



## 3<sup>RD</sup> WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

April 12, 2017

### AGENDA:

- What's Important to You?

CONGRATULATIONS to Alderman Rodd for being elected by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward to serve another 4 years on the City of Des Plaines Council

### WELCOME:

What are your ideas on what is important to you for the City of Des Plaines?

- May 10: We have been asked to share our meeting (again, this year) with the Des Plaines Historical Group and will be meeting in the Auditorium at Prairie Lakes. So, we will not be having our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Meeting in May.
- June 14: Meyer Cement Company will be here to talk about their plans. Ozinga moved out, they were only renting space from Meyer until their new plant was completed. Prairie is using now. Meyer is in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. Alderman Sayad is aware of the issue.
- July 12: No 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Meeting.

### NORTH AVENUE DEVELOPMENT:

Planning and Zoning approved it if the restrictions are met. Restrictions outlined by City have been met by the developer and a new plan is being reviewed - namely moving the surface parking lots away from the residences adjacent to the property. New plans will go to Planning and Zoning or on to the council for approval.

### WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

Besides Meyer and North Avenue, what other issues for the Ward or City? Denise will keep a spreadsheet and notes. Roundtable:

- Meyers, Fire Department, City Development:
  - Meyers – control the dust created by the plant.
  - Find solution to the need for more space for the Fire Department
    - 911 Center still there and still live. Looking at being backup for the Red and Wheeling Centers.
    - City has done studies regarding expanding the Fire Department. Studies has shown with the amount of people in town that a 4<sup>th</sup> station or updated 3<sup>rd</sup> station is needed
      - Expanding the Fire Department to a 4<sup>th</sup> station requires personnel. City is already sharing services with other departments. City has expanded but not emergency services. Need a 4<sup>th</sup> Ambulance.
  - Development of City/Downtown:
    - Better businesses, especially along Rand and River.
    - We need “this/that” kind of business but unless we get the people come...
    - Determined that Paces Buses stopping on Miner is causing problems and confusion. Maybe moving the buses closer to Pearson.
    - Why Brick Sidewalks? Brick sidewalks in downtown Des Plaines is from TIF money.
- Parks and Restaurants.
  - Pocket Park is doing well.
  - Bike Path over Railroad Tracks at the S Curve.
  - Encourage restaurants that are a step above the Family Restaurant.
  - Different restaurants, family style restaurant that is open for dinner.
- Increase Tax Revenue:
  - Apartments, Condos.

- Chicago Magazine named Des Plaines the best buy for First Time House Owners in the suburbs. <http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/April-2017/Where-to-Buy-Now-2017/First-Time-Buyers/>
- Beautifying Des Plaines (around the city) Ideas:
  - Painting Trash Cans
  - Painting Rain Barrels -- placing them around the city.
  - Theatre:
    - Rivers Casino is interested in the Theatre and have it become a music venue. Maybe movies. Des Plaines is to get the theatre in “shape” before Rivers takes over...owner is not interested in selling.
    - Suggestion to revitalizing the city to maybe do something like Las Vegas where old train cars were put to use as stores and businesses in an area of the city.
  - River/Rand area beatification. Motorcycle lot is being refurbished with a GEM Motors. Because the area floods, it is difficult to put in a strip mall or box store.
- Water – Flooding: Helping neighbors that are taking in water – does the city assist?
  - Flooding is by the flood levels and not the amount of rain. Change is with the gage not the river. Hasn't taking out the dams helped? Perhaps.
- Infrastructure: Functional needs need to be there before beautifying the city.
- Police Department HQ:
  - Police Station is crowded and not very well set up. The Salvation Army location was looked at --- the property is too big! There was no consensus from the City Council on the property...expanding the Police Department.
  - There are issues with the City facilities. There needs to be a “plan that includes, Police and Fire Departments and Public Works. All these building need updating.
- Animals Issues:
  - feeding squirrels and other wild life; There is an ordinance prohibiting
- Road Construction:
  - Northbound River; there will be a double turn lane onto west bound Rand Road, thereby eliminating getting to west bound Rand via Elk Blvd.
  - East bound turn lane unto south bound Lee Street (by the Polo Inn) will be eliminated, as will the light that turns from Lee Street onto River Road by the McDonalds. The right turn lane will be from Rand Road unto River Road. Street access will still be available for the businesses.
  - There is to be a light at Miner Street and Busse.
- Traffic and Trains

#### CITYWIDE:

- *Chicago Magazine* named Des Plaines the best buy for First Time House Owners in the suburbs. <http://www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/April-2017/Where-to-Buy-Now-2017/First-Time-Buyers/>
- If there is something that is wanted to be shared among parents of school children, Des Plaines Schools puts out an eBulletin board that parents/families can access.
- Animal Issues:
  - What can be done if neighbor continues to feed squirrels and other wild life. Skunks are living under the porch. Feeding wildlife is an offense. Contact animal control
  - Owls are nesting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward
- Patriot Acres: Commercial compost that under county jurisdiction located at Central and River Road covering 4 communities. Hearing was scheduled last week (April 14) at the Mt Prospect Library. Update to come.
- Girl Scouts are making Bird Houses out of election signs. Girl Scouts are planning to give as gifts around the city.
  - Taste of Des Plaines will provide a free booth to the Girl Scouts

#### NEXT MEETING

April 12, 2017

Prairie Lakes – 7:00 p.m.

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#### TO CONTACT DENISE

- Phone: 847-514-6318
- Email: [denise@3rdward.org](mailto:denise@3rdward.org)
  - Facebook: DP3
- Twitter: @Denise Rodd
  - [www.3rdward.org](http://www.3rdward.org)