

Observer Report
August 11, 2008
Planning & Development Committee

Observer: Nancy Bashook

Aldermen Present/Absent: All but Ald. Jean-Baptiste were present

Staff Present: Dennis Marino, Dona Spicuzza

Media Present: Roundtable, Review

Meeting began: 7:45 pm (called for 7:30 pm) Meeting ended: 8:10 pm

Items for Consideration

(P1) Ordinance 95-O-08 – Major Variation to Allow Open Parking in Front Yard – 1317 Livingston

Consideration of a major variation to allow open parking in the front yard of 1317 Livingston. This case is sent from the Zoning Board of Appeals with a 3 in favor, 2 against, vote. Recommended for approval by SPAARC.

Ald. Tisdahl recused herself from the discussion. The parking is on a preexisting cement driveway, which has been in existence since 1922. Parking in the front makes house more accessible.

Approved.

**(P2) Motion for Approval of a Community Housing Development Organization
Consideration of an Application by Evanston Community Development Agency (ECDA) to become a City Designated Community Housing Development Organization.**

Bishop Williams, Vice President of ECDA, said this would be the fifth CHDO in Evanston. Ald. Rainey asked for a report on why we got rid of Habitat for Humanity, which left a bad taste in Evanston. She asked what was learned from the experience. How to market in a fair way to all who qualify and watching the budget more carefully when remodeling apartments were two issues cited.

Ald. Holmes mentioned using foreclosure units as rentals. This is not the agreement with those funding the projects.

Approved.

**(P3) Motion for a One Year Extension of Planned Development Approval for 959 Dobson
Consideration of a one year retroactive extension of Approved Planned Development, 959 Dobson Street, to March 1, 2009 (Approval expired in February 2008).**

Approved.

Items for Discussion

(PD1) Federal Legislative and Funding Initiatives to Address Foreclosures and other Housing Issues (Passed 7-26-08)

The Foreclosure Task Force met with Dona Spicuzza and lots of ideas were presented. There is \$3.9 billion available for abandoned and foreclosed homes. Because of the number of foreclosures and at risk loans in Evanston, must be ready with ideas to use the funds wisely. The money is for purchase and resale of buildings, not for people who are having trouble. In 2007, 179 filings for foreclosures compared to 96 in 2005.

Comment: Even though the meeting was scheduled for 7:30 pm, it started 15 minutes late.