Holmes, Bernstein, Moran, Tisdahl, Jean-Baptiste all spoke in favor of this honor, citing examples of Leon Robinson’s good work for the community. The Robinson family has a long history of helping those in the black community. Ald. Holmes explained that the rules for naming streets applies only to living persons. That’s why this street will be named Leon Robinson (not junior or senior) to include both.

Unanimously approved.

- (P7) **Resolution 17-R-09, Designating the Portion of Davis Street between Orrington Avenue and Chicago Avenue with the Honorary Street Name Sign “Giordano Dance Street”**

Recommendation of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee on Public Place Names. Cost is \$350.

The Giordano Dance Studio has been at 614 Davis Street for 56 years. Several students described this as an appropriate way to honor the memory of Gus Giordano and the activities of the studio. The school manager described the studio as a landmark of culture, expression and creativity in Evanston. Students travel from far away to attend and they expressed the influence that Gus had on their lives. Dancers from across the nation were at his funeral. The students stood and received a big hand from the aldermen and audience. April 25 will be Gus Giordano Day in Illinois.

Unanimously approved.

Items for Discussion

- (PD1) **Discussion of a Proposed Revision to Approved Planned Development for 1890 Maple.**

This is being revised because Trader Joe’s plans have changed for occupying the building. Retail space will be increased to 19,000 sq. feet. Dwelling units will be

increased from 154 to 176. No increase in FAR and height. The second floor space is not feasible for commercial use. The original ordinance did not designate how many units would be permitted if change was needed. Ald. Wollin suggested that staff prepare an ordinance that meets specifications and have it presented at the next P&D meeting.

Comments: Everyone was elated that the meeting was adjourned so quickly.