

## **Observer Report Form**

### **Rules Committee**

**November 5, 2007**

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Aldermen Present/Absent:** Present: Tisdahl, chair; Hansen, Holmes, Jean-Baptiste, Moran, Rainey, Wynne and Wollin.

**Staff Present:** Carroll, Hill, Aiello, Francello, Morgan, Morris

**Media Present:** Review and Roundtable (both Mary Gavin and Bill Smith)

**Meeting Began.** 6:20 pm

**Meeting Ended:** 7:20 pm

**No. of Citizens in Attendance:** George Mitchell, Judy Treadway and 4 others from the NAACP

**Significant Discussions, Action Taken:** There were so many sparks in the air that at the end of the meeting Liz had to be reminded by Dar to approve the minutes.

The issue was Ald. Rainey's website and that it is a link on the City's website. From Ann's website one can link onto her message board, which may have been where she accused Judy Treadway and one other of being "meddlers." Since August Ann has added a disclaimer that it is her own and paid for by her. Mitchell (NAACP) had written a letter to the aldermen and mayor that he thought Ald. Rainey was abusing the "brand" of the City because of what is on her message board and that the City's brand needs to be protected. Lots of discussion on freedom of speech, the fact that there are many other links on the City's website (especially if one goes to the "library" – I couldn't find the library) and if one is taken off they all should be which would limit the ability of people to find out about Evanston, and how would the City control all of these. Also a few accusations of lying. The final decision was to have Herb Hill, corporation counsel, look into it (he had provided a memo on liability of the City, but that wasn't the answer to this).

The working for the flyer for an increase to the real estate transfer tax for the police and fire pensions was approved.