



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

May 14, 2014

AGENDA

- Citywide Issues
- Topics for Discussion.

WELCOME

Thank you for coming and welcome. For those new to our meetings, the 3rd Ward Meetings are a good forum for discussing Ward/City concerns in an informal structure bringing on lively discussion. Denise is always available afterwards to discuss specific, neighborhood issues.

HISTORY CENTER

The History Center is in their 47th year and is looking at new strategic plans to be more independent in raising money. The History Center is looking for volunteers for the following projects:

- June 6 and June 7 – Tag Day: Fundraising event in which volunteers stand in various locations to seek contributions from people walking by.
- May 19 - Attic cleanup project of old exhibits, moving and organizing boxes. This is for those able to climb stairs and lift objects up to 30 lbs.
- Newspaper Project Researcher requires a detail-oriented volunteer interested in history and archival collections to research and inventory. Requires the ability to use computers and maintain a document or spreadsheet.
- Newspaper Archive Project requires a detailed-oriented volunteer interested in reviewing microfilmed newspapers at the library, recording information about each issue and comparing original format issues.

Anyone interested please contact the History Center at 847 391-5399 or www.desplainshistory.org.

DES PLAINES THEATRE

The City and owner have come to an agreement that the City will send out (on owner's behalf) RFIs. Those interested in the Theatre will send RFI to George Sakas.

Patty Duke, Actress and Oscar Winner, was recently in town looking with interest at the Des Plaines Theatre as a possible site for a revival of the "Miracle Worker".

BUILDING AND FIRE CODES

The Building Committee is working to update entire codes to the 2012 International Code Council family of codes. Des Plaines has many old codes with layer on layer with none being repealed. It has created a mess. The goal is to amend and bring down Des Plaines code book to 40 pages with few local amendments. New commercial and all new residential buildings (single housing too) are to be sprinkled. There is an exception of less than 12,000 square feet or public assembly buildings with less than 5,000 square feet. Sprinklers are designed to give people more time to exit a building – this is what the code considers. Putting fires out is a side effect.

Fire codes regulate fireworks. State of Illinois has their regulations and City of Des Plaines has local codes, which are much stricter than Illinois. Code states anything requiring a "flame" to light, such as sparklers, bottle rockets and glow snakes are considered illegal. Commercial grade fireworks are the ones that are the most concern. A retired ATF officer is helping the city (Police and Fire) to identify the differences of commercial and non-commercial grade fireworks. If it is something large enough to create a concern for safety, call police.

STREET CONSTRUCTION / INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Prairie and 1st is next for storm sewer construction, Thacker RR crossing is nearing completion. NOTE: Thacker will be undergoing road resurfacing east of Wolf Road to west of 1st Avenue next.

Last Monday's rain fall did not cause much flooding. River was not the problem it was the amount of rain in such a short time that caused some issues. Rising water was problem in the neighborhood of 1st and Walter. Backyards were flooded in some areas. City has Rear Yard Drainage Program, city picks up all but \$5,000. This amount can be divided up among home assessments. A drain catch basin is installed in the yard. As we were told by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, there is no "button" to open/close the flood gates. Sewers are built to handle 1" of rain an hour.

COMED / ELECTRICITY

Finance Chair brought up the issue of Des Plaines filing a contract with an aggregate for electricity other than ComEd. ComEd's rate is out and aggregate is same or higher.

ComEd will continue to own infrastructure though there would be one bill. If city goes with another power supply, there will be an option to opt out within 10 days. There may be an early termination fee (ETF) if wanting out of contract.

- What about windmill in back yard? Cook County does not allow.
- More on the City Utility will be discussed at next council meeting.
- Some local residents use Direct Energy and have seen their electric rates go down.

CITY WIDE TOPICS

- Health Insurance for Elected Officials: Council members know Denise's interest in this topic. One idea is that those that currently have insurance could be grandfathered in; health insurance benefits would not be offered to newly elected officials. Denise wants to open it for discussion with council, but three aldermen are required to put topic on the table, so far there are two aldermen interested.
- City is looking at the possibility of cutting back the use of city staff vehicles as a necessity to do their job. More discussion to come.
- DO&CO International Company opening in Des Plaines would be bringing 500 jobs. Company provides catering for international airlines. Company chose Des Plaines because of their proximity to O'Hare Airport and availability of 6b. Company will be moving into the old Lawson Products Building by Mannheim and Touhy.
- Any place of interest for a 3rd Ward Field Trip? Denise is trying to work on Juno Lighting in providing an evening tour.
- Few neighborhoods did not have garbage not in the can picked up this week? Denise suggested calling Republic and will also check.
- Fire Department is offering CPR Classes May 31 and June 10. Please call the Fire Department to sign up. There is a refundable fee of \$20. This is not a certification class. Fire Department is continues to develop the Citizens Fire Class.
- Is there a way to know when a fire extinguisher is empty? If there is a gauge, check if the needle is in green area. If it's a powder extinguisher, shake it. If powder is not lose that usually means time for a new one. There are extinguishers that can be re-charged such as a CO2 but the re-charge could cost the same as a new one. Make sure to discharge the pressure in an empty extinguisher before throwing away and yes, they can be thrown in regular garbage pick-up.
- When weather warms up and days get longer; vandalism increases. Remember to protect your house from vandals by keeping lights on or add motion sensors. Police Chief recommends keeping your car key fob close to your bedside, if there is any unusual noise, set off your key fob. Police are aware of the city's targeted areas and are only a 911 call away. Denise will ask the Police Chief Kushner to attend an upcoming meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 11, at Prairie Lakes, 7:00 p.m.

1st Ward Alderman Patty Haugeberg will be at the June meeting to talk about the Adopt a Hydrant program.

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Please contact Denise at drodd@desplaines.org or call/text (847) 514-6318
- Facebook is set up for the 3rd Ward: [www.Facebook.com/DP3rdWard](https://www.facebook.com/DP3rdWard) (or search DP3)
 - Twitter: @Denise Rodd
 - Web Site: www.3rdWard.org