



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

August 12, 2015

AGENDA

- Citywide Events
- Fire Department
- Littlefuse Property Zoning Amendment
- Upcoming Council Meeting

GUESTS

VFW
FF/PM Scot Koronia

WELCOME

Thank you for coming. Before getting into the agenda, one announcement, Dorothy Wisniewski had a Baby Boy on Sunday, August 9. Congratulations to Dorothy, Baby and Family.

VFW

Mike and Keith members of the Des Plaines VFW came by to announce that Saturday, August 15, a name will be added to the Korean War Wall in a ceremony. Researching the History Center, it was discovered that a resident of Des Plaines who fought and killed at Heartbreak Ridge in Korean War was not among the 5 names already on the wall. This Saturday, the name of the missing soldier will be added with honor. All are invited to attend.

A Pearl Harbor survivor, who recently passed, will have his ashes placed in a special section set aside honoring Pearl Harbor survivors at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Park District will be dedicating a bench to a past Park District employee

Self Help Pantry has Fund Raiser at Mountain View Golf.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FF/PM Scott Koronia is represents the Firefighters Union. Scott has been with the Department 13 years, starting in the Explorer Program (our own 3rd Ward resident Larry Bethscheider was one of the leaders for the program). Scott talked of the Department and how the Fire Department not only is an assistance to the community to help citizens when in need, the Fire Stations belong to the citizens and should be considered as stated by FF Koronia "...the firehouse is also your house since it belongs to the community." And if ever the Fire Department is required, please stop by afterwards to say "hi". So, come by and ring the doorbell.

Fire Department has new leadership that is more involved with the FF Union is becoming more engaged with the community and collaboratively working with the City. City/Union is working to make videos of the Fire Department and how it helps and supports the community.

Scott is assigned to Station 63 on Thacker/Dempster.

Thank you, Scott for the work you and the Des Plaines Fire Department does for our community.

COUNCIL AGENDA

A preliminary planned unit development is being proposed for the Littlefuse property on Northwest Highway for the construction of 24 townhouse buildings and a 270-unit apartment building. Challenge is the shape of the space on approximately 20.8 acres. Streets will be set up as private and be maintained by the association.

This planned site is being built with millennials in mind, with close access to shopping and transportation. The development will also generate revenue. Why wasn't the property developed for manufacturing? No interest.

City of Des Plaines is requesting 29 conditions – 23 through 29 are conditions requested by the Fire Dept. Example request 25 is to have overhead utility and power lines to not be located over the aerial fire apparatus access road or building. This is to allow the room for fire trucks access and to maneuver.

Traffic study shows Northwest Highway can handle the additional traffic without a stop light. A left turn lane will be added for the East bound lane. Engineering Department will be putting out an RFP to put a pedestrian path through the train trestle at the “S” curve.

Why wasn't the property developed for manufacturing? There were no inquiries for manufacturing. The plus to this development would be to generate money for the city. How does this development affect Police and Fire Departments personnel? If it gets to be a burden, there are factors that will be watched and reviewed at that time.

Council Insurance:

This is still an issue that Denise would like to put on up for discussion with the Council, it takes three members to put on the agenda. Denise hopes to fit the item in with the October preliminary budget meetings in October. There is no contract, city code that requires the city to pay for council healthcare. Approximate cost for taxpayers is \$120,000 each year and rising.

Survey of surrounding communities on which cities offer health insurance to their council members, Des Plaines and Palatine offer insurance. Schaumburg makes council members pay for the insurance.

CITYWIDE ISSUES

- Graceland Avenue Rainbow Housing: Why aren't they building closer to town? This is a non-profit organization and looking for the best deal. City is requesting maximum number of parking spaces to 33.
- Casino: Yes, Springfield may be withholding casino money.
- City of Des Plaines has a program (HUD) to assist homeowners correct code violations and address long overdue home repairs that affect the health or safety of their families. Homeowners may qualify for up to \$20,000 if meeting household threshold.
- Giordano's opened in Metropolitan Square.
- What is opening at Algonquin and Wolf? Hot Dog Stand.
- Speedway closing on Touhy to be re-built.
- What is a VAPE Shop? E-Cigarette shop, now open at Algonquin and Lee in the old barber shop.
- Fahey Medical Center? Nothing. Building in foreclosure.
- Farmer's Market is crowded and doing well. Market is open every Friday between 5 – 8 p.m.
- Cruise Night every Tuesday (weather permitting) at Rand Road Red Hots.
- Caputo's: Construction slowed down. Caputo's owns the lot.
- Theatres:
 - Des Plaines Movie Theatre – topic to come up in an Executive Session of the Council.
 - Can't the building be condemned? Violations are based on a functioning building, which it is not, theatre does comply with a vacant building. Theatre has no historical value.
 - Leela Theatre was bought by the person that owns Metropolitan Theater in Arlington Heights. There have been some updates made recently.
- City has murals painted around the city, some of the murals date back to WWII with one mural located in the Journal building.
- Seeger's Road – there was an illegal dumping ground in the back part of the lot.
- Ozinga tour was cancelled due to an employee emergency.

NEXT MEETING

Date September 9.

Submitted by Ruth Betscheider, volunteer

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Phone Number: 847.514.6318. Please call Denise at this number with issues, questions and concerns.
 - Email: denise@3rdward.org
- Facebook is set up for the 3rd Ward. Search DP3 in Facebook.
 - Twitter's hash tag is @Denise Rodd
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