

Observer Report

Council or Committee: Planning & Development

Date: April 26, 2010

Observer: Nancy Bashook

Aldermen Present: Wilson, Wynne, Holmes, Rainey, Jean Baptiste; Police Chief + others, attorney

Staff: Leeman Walker, Dennis Marino, Bill Dunkley, Police chief + others, attorney and others

Media: EvanstonNOW, Roundtable

Meeting began: 7:28 pm

Meeting ended: 7:45 pm

Items for Consideration

- (P1) **Resolution 28-R-10 Reserving \$6,992,370 of the City's Bond Volume Cap Allocation for the Year 2010 for Single-Family Housing and the Industrial/Commercial Revenue Bond Program**
Staff recommends adoption of Resolution which reserves the City's right to issue \$6,992,370 in tax exempt bonds under the bond volume cap allocation. This resolution must be adopted by May 1, 2010.

Ald. Rainey asked Dennis Marino about this being limited to single family housing. He responded that it's written that way for maximum flexibility. There are limited areas in housing when this can be used.

Approved.

- (P2) **Approval of Sidewalk Cafe for Bistro Bordeaux, 618 Church St.**
Staff recommends approval of a first-time application for a sidewalk cafe (SWC) permit for Bistro Bordeaux, a Type 1 restaurant located at 618 Church St. At the April 14, 2010 Site Plan and Appearance Review Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the findings of the Health Department, Engineering Division and Legal Department and approved the request for a SWC permit

Ald. Rainey was concerned with hours of operation and wondered if there was discussion to limit their hours. The owner of Bistro Bordeaux said the on-street hours are different from the inside hours. There will be three outdoor tables. Bill Dunkley said the only discussion was the ability for sidewalk passage of 6 feet.

Approved.

- (P3) **Ordinance 27-O-10 Amending Portions of City Code Section 2-8-11 and Amending Portions of Ordinance 133-O-08 related to records of Zoning Board os Appeals and Plan Commission Meetings and Fees for Certain Applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals**

Staff recommends adoption of ordinance affecting zoning fees. The recommended code changes are part of a coordinated effort to reduce the cost to both applicants and the City by changing the technology and procedure by which public meetings and hearings are recorded. These changes will also decrease the fees for residential uses in the T1 Campus Transitional zoning district to the same fees assessed in the R1 single-family residential zoning district.

Approved.

Update on Evanston Foreclosure Activity in March 2010

Ald. Jean Baptiste noted that the report shows that the monthly rate of foreclosures is less. The majority of new foreclosures are from adjustable rate mortgages. He recommended a discussion with banks to work on a strategy going forward. Ald. Rainey asked Mr. Walker to work on this and to arrange a meeting outside of the regular P&D meeting.

Ald. Wilson warned everyone to not get excited about the reduced numbers. He also encouraged the public to use the city resources available and not to be taken in by false ads.