



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

August 13, 2014

AGENDA

- Rivers Casino tour

WELCOME

Denise Rodd invited the 3rd Ward to tour Rivers Casino. Denise and residents were welcomed by Scott Goin, a three-year employee at Rivers Casino. Scott introduced himself as a casino career person that came to Rivers from the Horseshoe Corporation.

Tour began at the Employee Entrance/Security Station where all were given visitors passes before starting through the inner workings of the Casino. Scott emphasized that the Des Plaines City leadership and Aldermen had a decision in the making and planning of Rivers Casino.

A LEED CASINO

Rivers Casino was built on a brownfield (slightly hazardous) re-design and one of the few casinos in the United States considered a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Casino. LEED does not mean “green,” but rather as a company, Rivers is concerned with an energy and efficiency footprint in the community. Rivers Casino achieved the LEED Gold Certification for energy, by using such conservational materials; such as LED lighting, low-flow plumbing, and the use of organic materials. Rivers Casino has made the most of their small space with the most efficient plan so as to be invisible to the patron. There are things patrons don't see in the Casino that is massively efficient in the daily operations.

LEED conducts Rivers Casino as an energy savings building yet, provides good quality services such as fresh air. Rivers pumps in 100% outside air and runs a high filtration system that keeps air fresh. Rivers is a smoke free building, though at one timer there was talk to turn Rivers into a smoking casino, with this possibility into consideration, LEED and Rivers Casino designed the air filtration system to be a source of constant fresh air regardless if a non-smoking or smoking building. Rivers has no smoking within 25-feet of the main door while Illinois does not permit smoking closer than 15-feet of main door. Rivers did not forget the smokers and created a smoker's terrace that works in an all-weather setting balancing between keeping patrons comfortable and yet a smoker's lounge is not considered a building. The tour continued through the smoking terrace – tables, chairs, TVs and fans kept the customers comfortable.

TOUR

Scott Goin led the 3rd Ward though the back pathways of the Casino, past the employee lunch room, lockers, as well as the electrical rooms. Rivers employs approximately 1,436 employees. Rivers employees come from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, which helps Rivers to be a fun and interesting place to work and play. Casino provides bike racks, shower stalls and locker rooms for employees, again providing environmentally friendly options. Bike racks are also available for guests.

Turning the corner of the hallway, Scott opens a door to the Trash Dock. Recycling program is a part of LEED program with cardboard and other trash are sorted and recycle. Three tons of cardboard has been recycled on site.

Shuttle Service is available between the Blue Line Station and Rivers Casino. No shuttle runs, as yet, between downtown Des Plaines and Casino. Free Valet Parking and charging stations are also available. Parking Garage is uniquely designed with parking lights allowing drivers to view an open parking spot by looking at the color - green for an open spot and red for no parking space.

The tour rounds another corner and moves past wine cellars and meat ageing lockers. The kitchen area prepares food for 7 of the 8 restaurants in Rivers Casino, such as Flip, Cube an entertainment/Sports Bar, Lotus Lounge, and Canopy Buffet. Canopy Buffet offers stations of different food types. Hugo's runs independently and not part of the casino kitchen.

Continuing, 3rd Ward discovers that the entire casino floor is built over a tank holding 190,000 gallons of water. Through a 3-foot square of bolted-down Plexiglas was a view of the water floor. Water is checked and purified by injecting an ecological safe chemical into the water to keep water pure and bacterial free and will not affect the Des Plaines River if needed to be drained. Water window is kept accessible if needed to be viewed by inspectors.

CASINO FLOOR

State maintains that the Casino shut down a few hours every day. Casino pays a \$3.00 fee on each person coming through the turnstile - \$1 goes to the City. Game floor tables are flipped to adjust to what Casino patrons are playing at any given night. Tables are accessible with a separate lower table to accommodate wheelchairs. Restaurants are ADA and doors are automatic. Question regarding machines for blind...machines are obviously visual experience and are noisy. Scott will take braille signage under advisement. Braille menus were questioned if they are available for use.

Tour concluded with a loop around the Casino's perimeter giving a close up view of each restaurant. Be sure to check out the Living Green Wall located at the entrance of the Canopy Buffet. The Lotus Bar situated in the middle of Rivers gives a slightly elevated 360-degree view of Rivers. The unique lotus design overhead is how the bar got its name, even though the design caused a slight challenge when initially put up as it blocked sprinkles. Worked with Fire Department to resolve.

Scott would love for us to share experiences when visiting Rivers.

Denise Rodd and 3rd Ward residents wish to thank Scott Goin and the Rivers Casino for the tour and their hospitality.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 10, at Prairie Lakes, 7:00 p.m.

Have a great Labor Day Weekend.

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Please contact Denise at or call/text (847) 514-6318
- Facebook is set up for the 3rd Ward: www.Facebook.com/DP3rdWard (or search DP3)
 - Twitter: @Denise Rodd
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