

OBSERVER REPORT

Evanston City Council

December 12, 2011

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: all

Staff present: many; City Manager, Marty Lyons, Suzette Robinson, city counsel, etc

Media present: Evanston Now, Evanston RoundTable, Northwestern Daily

Meeting began: 8:00 pm

Meeting ended: 9:30 pm

Public announcements: Mayor Tisdahl presented Peter Virag a proclamation for their 75 years in Evanston. The NU Basketball coach and Assistant AD at NU promoted Saturday's Evanston Day at Northwestern University Men's Basketball. The City Manager announced the contest winners of the autumn photos: "Day in the Life of Evanston: a photo story" One of the winners is our City Clerk, Rodney Greene. The photos were fabulous and they plan to do another in late May 2012.

Citizen comment: 4 comments: Mike Vasilco asking for formal Economic Development Plan, he mentioned both Schaumburg and Skokie who have successful ones. (They also have major shopping centers within their communities); Padmo Rao and her mother discussing the Kendall trees and their lawyer's comments about and unethical conflicts with First Ward Alderman and criticizing 8th ward alderman for inappropriate responses to citizen comment; another woman to suggest that we "blow our own horn" from time to time and publicize ourselves in national municipal papers. She commented that she was glad in spite of code issues that City stayed in Civic Center. City Manager replied that building meets all city codes.

Action. Consent agenda. Alderman Rainey presented the consent agenda, including minutes; payroll, bills and credit card activity. Held from action were a few resolutions: one that would impact the Capital improvement Plan. This has to do with the Howard/Hartley TIF project where water main would not be replaced in front of newly renovated buildings. Wilson made a comment about renovation money for these buildings not having city approval that made Rainey see red. She has worked very hard with city staff for the past year to buy and hopefully renovate three buildings on Howard Street. She commented that she was appreciative of the new City Manager for his help and that she had discussed this project with every single alderman and did not understand the questions. Another resolution from A&PW was to ask that the Howard/ Hartley TIF be closed in 2012. A&PW would like City School Committee to consider allowing City money for traffic guards; 1817 Church Street project, reimbursement of HUD and selling it to Evanston North Shore Contractors will be reintroduced early in January.

From Planning and Development Committee: Revision of regulation regarding expiration of building permits, which has a time limitation for all permits, regardless of work status.

From Human Services Committee, approval of Township bills for November 2011, totaling \$85, which doesn't include a \$2000 payment for attorney's fees. Township supervisor recommends that the Trustees accept and place on file the Township Audit for fiscal year ending March 31, 2011.

Appointments: Leora Siegel to Library Board, James Ford to Plan Commission. Reappointments: Heidi Bloom, Helen Axelrod, Charles Lange to Arts Council; David Blatt to Emergency Telephone System Citizen Board;; Virginia Beatty and Tracy Hubbard to Ladd Arboretum Committee.

Consent agenda was approved unanimously with resolutions for action that included raising both parking meter costs and parking fines.

Call of wards: Holiday greetings from all who spoke. Zoning meeting regarding B&B 's announced by Fiske, Rainey "lectured" all about her excitement about the new Howard St. development with a little of "It's about my time my end of town is getting treated well.", Burrus discussed Oakton Street and speeding trucks (discussed in A&PW)