



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

January 11, 2017

AGENDA:

- Consumer Protection Commission – Susan Czach

WELCOME:

Happy New Year and Welcome to the first 3rd Ward Meeting of 2017! Susan Czach is joining us to talk about the Consumer Protection Commission and how and why she became involved.

CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION:

Susan is a returning guest to our meeting and is here to talk about the benefits of the Consumer Protection Commission. After her own personal experience, and those of her neighbors, as victims of a “storm chaser” construction company, claiming to do repairs to damages from a hail storm. Susan did her own checking of the construction company and felt safe (at the time) that they were legitimate, when they took advantage of her and her neighbors. It took Susan close to 8 months of fighting, researching and going to court before she was able to retrieve back the money paid. It was because of this experience that Susan wanted to help other residents that may have been through similar experiences.

The Consumer Protection Commission helps residents that have experienced shoddy construction, issues with a purchase, and/or repair that went wrong. The qualifications required to contact the Commission:

- Be a resident of Des Plaines (the business does not need to be in Des Plaines.)
- Cost is over \$100
- Apply to the commission within a year of the incident.

How does a Resident contact the Commission: Go on line to the City of Des Plaines, fill out a legal form, which will be reviewed and sent to the Consumer Protection Commission. The Commission meets once a month to review cases and works with the resident as their advocate through their suit. The Commission tries to resolve cases before going to trial, if not, the Commission stays with the resident throughout the hearing. If a case goes to trial, the case is heard by a judge or hearing officer, who will make a decision on the case.

NOTE: Susan advises the resident to have as much backup paperwork as possible, keep records, receipts, contracts, and take pictures. Any and all information will be helpful to the resident’s case.

Online Service Complaints: The Consumer Protection Commission does not handle these. If there is an issue start by filling out the legal form.

When Hiring a Contractor:

- Make sure the Construction Company/Contractor is bonded.
- Permit for the construction is attained prior to work starting
- Check the Contractor’s Insurance Papers
- Go to riporffreport.com to make sure the Contractor being hired is not on the list. This is a free site.
- Call the City of Des Plaines Building Department for Credentials and References
- Don’t sign over your Insurance Claim Check to Contractor.

CITYWIDE:

- Meyer Property: Ozinga was leasing property from Meyer on Wolf Road. Ozinga’s new plant is completed so Ozinga moved to the Jarvis location. Prairie is temporarily leasing the Meyer Property while their plant is updated. Afterwards, Meyer may use the location as storage.
- City Nurse: The nurse that was in the position retired. The position is not to be replaced. Des Plaines Residents are being referred to Park Ridge for health screening.
- Sidewalk Replacement: Project will continue in 2017 to replace hazardous sidewalk areas around the city. Funds for the repairs will be from Casino money. Sidewalk Repairs are done as a “first in first out” to repair sidewalks.

Residents submit an on-line ticket through the City's referencing a sidewalk location needing repair. Question becomes if a First in First Out is the best way to determine a sidewalk hazard? What criteria should Engineering use to determine a hazardous sidewalk? It was suggested that a committee set up by the city go around town to check sidewalks and make a determination if needing repairs. (This process is done by other communities.) Would this process lead to additional manpower expense by the city?

- Parking Enforcement: No one is willing to budget for parking enforcement personnel. This would be a part time job, requiring financial expenses. Police Chief does have available vehicles that can be used for parking enforcement. Conversations ended without a resolution.
- \$100 Deductible: There are city employees affected by the doing away of the \$100 deductible for medical insurance.
- Shoveling Sidewalks: People could be cited for not shoveling. Shoveling city sidewalks would be a part time position. Subject will come up again.

NEXT MEETING

February 8, 2017

Prairie Lakes – 7:00 p.m.

Check at Desk for Meeting Room.

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Phone: 847-514-6318
- Email: denise@3rdward.org
 - Facebook: DP3
- Twitter: @Denise Rodd
 - www.3rdward.org